



## **Annual Report**

2024

Siggiewi Rowing Club

## Introduction

This Annual Report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Sigġiewi Rowing Club (SRC), an 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.

SRC is a Full Member (since 2022) of Malta Rowing Association (Għaqda Regatta Nazzjonali u Qdif leħor), the national association representing rowing in Malta with the rights this brings with it, including the right to participate in the National Regattas of the 31<sup>st</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> September rowed using traditional fixed-seat boats.

The year 2024 was a year of growth with various projects being launched which are essential for the Club – a young club of very limited resources – to continue laying its foundations to establish itself as Malta's leading rowing club in all aspects – from inclusion to excellence in sports. This report outlines some of the challenges faced, achievements and milestones for 2024.

## The Board of Administrators

The Executive Committee of SRC, from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>th</sup> December 2024 was composed as follows:

President: Prof. Joseph N. Grima  
Vice-President, PR & Brand Officer: Joeaby Vassallo  
Secretary: Sharon Borg Schembri, B.Sc.(Hons)(Melit.), M.Incl. Ed. & Com (Melit)  
Treasurer: Mark Schembri  
Officer in Charge of Training: Jan Tanti  
Daniel Bezzina, B.Eng.(Hons)(Melit.)  
Matthew Delia  
Katya Sacco, B.Sc.(Hons.)(Melit.), M.Pharm.(Melit.), M.Sc.(Melit.)  
Carmel Schembri  
Marie Louise Spiteri Fiteni, B.Accty.(Hons)(Melit.),M.Sc.Training&HRM(Leic.)

The Board met and communicated regularly and frequently throughout the year, mostly through electronic meetings. All members contributed to the discussion and decisions were always taken by consensus.

In addition, the Club administration was assisted by various coaches including Juan Farrugia, who had been supported by the Club to obtain a formal coaching qualification from the University of Malta (MQF Level 4), Mr Mark Schembri (MQF Level 4 Coach) and Ms Leanne Xuereb Ungaro (B.Ed.(Hons)(Melit.) in physical education graduate) who were paid for their services.

## Membership

Our Club grew significantly in terms of 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.

In terms of rowers, the Club managed to secure the registration of more rowers, including experienced rowers, female and male, as well as a number of other abled-body and para athletes who started rowing for the first time.

The Club is proud to have a very diverse membership base with some members aiming to compete at very high-level in national and international events whilst others rowing to improve their health and wellbeing. Most importantly, we strive to provide our members the opportunity to be part of a beautiful vibrant rowing/sport community where the input of our coaches must be highly commended.

## Club Output, Achievements and Milestones

Club output, major achievements and milestones, apart from enlarging the Club through enrolment of a number of rowers and ordinary members, are detailed in the Annexes attached with this report. For the reporting period January to December 2024 these include:

- (1) Further development of Land Training at Dar tal-Providenza Gym including with the hosting of Erasmus trainees from Turkey (Selahattin Emre Demirkol) and Croatia (Ivan Dominković and Antonio Jurić) as well as sterling input from our coaches Leane Xuereb Ungaro, Mark Schembri, Jan Tanti and Juan Farrugia, **See Annex I**;
- (2) Continuation of the on-water Olympic rowing programmes, with SRC athletes participating in training camps and competitions in Italy, and taking delivery of four Olympic rowing boats, two single, two doubles, which complement the purchase of paralympic boats being made by MPC; **See Annex II**;
- (3) Making important steps forward to be the leading para rowing club on the island in collaboration with the Malta Paralympic Committee (MPC) with various Club athletes attaining World Records as well as medalling in the World Championships and with the delivery of the para boats sponsored through the Julian Bajada Challenge **See Annex III**;
- (4) Continued with the development of the fixed-seat traditional rowing programme in Malta and participation in the National Regattas, **See Annex IV**;
- (5) Participation, as a Club, in various on-water fixed-seat races overseas, with the SRC crew winning medals at the Coppa Europa regatta held in Pallanza in the

Yole and Gozzo categories; silver at the Palio di Pallanza, a medal in the Taranto endurance races. Participated also in Reggio Calabria regatta as part of the Festival del Mediterraneo as well as in Civitavecchia, **See Annex V**;

