



Annual Report

2022

Siggiewi Rowing Club

Introduction

This Annual Report covers the period from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022.

Siggiewi Rowing Club (SRC), an all-inclusive sports club, was established in 2016 with the aim of bringing together individuals of all ages and abilities, and professionally guide them in their personal journey in the sport of rowing. The Club welcomes a mix of athletes, para-athletes, and athletes with intellectual disability, of all ages (Junior to Master), female and male who train on fixed-seat and, sliding-seat Olympic and Coastal boats, as well as indoor rowing.

The year 2022 was the year when SRC was granted as a “Full Member” of Malta Rowing Association (Għaqda Regatta Nazzjonali u Qdif Ieħor) in a meeting of the Council of the Association on 19 January 2022, following a unanimous decision of all other seven Clubs, thus becoming the 8th Full Member of the Association with its own right to participate in Malta’s historical National Regatta and full voting rights.

It was also the year where, despite the particularly challenging circumstances, with the world was still being affected by the Covid-19 pandemic; a war in mainland Europe and realities of economic uncertainty, the Club gradually started laying its foundations to establish itself as Malta’s leading rowing club from a number of aspects.

The Board of Administrators

The Executive Committee of SRC, from 1st January to 6th February 2022 was composed of five members, as follows:

President: Prof. Joseph N. Grima
Secretary: Dr Michelle Vella Wood
Treasurer: Gillian Farrugia-Pace
Physical Trainer: Capt. Andre` Buhagiar
PRO: Dr Danica Bonello Spiteri

This Committee was augmented through an electronic EGM (with electronic voting) which ended on 6th February 2022, with the following co-options being made:

Mr Matthew Delia, Treasurer
Mr Jan Tanti, Officer in Charge of Training
Perit Josie Abraham Vassallo (k/a Joeaby), PR & Brand Officer

at which meeting the resignation of Ms Gillian Farrugia-Pace was noted.

Moreover, Ms. Katya Sacco was co-opted at the AGM held on 18th April 2022, when several roles were defined. No other resignations were received.

Thus, following the AGM of the 18th April 2022, till 31st December 2022, the Executive Committee of SRC was composed as followed:

President: Prof. Joseph N. Grima
Vice-President, PR & Brand Officer: Joeaby Vassallo
Secretary: Dr Michelle Vella Wood
Treasurer: Matthew Delia
Assistant Secretary, Registrar: Katya Sacco, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.Pharm., M.Sc.
Officer in Charge of Training: Jan Tanti
CrossFit Liaison Officer: Capt. Andre` Buhagiar
Club Physician: Dr Danica Bonello Spiteri

The Board met regularly and frequently throughout the year, with electronic meetings sometimes being organized every few days. All members contributed to the discussion.

In addition, the Club administration is assisted by Coach Juan Farrugia, who had been supported by the Club to obtain a formal coaching qualification from the University of Malta (MQF Level 4). Mr Juan Farrugia was paid by the Club the sum of € 2880 for the services rendered in 2022.

Achievements and Milestones

Major achievements and milestones for SRC in 2022 include:

- (1) Enlarging the Club through enrolment of a number of rowers and ordinary members;
- (2) Becoming a Full-Member of Malta Rowing Association on 19th January 2022 through a unanimous decision;
- (3) Launching of the on-water Olympic and Paralympic rowing programmes, with SRC athletes participating in training camps in Italy;
- (4) Making important steps forward to be the leading pararowing club on the island; an initiative spearheaded by SRC para rower Julian Bajada through the Julian Bajada Challenge, and establishing of World Records in the PR1 and PR2 categories by SRC athletes;
- (5) Enhancing our fixed-seat traditional rowing training, with first official participation in the 31st March 2022 National Regatta and had a full participation the Category B of the historical 8th September National Regatta, and also participated in Category A;
- (6) Holding a full-year of coached biweekly indoor rowing training (six sessions per week) at the Ta' Kandia Sport Malta Rowing facility in a fully-inclusive setup;
- (7) Organisation of the first Club Indoor Rowing Time-Trials in May 2022 and participation in the Malta National Indoor Rowing Championships which saw various SRC athletes being medalled;
- (8) Continuation of training in Coastal Rowing and competing overseas with two SRC athletes competing in the World Beach Sprints (C1x, C2x); and others in a half-marathon in Turkey (C4x) and a Coastal endurance race in Trieste where the crew obtained the first even medal for Malta (Bronze) despite the severe limitation that only one privately owned boat is available for training;
- (9) Participation, as a Club, in on-water various races overseas, with the SRC crew winning Silver at the *Coppa Europa* regatta held in Taranto, IT in the Gozzo category;

