



## Annual Report

2020

### Siggiewi Rowing Club

#### **Introduction**

This Annual Report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, a year which will be remembered in history for the disruption brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic which brought most things, including sports, to a forced break.

Nevertheless, for Siggiewi Rowing Club (SRC), 2020 will also be remembered as the year when it was enrolled with Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations and thus formally attaining the status of a VO as well as completing most of the formality to be enlisted in the register of Sports Organisations with SportMalta.

This year also saw new athletes registering with Siggiewi Rowing Club and a change in the Club administration as detailed below.

#### **The Board of Administrators**

The Executive Committee of SRC in 2020 was always composed of five members, as follows:

##### 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – September 2020

President: Dr Michelle Vella Wood

Secretary: Jesmond Grech M.Ed.(Melit.)

Treasurer: Gillian Farrugia-Pace

Physical Trainer: Capt. Andre` Buhagiar

PRO: Dr Danica Bonello Spiteri

##### September 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

President: Prof. Joseph N. Grima

Secretary: Dr Michelle Vella Wood

Treasurer: Gillian Farrugia-Pace

Physical Trainer: Capt. Andre` Buhagiar

PRO: Dr Danica Bonello Spiteri

**Dr Michelle Vella Wood** acted as SRC President for the period Jan-August and, following the AGM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 she took the new role of Secretary, following the notice given by Mr **Jesmond Grech** that he could no longer occupy this role following the AGM. Dr Vella Wood and **Mr Grech** were instrumental in keeping the Club alive in the very difficult early months of 2020 when Malta was at a standstill.

**Professor Joseph N. Grima** was elected as President on the AGM of the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 who gave a new impetus to the Club, first and foremost by finalizing all the formalities to register SRC as a VO and with SportMalta, obtain the necessary clearance to Coach young athletes, etc. Together with other members of the Committee, he also started actively looking for new athletes to join the Club.

**Ms Gillian Farrugia Pace, Capt. Andre` Buhagiar and Dr Danica Spiteri Bonello** acted as Treasurer, Physical Trainer and PRO respectively and, apart from performing the work associated with these roles, supported the Committee with their extensive expertise and very useful advice.

The Board met regularly and frequently throughout the year, particularly in the last months of the year with electronic meeting being organized every few days when the Club was in the final stages of registering as a VO and with SportMalta. All members contributed to the discussion.

### **Projects / Activities during the year**

Due to its unique nature, activities during 2020 were limited and all activities that the Club usually organizes in spring and summer had to be cancelled.

The only competition that Club athletes participated in was the World Rowing Indoor Championships that were held in Paris between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020. In this Championship athletes Michelle Vella Wood (Club President at the time, now Secretary) and Claire Sammut (who is now officially registered with SRC) competed in the 2000m and 500m LW.

The Malta National Indoor Rowing Championships that are normally held in November 2020 were unfortunately not held.

Nevertheless, the Club still managed to organize a very successful Indoor Rowing Event on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, with the help of Siggiewi Local Council, which brought the SRC community of friends together, including a good number of new athletes and parathletes who registered with the Club, and collected money for the Siggiewi Dar tal-Providenza (sent directly to Dar tal-Providenza). This event was featured on TVM.



*Official signing with SRC of athletes and para athletes Gibert Grech and Dr Julian Bajada*



*TVM feature on the event meant to promote pararowing activities*



*The Siggiewi Team on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020*



A small group of athletes also started training sliding-seat coastal rowing, with the help of the President. Since this is a new form of rowing for Malta, there was a steep learning curve, but progress is being registered.



*SRC registered athlete Mark Schembri training C1x*

In addition, 2020 had an elective AGM which saw a change in Committee composition as noted above. The AGM also appointed Jesmond Grech M.Ed.(Melit.) as an Honorary President in recognition of his sterling work and constant support.

## **Financial Report**

SRC is still at its beginning and most of its income comes from members' donations. Given that we were not registered as a VO prior to Sept, no fund-raising events were organised and no membership fees were collected. The income generated from donations from rower members was used to pay for the registration expenses and to purchase T-shirts (co-sponsored by EuroSport) to give athletes a corporate identity (see above).

Starting Balance on 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020:	€80.00
Income:	€210.00
Expenditure:	€196.75
Balance on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020:	€93.25

## **Conclusion**

Now that the Club is formally registered as a VO, the Club aspires to expand by extending its membership, including through Ordinary membership and expand in its rowing activities. 2021 will mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the setting up of the Club and its affiliation with Malta Rowing Association (Ghaqda Regatta Nazzjonali u Qdif Iehor) and hence the Club should become entitled to full membership of the Association with the right to participate in the National Regattas (31<sup>st</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> September Regattas). It is hoped that this will see the Club starting to compete at such events.

The Club also aspires to start organizing Indoor Rowing Classes, aimed at a diverse range of athletes, from recreational to semi-professional. The Club will continue to give priority to the development of pararowing.

The Club thanks all those who have supported the Club to enable the dreams of the Siggiewi affiliated rowers become a reality.