- (6) Taking delivery and Launching of our first C4x+ Boat, sponsored by APS Bank, **see Annex VI**;
- (7) Continuation of training in Coastal Rowing and competing overseas with SRC athletes competing in the World Championships (C1xM, C2xM and C4x+M) and the World Beach Sprints (C1x); Endurance Mille Remi Genoa Race (silver medal); 28km Endurance Race in Ireland (Gold Medal), **see Annex VII**;
- (8) Participation in the Malta National Indoor Rowing Championships which saw various SRC athletes being medalled, **see Annex VIII**;
- (9) Infrastructure Projects, **see Annex IX**, where we:
  - i. Continued with the extensive refurbishment of the sea-front property which is being used as our boathouse (a 15 year lease obtained in 2022 through the kind support of the Lands Authority, the Ministry for the Economy and Industry and the Honourable Minister Silvio Schembri) with extensive renovation work in preparation for planned expansion with the arrival of the para and Olympic boats. Most of this work is being carried out by inmates of Corradino Correctional Facility and prison wardens who were instrumental in transforming the premises to its present state.
  - ii. Had extensive discussions with Public Works regarding the repair of the slab in the inner room which needs to be replaced with Public Works, through the intervention of the Hon. Omar Farrugia, agreeing to execute and finance the project.
  - iii. Modified the agreement with Enemalta for the use of their ex Sea Malta premises on a *mera tollaranza* basis to be able to launch boats and started work to secure site through the “Kommunitajiet Inklussivi” scheme;
- (10) Grants: Writing, winning and running various grants, including important grants through “Kommunitajiet Inklussivi” scheme, SIS, VOPs and APS CRS; **see Annex X**.
- (11) Outreach, fundraising and team building activities, with the climax being the end of year event the direct beneficiary of which was Dar tal-Providenza, **see Annex XI**.



*Post published on 1-Jan-2024, when donation from Challenge was formally given to DTP.*

### Club's Assets and Liabilities

- The Club's Movable Assets in ownership, at the end of the financial year, are estimated at **€46,200.10** and are listed in Annex XII.
- All other boats and oars, even if used by SRC athletes, are privately owned and not property of the Club.
  - Boats that are in use SRC rowers which are privately owned and do not belong to the Club include the *Dgħajsa tal-Pass* San Nikola with registration number S25254; the *Dgħajsa tal-Medalji* Providenza with registration number S1331 and the *frejgatina* Pawlina with registration number S24839 which belong to Joseph-Noel Grima Delia. The same applies for the coastal rowing boat Leo C1x.
  - Oars which do not belong to the Club include a pair of sculling oars by Braca, three wooden oars which are normally used as parasija/rmigg in the *Dgħajsa tal-Pass*; two oars which are normally used parasija/rmigg in the *Dgħajsa tal-Medalji* or in the Kajjik/Frejgatina and a pair of wooder oars normally used as poppa/pruwa. These oars belong to Joseph-Noel Grima Delia.
- At the end of 2024, Club liabilities totalled **€6,887.40** and were as follows:
  - Sports Malta Refund due to Members for Travel in 2022 (€3,017.40) and 2023 (€2,500);
  - Isport Allowance due to Coach Juan Farrugia for services rendered (€870);
  - Payment due to Ghaqda Regatta Nazzjonali u Qdif Ieħor for 2024 Indoor Rowing Championships registrations (€500)

### Financial Report

A summary of the financial report for 2024 stands as follows:

Opening Balance on 01-Jan-2024	€12764.75
Income (including donations and sponsorships, see Annex XII):	€49983.34
Expenditure:	€45486.57
Closing Balance on 31-Dec-2024:	€17261.52

Adding to these the Club assets estimated as €46,200.10 and taking into account the liabilities of €6,887.40 the net worth of the Club as on 31-Dec-2024 thus stands as **€56,574.22**

## Acknowledgements

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

Moreover, the Club most gratefully acknowledges the support it received from **Dar tal-Providenza** – who offer us our “home”, **SportMalta** for the financial support with respect to the international participation, the **Malta Trust Foundation** chaired by **Her Excellency M.L. Coleiro Preca** for supporting the Club through the ISport programme, the **Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS)**, the **Hon. Julia Farrugia** and the **Ministry for Inclusion and Voluntary Organisations (MIV)**, the **Hon. Omar Farrugia** and **Public Works**, various government entities, **Mayor Perit Julian Borg**, **Councillors**, and **Siggiewi Local Council** and **Dr Julian Bajada** and the **Malta Paralympic Committee**.

The Club is also very grateful to all those who made donations or gave sponsorships (see Annex XII).