- (10) Being awarded by the Malta Olympic Committee (Special Award, for the performance of Club athletes in the Coppa Europa) and the “Active Participation in Sport Award” at the Premju Soċjetà Ġusta awards ceremony hosted by His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of the Republic, organised and coordinated by the Inclusion Ministry;
- (11) Launching and successful executing its “Rowing Clinic” SIS project and launching of its ISport activities, a project which is coordinated and supported by the Malta Trust Foundation, through Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, and the Malta Paralympic Committee;
- (12) Signing of a 15-year leasehold agreement on a sea-front property to be used as a Boathouse in Marsa, which Boathouse is gradually becoming operational, through the kind support of the Lands Authority, the Ministry for the Economy and Industry and the Honourable Minister Silvio Schembri, amongst others;
- (13) Signing an agreement with Dar tal-Providenza in Siġġiewi for the use of their gym space “after hours”, which *de facto* means that SRC now has a most welcoming home within Siġġiewi from where it may operate its indoor rowing and Strength and Conditioning programmes;
- (14) Outreach, fundraising and team building activities, including an end of year event the direct beneficiary of which was Dar tal-Providenza.

1. Enlarging the Club through enrolment of a number of ordinary members and rowers

The Club continued on its outreach programme with the aim of recruiting new members, both rowers and ordinary members. Ordinary members of our Club include our Mayor, the **majority of members of the Local Councils from both sides of the political spectrum** as well as local MPs. As a result, the Club is honoured to be able to retain its full neutrality from every aspect. The Club is also honoured to have the Parish Priest of Siggiewi participating in club activities and training.

In terms of rowers, the Club managed to secure the registration of more elite rowers, experienced rowers, female and male, as well as a number of other abled-body and para athletes who started rowing for the first time. Here it must be emphasised that our membership base in terms of athletes is truly diverse with some members aiming to compete at high-level national and international events whilst others row to improve their health and wellbeing, and to be part of a vibrant rowing/sport community.

A very important sector of the SRC membership base continues to be that of “para rowers” and the Club is honoured to have actively training with it the Secretary General of Malta Paralympic Committee Julian Bajada who had started his connection with rowing whilst reading for his postgraduate degree with the University of Cambridge, UK. Dr Bajada took it upon himself to help to organise a fundraising event, the beneficiary of which was the Malta Paralympic Committee with the scope to helping the setting up of a pararowing on-water programme which will be hosted and administered by SRC.

A specific recruitment programme focused in visually impaired (VI) athletes as a result of the Club’s partnership in the ISport programme.

2. Siġġiewi Rowing Club has been voted in as a Full Member of the Malta Rowing Association

In a Council meeting on Wednesday 19th January 2022, Malta Rowing Association (Għaqda Regatta Nazzjonali u Qdif Iehor) and its member Clubs unanimously approved Siġġiewi Rowing Club's request to be elevated to full membership with voting rights of the Association. Consequently, Siġġiewi Rowing Club had now officially become the eighth member club and participated in the 2022 National Regattas on the 31st March and 8th September and will be able to have a guaranteed place in other future regattas which are held in Malta. This historical meeting was held at Kalkara Regatta Club and was attended by all voting members of the Association, namely Birzebbuga Regatta Club, Bormla Regatta Club, Birgu Regatta Club, Kalkara Regatta Club, Marsa Regatta Club, Marsamxett Regatta Club and Senglea Regatta Club.

SRC was represented at this meeting by Joseph N Grima and Joeaby Vassallo.



Image taken from the PBS news portal.

3. Launching of the on-water Olympic and Paralympic rowing programmes, with SRC athletes participating in training camps in Italy

Club athletes participated in two very important training camps this year, one focusing on Olympic Rowing which was specifically run for us by Dr Dario Cerasola in Palermo, and another run by World Rowing in Gavirate for para rowers.