**Professor Joseph N Grima**  
*President*

**Sharon Borg Schembri**  
*Secretary*

**24<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Siggiewi, Malta**

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<i>Annex VII</i>	<i>Coastal Rowing Training and Competitions Overseas</i>
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<i>Annex IX</i>	<i>Infrastructure &amp; Infrastructural Projects</i>
<i>Annex X</i>	<i>Grants</i>
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## ***Annex I***

### ***Indoor Rowing and Land Training at the SRC Dar tal-Providenza Gym***

Since its inception, Siggiewi Rowing Club invested very much of its efforts in developing a solid and effective Indoor Rowing programme which is the foundation of all rowing training programmes, particularly Olympic and Paralympic rowing.

All sessions at DTP are designed to be totally inclusive where athletes of all abilities train together in sessions which are tailor-made to the participants' needs and aspirations. Apart from sessions for high-level athletes (most of whom have their specific training programmes set for them by their private coaches), the SRC sessions include ones which targeted Visually Impaired athletes who were supported through the Malta Trust Foundation through the ISport programme. Other sessions were primarily targeting athletes who needed to be active through rowing for health reasons, part of our VOPS project. These sessions were run by, amongst others, by Juan Farrugia (till June 2024), Mark Schembri and Leanne Xuereb Ungaro whose contribution and professional coaching is most gratefully acknowledged.

In 2024, we had the privilege to host three international coaches through the Erasmus+ scheme, namely Selahattin Emre Demirkol from Sinop University, Turkey and Ivan Dominković and Antonio Jurić from the University of Zagreb, Croatia. They contributed significantly to the international dimension of our Club and their input was very much appreciated. The below are some images of the sessions which speak for themselves.



















## ***Annex II***

### ***Classic Olympic Rowing***

In 2024, Siggiewi Rowing Club continued with its efforts to start establishing its classic (flat-water) Olympic-style rowing programme, to compliment its paralympic programme. In this respect, a number of Club athletes, through personal initiatives trained with clubs in Sicily, namely Lauria in Palermo (through the kind support of Dr Dario Cerasola) and Peloro in Messina (through the kind support of Dr Giovanni Ficarra).

Moreover, the Club finalised the purchase of four new Club boats – two singles (1x) and two doubles (2x/2-) which were purchased from Hangzhou Liangjin Boat Co., Ltd China. These boats arrived in Malta in August 2024 and were sponsored by the Responsible Gaming Foundation and Malta Tourism Authority (VisitMalta) whose support is most gratefully acknowledged. These boats have started to be rigged.

In addition, the Club organised a Christmas training camp with Club Lauria in Palermo where SRC club members could row independently or semi-independently on such boats. The support of Dr Dario Cerasola was crucial for this to happen and the Club is truly indebted to him and Lauria as was the financial support received from SportMalta through their Travel Assistance scheme.

The below are some images of these experiences.





*Rigging of the Club's Olympic Double as 2x, with the help of professional Brazilian rower and Club member Eduardo Saraiva.*





*1x and 2x safe in the SRC boathouse*





*With World Champion in Classic, Coastal and Indoor rowing Dr Giovanni Ficarra (Dec 2024)*



*Club athletes on the 2x in Palermo, December 2024*



*Club athletes with Lauria Head Coach Dr Dario Cerasola*



## ***Annex III***

### ***Para rowing***

As in previous years, a very important sector of the SRC membership base is that of “para rowers”. Here it must be recalled that in the AGM held in 2020, it was agreed that this sector of rowing training for athletes with disability will be given priority by the Club, if necessary over other sectors when resources are limited.

Club works very closely with main stakeholders in this field, most notably the Malta Paralympic Committee.

Club reports that it gradually expanding its base in terms of types of disability it focuses on, and, activities offered. In particular SRC continues to focus on athletes with physical impairments, athletes with visual impairments (VI athletes), through a programme supported by the Club’s partnership in the ISport programme (a joint collaboration of the Malta Trust Foundation and the Malta Paralympic Committee) and athletes with intellectual impairments.

Important major achievements in para rowing for 2024 include:

1. The delivery of **six para boats together with oars and ancillary equipment through this initiative** the money for which was raised in 2022 when 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 para rowing on-water programme which is being hosted and administered by SRC. The Club is truly honoured to have Dr Julian Bajada, Secretary General of Malta Paralympic Committee, actively training with it. Dr Julian Bajada had started his connection with rowing whilst reading for his postgraduate degree with the University of Cambridge, UK, and apart from rowing knowledge brings to the club a positive energy which is second to none.
2. Participation in the World Championships held in-person in Prague where Club was represented by three athletes with physical disability namely Daniela Cachia (who medalled), Julian Bajada and Thomas Borg. Daniela Cachia (now Borg) also took part and medalled in British Indoor Rowing Championships BRIC’2024 held in Birmingham in December 2024.

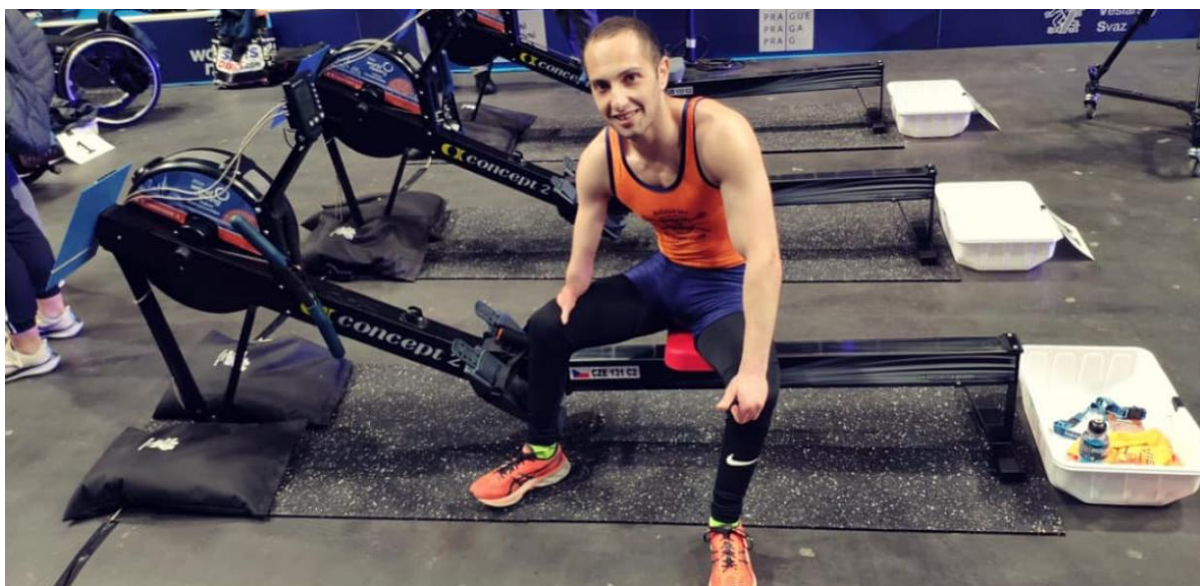


3. The Club continued offering specialised training to athletes with disability who remain at the core of our membership base. In particular, the Club facilitated the training of SRC registered rower Nick Mercieca to branch out to para powerlifting. The Club commends Nick's efforts to excel and considers him a truly inspirational athlete.
4. Participation in the National Championships with World Records being established by Sarah Craig and Elsie Tanti Cascun.

The Club and its members thank Dr Bajada, the Malta Paralympic as well as the various Coaches for all their hard work to promote para rowing ensure that our para rowers are well catered for.



*Dr Julian Bajada and the new boats*



Junian Bajada at the World Championships, Prague 2024





*SRC / Malta "team" with three para rowers (Thomas Borg PR3, Julain Bajada PR3 and Daniela Cachia PR2) and their team mates / coach.*



*Para rower Daniela Cachia competing*



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Day 2 of the World Rowing Indoor Championships kicked off with the 500m sprint and the Versa Athletes are about to take on 'Power and Pace' where their pace will descend from 37 SPM to 18 SPM.



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*The World Rowing medals won by Daniela Cachia*





*Para rower Elsie Tanti Canscun who was later declared as a World Record Holder (Issued by Concept2 Inc.) alongside para rower Maria James and their coach Leanne.*



*Para rower Sarah Craig with the certificate which declares her as World Record Holder (Issued by Concept2 Inc.)*





*Para rower Elsie Tanti Cascun with the certificate which declares her as World Record Holder (Issued by Concept2 Inc.)*



*Male para rowers Kurt Farrugia and Owen Mallia at the National Championships*



Daniela Cachia at the BRIC'2024 (December 2024, Birmingham)



## **Annex IV**

### **Malta Traditional National Regatta**

The Club once again did its utmost to participate in the two national regattas which were organised in 2024, namely the March Jum il-Helsien Regatta and the September 2024 Regatta tal-Vitorja. In the March regatta, the club participated in with a number of boats but had to make several last minute changes due to injuries of some rowers who withdrew from competition and others who withdrew for other reasons.