The Olympic Rowing Training at Rowing Club Lauria in Palermo was run with the kind support of the President, Andrea Vitale and Head Coach Dr Dario Cerasola between Sunday 1st May to Wednesday 4th May 2022. The contingent was made up of athletes Katya Sacco, Joeaby Vassallo, Mark Schembri, Jan Tanti and Joseph Grima. Dr Dario Cerasola, Head Coach of Club Rowing Club Lauria is a former Coach with the National Italian Rowing Federation (FIC). The programme included sessions focusing on balance in sweep rowing and scull rowing and athletes were able to experience rowing on the 1x, 2x and 4- boats. By the end of the training camp:

1. Three of the athletes had acquired sufficient familiarity to be able to row independently on sculling (coastal and Olympic) and sweep boats;
2. The two other athletes could scull on coastal-type boats but needed further training for Olympic boats;
3. The training camp served to create new collaborations and as a launching point for further activities.

Two weeks later, SRC para rowers Nick Mercieca and Julian Bajada accompanied by Joseph Grima, President of SRC and Malta Paralympic Committee (MPC) participated in the on-water **Paralympic Rowing Development Training Camp** held in Gavirate Italy between the 9 - 13 May 2022 organised by World Rowing, in collaboration with the Italian Paralympic Committee and the Gavirate Rowing Club (A.S.D. Canottieri Gavirate).

This event proved to be an excellent training camp where athletes could be guided by some of the best coaches in the world and an unique opportunity for networking and to meet present paralympic rowers and World Rowing officials.

The training camp included guided training sessions on the ergometer and indoor rowing tank, guided and coached training sessions on the Paralympic Rowing single scull adaptive rowing boats as well as technical development sessions for coached which included boat rigging technical development sessions. These sessions were found to be very useful.

By the end of the training camp:

1. SRC athletes Nick Mercieca and Julian Bajada were officially classified as PR1 and PR3 para rowers;
2. Both athletes were able to row on adapted 1x para boats;
3. Grima, who shadowed the coaching sessions, had become much more knowledgeable on boat rigging and other technical aspects.



Images from the Olympic-style Rowing Training Camp in Palermo attended by SRC athletes and Officials, hosted by Dr Darion Cerasola (forth from right)



Images from the World Rowing Para Rowing Training Camp in Gavirate attended by SRC para athletes

4. The Top Club in Pararowing in Malta: The Julian Bajada Challenge, and establishing of World Records in the PR1 and PR2 categories by SRC athletes

The year 2022 saw massive growth and effort from the club in its quest to be Malta's leading Club in para rowing. This dream started to become reality through the incredible effort made by Club athlete Dr Julian Bajada who showed Malta the true beauty of para sport and para rowing when he embarked on the **Julian Bajada Challenge** to mark his 28th birthday.

The aim was that on the 28th of June 2022, Julian would row 28k on a rowing ergometer, in public, to raise a minimum of 28k for setting up of Malta's first on-water pararowing facility which will be hosted by our Club. This event proved to be a huge success, not only from a fund-raising perspective, but also for the positive message Julian managed to convey. The Club is truly honoured to have Julian Bajada on board, coached by Juan Farrugia, and will continue to be the leading force in para rowing.

The Club is pleased to note and recognise the progress and efforts being done by **all** its para athletes. Suffice to mention that para rowers Nick Mercieca and Kurt Farrugia have established new World Records in their respective 500m Indoor Rowing categories.

These results would not have been possible had the Club not taken the wise decision to prioritise para rowing. Our philosophy and guiding principles are ones where all our athletes, para or abled-body, are pushed to the maximum so that they can get a step closer towards realising their dream of becoming world-class rowers.





Images from the Julian Bajada Challenge on the 28th June 2022



The establishment of World Records by Nick Mercieca and Kurt Farrugia

5. Fixed-seat traditional rowing training, with first official participation in the 31st March 2022 National Regatta and the historical 8th September National Regatta

The full-membership within Malta Rowing Association meant that Siggiewi Rowing Club had finally earned its place at the 8th Club which is entitled to take part in Malta's historical National Regattas on traditional fixed-seat boats which are held annually on the 31st March (Freedom Day Regatta) and 8th September (Regatta Nazzjonali tal-Vitorja).

For the March 2022 regatta, Siggiewi was represented by the following Crew:

Frejgatina Category A & Category B:

Gabriel Mallia (rmigg)

Noah Sammut (Pruwa)

Coxswain: Matteo Sammut

Rowers Phillippe Bonello and Nathan Borg, who were supposed to row in the Tal-Medalji race Category B did not compete as they were unwell.

For the September 2022 regatta, Siggiewi was represented by the following Crews:

Tal-Pass b'zewg Imqadef, Kat. B

Mark Schembri (parasija)

Joseph Grima (rmigg)

Kajjik, Kat. B

Phillippe Bonello (parasija)

Gabriel Mallia (rmigg)

Tal-Medalji, Kat. B

Nathan Borg (poppa)

Phillippe Bonello (parasija)

Gabriel Mallia (rmigg)

Noah Sammut (pruwa)

Frejgatina, Kat B

Kyle Spagnol (rmigg)

Noah Sammut (pruwa)

Coxswain: Jake Cassar

Tal-Pass b'ebgha Imqadef, Kat. B

Jimmy Falzon (poppa)
Mark Schembri (parasija)
Joseph Grima (rmiġġ)
Ivan Cassar (pruwa)

Tal-Pass b'ebgha Imqadef, Kat. A

Nathan Borg (poppa)
Phillippe Bonello (parasija)
Gabriel Mallia (rmiġġ)
Noah Sammut (pruwa)

The Club gratefully acknowledges the kindness of Mr Josef Dalli who donated the Kajjik "Tias" with registration number S25283 to the Siggiewi Rowing Club.

The Club's participation in the other races was possible through the temporary loan of boats and oars by Joseph N Grima who personally owns the following three boats:

1. "San Nikola" Tal-Pass boat, registration number S25254, owned by Joseph N Grima;
2. "Paulina" Frejgatina, registration number S24839, owned by Joseph N Grima;
3. "Providenza" Tal-Medalji boat, registration number S1331, owned by Joseph N Grima;

The Club is also very grateful to the support received from its benefactors and sponsors.

In addition to taking part in the National Regatta, the Club rowers and boats were also present in the harbour on the occasion of the visit by His Holiness Pope Francis in April 2022.





Traditional National Regatta: Boats and Crews for March & Sept 2022.

6. A full-year of coached biweekly indoor rowing training (six sessions per week) at the Ta' Kandia Sport Malta Rowing facility in a fully-inclusive setup

The Club, for the whole of 2022, made use of the Ta' Kandia premises for indoor rowing coached sessions where the Club could run sessions for athletes of all abilities who could train together, in a professional manner, at cost-price. These sessions are run by our talented coach Juan Farrugia. Mr Farrugia is assisted in some sessions by members of the Club who support *pro bono*.

Juan, as always, coached SRC athletes with a passion that is second to none and his classes were a success with individuals improving in rowing ability and in many other ways.

The kind support of SportMalta, particularly though Mr Mark Cutajar (CEO) and Mr Alex Camilleri / Sinclair Cassar (Facilities Manager) as well as Jamie Micallef.





Images from SRC's Indoor Rowing Sessions

7. Organisation of the first Club Indoor Rowing Time-Trials in May 2022 and participation in the Malta National Indoor Rowing Championships which saw various SRC athletes being medalled

In May 2022, the Club ran its first time-trials in Indoor Rowing which were under the responsibility of Club Coach Juan Farrugia. This event served to give the Club members an opportunity to measure their progress and help them get used to a competition set up.

Moreover, a good number of Club members took part in the 2022 Malta National Indoor Rowing Championships which saw various Club members medal in their respective categories.



Images from Club Time Trials (top) and National Championships

8. Coastal Rowing: Training and competing overseas with two SRC athletes competing in the World Beach Sprints (C1x, C2x); and others in a half-marathon in Turkey (C4x) and a Coastal endurance race in Trieste where the crew obtained the first even medal for Malta (Bronze)

Coastal Rowing, practiced in Olympic style, continues to be one of the top priority areas for the Club and its athletes.

In 2022, training in Malta continued through the privately owned Leo C1x. The club's boats donated by Mr Robert and Mrs Kathy Valleau were sent for repairs.

In 2022, the Club continued with its training in Malta, despite our obvious limitations in terms of resources and also participated in three international Coastal Rowing events which included the World Beach Sprints Championships in Wales, a half-Marathon in Turkey and an endurance race in Trieste, Italy.