The September regatta was, unfortunately, also rather eventful following what the Club considered as an unreasonable and unjustified imposition by other clubs and the national association who effectively forced the Club to only participate in Category A to the disappointment of Club rowers who felt that they should have been allowed to participate in Category B which was more in-line with their level of preparation.

Club President, Joseph N Grima issued the below public statement on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 which is being reproduced *a verbatim*.

*Personal Statement: Siggiewi Rowing Club forced to participate in Category A, against the wish of its rowers, as “there is no space for them” in Category B, the category of their choice.*

*It is with great personal regret that I have to announce that Siggiewi Rowing Club has been forced to withdraw its participation from Category B in the forthcoming 8th September 2024 Regatta and instead participate in Category A, against the wishes of its rowers.*

*This decision was forced on the Club and our rowers when we were informed “there will be no space for Siggiewi rowers” in Category B, the category of our choice, this coming Sunday. We were informed that this was necessary due to a fear that the cruise liners that will be docked in the harbour on 8-September-2024 will cause hindrance to the racecourse (which I find hard to accept). It could also be that:*

*(1) There is lack of appreciation of the efforts made Siggiewi Rowing Club and its rowers who train for the “National” Regatta (underdogs in such events), and, what is enshrined in our National Law, where it is specifically stated that:*

*- The State recognises that no discrimination should be permitted on the grounds of sex, race, colour, religion or political opinion or residence within different localities of Malta in the access to sport facilities or to sport activities.*

*- The State recognises that everyone should have the opportunity to take part in sport, and that where necessary, additional measures shall be taken aimed at enabling and encouraging women and young gifted people, as well as disadvantaged or disabled persons or groups of such persons, to effectively take advantage of such Opportunities.*

*- All sport activities shall respect the human dignity and the health and safety and general welfare of all participants in sport. All participants in sport activities shall follow the rules of fair play.*

*(2) There is lack of appreciation that the Statute of Għaqda Regatta Nazzjonali u Qdif leħor (the Association) guarantees our right to participate in the National Regattas, as amply made clear by the Secretary of the Association.*

*(3) Some of the much stronger and older Clubs see us as too small and “weak” to be competitive: for them, it seems, we are only a hindrance.*

*(4) The traditional Regatta scene considers our development of modern rowing, particularly our participation in the 2024 World Coastal Rowing Championships in Genoa, as a sign of disrespect. Obviously, this is not the case: our Club co-develops all forms of rowing, from traditional regatta to coastal, para and indoor rowing. I am proud of this diversity and forward-looking mentality.*

*(5) There is lack of appreciation that it is potentially illegal to have a sub-group of competing clubs who, together with an administrator, decide between them to set up the regatta racecourse with seven starting blocks, rather than eight, the number of participating Clubs – thus, de facto, excluding a participant.*

*(6) There are some personal issues towards me. If this is the case, I apologise to those effected.*

*I have, since last Wednesday, tried to explain to the Association administrator and the fraction of Clubs who are forcing us to “bow out” why all this is wrong.*

*We also proposed a solution, to no avail. Unfortunately, time is running out. Siggiewi Rowing Club rowers, and everybody else, cannot be left dangling any longer.*

*Moreover, it also appears that the issues which only surfaced these last few days are having a toll on the other members of the Association administrative team. This is not fair on them – they are good people and very professional.*

*Thus, after consulting with the crews which were supposed to be taking part in four Category B races, Siggiewi Rowing Club and its rowers are accepting (without prejudice to future events) to bow our head and, regretfully, withdraw from Category B for the 8th September 2024 Regatta.*

*Siggiewi Rowing Club will instead participate with a reduced set of crews in Category A.*

*This decision to participate with in just two races was not taken lightly. I appreciate that not all crews feel mentally prepared to race in Category A, and I thank and express my solidarity towards the brave rowers who accepted race in a Category which they had not been preparing for.*

As expected, this had a rather demoralising effect on the rowers.