8.1 Beach Sprints World Championships

Of these, the most prestigious was the World Beach Sprints Championships in Wales which saw our two Club athletes Sairita Cassar and Mark Schembri competing as National athletes, supported by World Rowing and the Malta Olympic Committee.

Once both athletes were informed of their selection, it was agreed that they would row together in C2x and individually as C1x. Given that of these two, Mark Schembri is much more experienced with the coastal rowing technique, he was given the role of leader of the C2x.

Both athletes participated in specialised training sessions run by the Club, as well as very intensive training organised jointly between Professor Alessandra Bitto from Messina and the Club. The athletes responded well to training and by the time they left Malta, they were confident in C1x. Given that no C2x is in Malta, it was agreed that the focus would be on C1x rather than C2x. In addition to the training received in Malta, the athletes were also given specialised pre-race training in Saundersfoot by World Rowing appointed coaches who helped the local team. The support of Professor Bitto and of the World Rowing appointed coaches, who acted as supplementary boat handlers is much appreciated.

Both athletes took part in the races they enrolled for. These were two races for each boat formation, i.e. the first time-trial and the second time-trial (repechage). Despite the fact that these are the highest level championships held in the world, it is interesting to note that in the Male C1x, SRC athlete Mark Schembri obtained times which are comparable to those obtained by other nations which a much richer Olympic and Coastal rowing tradition, as per below which gives the times of fourth

quartile (combined times from the two races). There was also a massive improvement between the first time trial (03:53.6) and the second time trial (03:28.8).

SWE	03:20.4	GER	03:23.8	EGY	03:26.2	MLT	03:28.8
MAR	03:33.1	BAR	03:35.1	JPN	03:38.0	SUI	03:38.8
BRA	03:40.4	MLT	03:53.6	BRA	04:17.9	BAR	06:40.5

8.2 Commagene Rowing Marathon, Half Marathon C4x+

Another important Coastal Rowing Competition was the Commagene Rowing Half Marathon held on Saturday 19th September 2022 where the main event was the half marathon regatta which was on the coastal C4x+ boats (coastal Olympic rowing). This event was organised and sanctioned by the Turkish Rowing Federation. The Crew was composed of three SRC rowers, Mark Schembri, Jan Tanti and Joseph Grima, together with Giovanni Ficarra, who is the 2021 World Rowing Beach Spring former Champion who acted as a de facto coach for the crew. Rowing for a full 21k under the guidance of such an expert helped significantly to improve our Olympic rowing (sculling) technique, and the outcome was very positive as, despite a very unfortunate incidence when one oarlock broke when we had just covered c. 2k out 21k, we still managed to keep a very good pace and enter 4th out of 14 competing crews. See also attached information.

Further Info: <http://commagenerowing.com> (Results on https://www.tkf.gov.tr/2/Kommagene_Kurek_Maratonu_Sonuclari-12084.aspx)

8.3 Borin Coastal Rowing Race 2022, Trieste, Italy

Two SRC athletes, Mark Schembri and Joseph Grima participated in the third edition of the Borin Coastal Rowing Race, organized by the Società Ginnastica Triestina Nautica which saw 250 athletes rowing between Saturday and Sunday. The event was in two parts: The first day of competitions, on the 10 December 2022, was an endurance race where the mixed boats with the two SRC rowers and the two Italian rowers competed in a 6000m coastal rowing endurance race and placed third. This is a rather good result considering that the fact that our crew was racing in a time-trial with much worse conditions compared to the earlier one (rain and wind) and that the mixed SRC and Italian crew had only rowed together for one session due to bad weather in the second day of training. The regatta had participants from Veneto, Lombardy, Tuscany, Marche, Lazio and Campania, and a large international presence with rowers from Slovenia, Croatia, Germany and Malta. The Coastal Endurance race was held on Saturday morning with a course in the stretch of sea in front of Piazza dell'Unità. Day 2 of the regatta (11-Dec-2022) was intended for sprint races which started at 9:00 but had to end half way due to very bad weather which

rendered the waters dangerous for the rowers. Unfortunately, the C2x and C4x+ races with SRC athletes were both cancelled. It should be remarked that:

1. This was the first ever proper international Coastal Rowing endurance race for SRC (and MLT) rowers who had the opportunity to form a crew with Italian experienced sliding-seat rowers;
2. Although the sprint races were cancelled, SRC athletes were able to experience and get accustomed to rowing on very rough “coastal waters”, something which Maltese crews are not used to as we row in very sheltered regions;
3. **SRC Crew was able to obtain the first medal for MLT athletes in Coastal Rowing (bronze) with a respectable time of 27:45.**



Coastal Training, Malta





Half Marathon C4x+, Turkey, Nov 2022



Half Marathon C4x+ Turkey, Nov 2022



**Borin Coastal Rowing
Trieste IT, Dec 2022**



9. Participation, as a Club, in on-water various races overseas, with the SRC crew winning Silver at the Coppa Europa regatta held in Taranto, IT in the Gozzo category

In May 2022, the President of the Club and an accompanying athlete, Mark Schembri, were invited to participate in a “science meets sports” type event where the two SRC athletes joined in a sprint race with an 8+ boat under the name of “University of Messina”.

This invitation was made by Giovanni Ficarra and his PhD supervisor Prof. Alessandra Bitto with whom the Club president has established collaborations. This proved to be an excellent team building event. SRC were also invited to row in the Stretto di Messina on a C2x.



8+ @ Messina



In 2022, Club athletes participated in a number of important and prestigious international competitions in Fixed-Seat Rowing as “Siggiewi Rowing Club” on invitation by the organisers. These include the following regattas:

1. The Regata del Mediterraneo, organised by the City and Region of Reggio Calabria;
2. Palio di Pallanza,
3. Coppa Europa.

9.1 Regata del Mediterraneo, organised by the City and Region of Reggio Calabria

The Regatta, organised over three days, from Friday 29th July 2022 to Sunday 31st July 2022, was held on the stretch of water of the Strait that unites Reggio Calabria and Messina, and included ten crews made up of 4 rowers and a coxswain, all male, mostly coming from the best rowing clubs in Italy, including Amalfi (with the crew including one of the rowers who won the Palio delle Quattro Repubbliche Marinare in 2022). Race was in the waters of the Fata Morgana, rowing for 500 meters in the waters in front of the Lungomare Falcomata. The Regatta uses boats that have been designed by the association, which measure 7 meters in length by 2.5 metres width. Three races were held: The Eliminatoria, Semi-Final and Finals. The Siggiewi Crew, composed of Gabriel Mallia, Philippe Bonello, Nathan Borg, Joseph Grima and Malcolm Vella, despite being on its first ever competition abroad as an all “Siggiewi” crew, managed to arrive to the finals B. It should be remarked that:

1. This was the first ever international race for an all-Siggiewi RC crew. Four of the five athletes had never competed abroad;
2. Crew was able to experience and get accustomed to rowing on very rough “coastal waters”, something which Maltese crews are not used to as we row in very sheltered regions;
3. Crew was able to row in a 4+ (fixed-seat) seated conformation, which is not typical in Malta;
4. There was a very steep learning curve but rowing times improved drastically over the stay.

9.2 Palio di Pallanza, held on 14th August 2022

SRC crew composed of on-water and indoor athletes Gabriel Mallia, Nathan Borg, Joeaby Vassallo, Mark Schembri, Joseph Grima, Ivan Cassar, Kurt Cassar and Matthew Delia together with coxswain Vasilissa Vassallo took part in training and two races as part of the Palio di Pallanza, one as a “guest” within the National races; and one as part of the International Regatta. This training, and subsequent races, were important as it gave athletes with the opportunity to learn the complex technique of turning around the buoys, which is core in (Olympic) Coastal Rowing, to which athletes in Malta have never been exposed to as our regattas are much simpler and linear; and, synchronisation: An opportunity to row in a “eight” all-seated formation. All this could be practised in a historical Galeone which could be rowed *via* the familiar fixed-seat traditional rowing technique which is practised in Malta. This Regatta, including the participation of Malta, was given prominence in the Italian media.

9.3 Coppa Europa – Gozzo Competition

A most prestigious result obtained internationally is when a crew from Siggiewi Rowing Club placed second in the *Gozzo* races during the European Fixed-Seat Rowing Championships held in Taranto, Italy. The European Fixed-Seat Rowing Championships are an annual event during which international crews compete against each other on various fixed-seat boats including the *Gozzo Nazionale*, a typical Ligurian boat, that is rowed by four seated rowers and a coxswain.

During the 2022 Male Gozzo races, the Siggiewi crew placed first in the semi-final and second to the Italian crew in the final, which ultimately commended the Maltese crew with silver medal. The Siggiewi Rowing Club crew was composed of Mark Schembri, Ivan Cassar, Joseph Grima, Kyle Spagnol and Kurt Cassar acted as coxswain. The Siggiewi rowers also competed on the '*Voga in Piedi*' (a boat which is rowed standing in the Venetian style), and in various mixed crews on the traditional 10-oared 'Lancia' one of which placed third.

The European Fixed-Seat Rowing Championships are organised and endorsed by the Italian Fixed-Seat Rowing Federation (FICSF) who are affiliated with the Italian Olympic Committee. The federation is responsible for some of the most prestigious regattas in Italy, including the historical '*Regatta delle Antiche Repubbliche Marinare*' (Amalfi, Genova, Pisa and Venice).



Regata del Mediterraneo, Reggio Calabria



Palio di Pallanza, Aug 2022



Palio di Pallanza, Aug 2022



Coppa Europa @ Taranto IT

Coppa Europa @ Taranto IT



Coppa Europa @ Taranto IT



10. Award by the Malta Olympic Committee (Special Award, for the performance of Club athletes in the Coppa Europa) and the “Active Participation in Sport Award” at the Premju Soċjetà Ġusta awards ceremony hosted by His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of the Republic, organised and coordinated by the Inclusion Ministry

In December 2022, the Club was the proud recipient of two very important awards which, amongst other things, recognise two very important aspects for our Club:

- (1) The aspect of **athletic achievement and sporting excellence** – recognised on a national level through the prestigious award Malta Olympic Committee (Special Award, for the performance of Club athletes in the Coppa Europa)

and, on the other end,

- (2) **True and effective inclusivity** – recognised on a national level through the prestigious “Active Participation in Sport Award” at the Premju Soċjetà Ġusta awards ceremony hosted by His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of the Republic, organised and coordinated by the Inclusion Ministry.



Awards to SRC in 2022: Top MOC Special Award; Bottom Award from Inclusion Ministry.

11. Projects: Launching and successful executing its “Rowing Clinic” SIS project and launching of its ISport activities, a project which is coordinated and supported by the Malta Trust Foundation, through Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, and the Malta Paralympic Committee

In 2022, the Club executed its first formal project funded through the Small Initiatives Scheme (SIS). The project aimed to set up a Rowing Mini-Clinic to be used for introducing individuals with physical and/or intellectual impairments to rowing, with an ultimate aim of integrating them into mainstream club training and competition as para athletes. The setup also permits individualized or small-group training and/or rehabilitation through rowing, with a focus for individuals with permanent or temporary physical and/or intellectual impairments. The project was successfully executed. The equipment was also used for marketing purposes in a number of activities held at the local school, local square, etc.

In addition, the Club embarked on a very ambitious project in collaboration with the Malta Trust Foundation, expertly led by H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, and the Malta Paralympic Committee which was officially in September 2022. This programme, ISport aims to provide a structure to permit visually impaired individuals to practice rowing and other sports.



The “Rowing Clinic”



Isport launch on 12-Sept-2022



Isport

12. SRC Boathouse in the Grand Harbour (Marsa)

Given the nature of the Club, it was agreed that the Club should acquire premises to be used as a boathouse, to focus and develop on-water rowing. In this regard, the Club administration had various meetings and discussions with several government entities which were successfully concluded in 2022.

In fact, in February 2022, the Club entered into a 15-year leasehold agreement on a sea-front property to be used as a Boathouse in Marsa through the kind support of the Lands Authority, the Ministry for the Economy and Industry and the Honourable Minister Silvio Schembri, amongst others.

Further details on this are as follows: In 2021, through meetings facilitated through the Mayor of Siggiewi, Mr Dominic Grech, the Club administration had meetings with the Hon. Silvio Schembri who kindly explained to us the process how a VO can lease premises and assisted us, through the Ministry, to identify suitable premises and apply for a title through the GLA9 procedure. In fact, an application was filed by the Club on the 17th September 2021 (Application no. GLA9/2021/0115) to acquire a leasehold on 8, Moll ic-Ciangatura, Marsa. This application was successfully processed and on the 17th November 2021, we were notified that “with reference to your application no: GLA9/2021/0115, for the Request for disposal of 8, Moll ic-Ciangatura, Marsa, the application was reviewed by the Lands Authority on the 20/10/2021 and the Authority’s decision was to approve the allocation of subject premises for the grant of 15 year lease under VO rates”. This meant that the Club could now truly start its process of on-water rowing. The help of the Hon. Silvio Schembri, Mr Dominic Grech, Mayor of Siggiewi and his brother, SRC rower Gilbert Grech, the Ministry and Lands Authority is most gratefully acknowledged. We also thank Perit Professor Dione Buhagiar, who assisted the Club *pro bono* in the application process.