Towards the end of the year, Club President met with Mr Lawrence Ciantar, one of the most talented fixed-seat rowers that Malta has ever produced who kindly agreed to help the Club with the training of traditional rowers. **Club President appointed Mr Lawrence Ciantar as his Delegate with the official designation of “President’s Delegate for Traditional Rowing” and given the role of “Captain” of the Siggiewi Rowing Club National Regatta Crews.**

## March 2024 Regatta







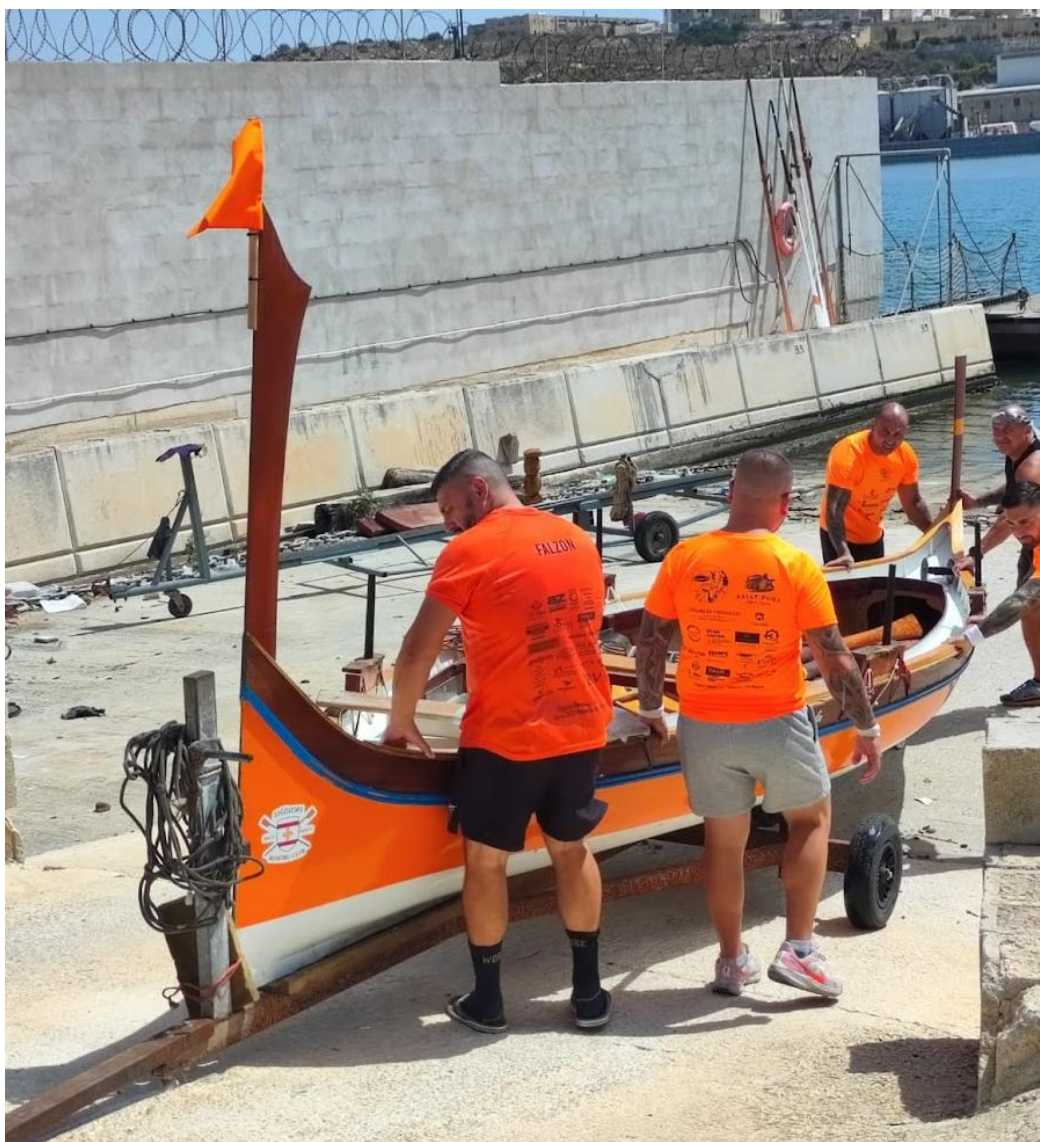
## ***September 2024 Regatta***











## **Annex V**

### **International Traditional Rowing Activities**

In 2024, Club took part in a number of traditional rowing races which served to help its members appreciate better how rowing is a universal sport tradition.