The actual lease agreement contract was signed on the 9th February 2022 and the Club was given access to the premises in March 2022.

Unfortunately, this boathouse was, and still is to some extent, in a state of disrepair and every attempt is being made to clear up the boathouse is gradually render it operational. The major challenge remains to find a more suitable access to the sea from where to launch the boats safely.



Images from the official ceremony held in March 2022.

13. SRC Gym @ Dar tal-Providenza

In 2021 and 2022 the Club discussed with Rev. Fr. Martin Micallef, the Director of Dar tal-Providenza (DTP), to work on the concept that SRC could make use “outside working hours” of the gym space of DTP. This effectively means that the Siggiewi and the rowing community would be brought closer to DTP and its residents, who would also benefit from the use of SRC equipment. These discussions were very positive, and, it was agreed that an application for funding would be made through SRC through the VO Small Initiatives Scheme (SIS) grants. Moreover, SRC and DTP started the process for formulating a Memorandum of Understanding on the use of the DTP Gym by SRC.

This MoU was formally signed on the 18th April 2022, as a result of which an agreement with Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi for the use of their gym space “after hours” was made. This space formally housed the “Rowing Clinic” project, our December 2022 rowing and fundraising event, and will be used more extensively in 2023.

This important development *de facto* means that SRC now has a most welcoming home within Siggiewi from where it may operate its indoor rowing and Strength and Conditioning programmes, and also leave its equipment.



14. Outreach, fundraising and team building activities, including an end of year event the direct beneficiary of which was Dar tal-Providenza.

In 2022 the Club embarked on a number of outreach, fundraising and team building activities, including activities at the Siggiewi Pjazza, a wine-tasting event in September for members and their guests and an end of year event the direct beneficiary of which was Dar tal-Providenza. The fundraising in aid of DTP event raised more than 1000EUR. The events in the Pjazza were meant to promote rowing and healthy living, and to recruit new members.

19 June 2022

Rowing for ALL in practice ...



Summer School Aug 2022

Siggiewi Rowing Club
22 August at 18:22 · 📍

Rowing at Skola Sajf!

Siggiewi Rowing Club has introduced the teachers and students at Skola Sajf Siggiewi to indoor rowing through the use of SRC's rowing machines.

The initiative is part of Siggiewi Rowing Club's commitment towards rowing for all that was made possible thanks to the funding of this project by the Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS).

This project/publication reflects the views only of the author, and the MCVS cannot be held responsible for the content or any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



European Week of Sport Festa Gheneb 18-Sept-2022



Milied fil-Pjazza
13-Dec-2022



28 December 2022 @ Dar tal-Providenza

Financial Report

Starting Balance on 1 st January 2022:	€3007.12
Income:	€9035.30
Expenditure:	€9160.05
Balance on 31 st December 2022:	€2882.37

Club's Movable Assets:

- The Club's Movable Assets in ownership, at the end of the financial year, are estimated at €5000. These are:
 1. The two boats donated by Mr Robert and Mrs Kathy Valleaum and two sets of grey/black sculling oars, Current estimated value (un repaired): Estimated value: €1000
 2. The Kajjik "Tias" with registration number S25283 donated to the club by Josef Dalli, Estimated value: €800
 3. Painted old wooden oars donated by Kalkara Regatta Club, Estimated value: €400
 4. The plastic training scull with stabilisers and a pair of sculling oars. This boat was purchased from Mr Alfred Fino and was totally funded by a donation made by Dr Julian Bajada, Estimated Value: €800
 5. Two Concept2 rowing ergs, a pair of slides and one ski-erg (purchased through the SIS 2022 grant), estimated value: €3000;

All other boats and oars, even if used by SRC athletes, are privately owned and not property of the Club.

Acknowledgements

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