#### **(a) Civitavecchia 2024**

In April 2024, Club took part in the "16° Palio Marinaro dei Tre Porti", Civitavecchia Italy 2024 between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Regatta was on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024. The contingent included Ivan Cassar, Gerald Micallef, Anthony Viacava and Byron Falzon as rowers; Christian Frendo as Cox / Reserve Rower and Angelique Theuma as Reserve Cox.

The "Palio Marinaro dei Tre Porti", which is organised within the within the "Palio Marinaro di S. Fermina" is a rowing competition on traditional fixed-seat "gozzo" rowing boats originate from historical boats of the region. It seen as a maritime celebration through sport that unites the maritime heritage of three key port cities in the Lazio region of Italy: Civitavecchia, Fiumicino, and Gaeta. Apart from the Siggiewi Rowing Club Team which is invited by the organisers, this event brings together athletes from the greater Rome region in an event which is seen as one main highlights of the cultural and sporting calendar in these coastal towns.

The race, which was preceded by some training sessions on water in the two days before the race, is a rather tough one but an excellent opportunity to learn new skills both from the aspect of sprinting and turning around buoys – the two key concepts in modern coastal beach sprint coastal races (set to become an Olympic discipline as from Los Angeles 2028). The race also serves to give the crews an opportunity to row in crews of 4+, i.e. four seated rowers sweep with a coxswain, a conformation which is not available in Malta but very common overseas, and to perform a very sharp full 180° "giro di boa" which is still a technique that Maltese rowers have to get accustomed to. It is also an excellent opportunity to train professional coxswains who are key for such regattas. This type of training cannot be done locally on traditional regatta boats for technical reasons.

It is important to highlight that although the Maltese teams did not win any of the races, their finish times were very comparable to those obtained by the much more seasoned local rowers who train for months on these specific boats in the same regatta cours







This event got extensive Press coverage, including:

<https://tvmnews.mt/sport/siggiewi-rowing-club-fir-regatta-ta-palio-marinaro-di-santa-fermina/>

<https://maltasport.mt/other-sports/water-sports/siggiewi-rowing-club-runners-up-in-palio-marinaro-di-santa-fermina/>

The support of SportMalta who made this participation possible through an International Participation Scheme used to finance the flights for this regatta is most gratefully acknowledged as without this support, participation for this international event would not have been possible. We are also grateful to the Local Organizing Committee who provided us with accommodation. Further information on this Regatta may be obtained from Sandro Calderai, President A.S.D. MARE NOSTRUM 2000.

### **(b) Taranto 2024**

Later in the same month SRC participated in the Interregional Endurance Regatta (Interregionale Regatta di Fondo), in Taranto Italy between the 23 and 25 April 2024, Regatta 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024. SRC took part in two races with three crews namely the *Gozzo Nazionale Senior Male, 4+* with rowers Joseph Grima, Mark Schembri, Ivan Cassar and Christian Frendo with Malcolm Vella as Coxswain as well as in the traditional *Gozzo -Standing Rowing* race with two crews: Boat 1 with Mark Schembri and Malcolm Vella, whilst Boat 2 with Ivan Cassar and Christian Frendo.

This is one of most important endurance regattas sanctioned by the FICS, the CONI affiliated Italian Fixed Seat Rowing Federation that is held in our region. Main events were various races around the island of Taranto which have a distance of around 3k and take around 20 minutes to compete on the type of boat that were being rowed, which is the typical time for a rowing endurance race. An important advantage of this race in question is that it was conducted in the place which will host the next Mediterranean Beach Games in 2026 which will, most probably, include coastal rowing which is scheduled to be held from 13 to 22 June 2026.

The race served to give the crews an opportunity (1) to row in crews of 4+, i.e. four seated rowers sweep, a conformation which is not available in Malta but very common overseas; (2) to row long distance, essential for athletic preparation and to get used to endurance races; (3) to row in choppy and turbulent waters: Taranto is known for having strong currents, especially in certain parts of the race course.

Apart from the 4+ races, the regatta also included races in standing rowing where one of our crews placed third. Here it must be said that this is a highly disputed race rowed by some of the best standing rowers in the Puglia region.

Results at the Taranto regatta were excellent with one crew (Mark Schembri and Malcolm Vella) placing third place, and the gozzo placing 4<sup>th</sup> place just seconds away from the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.





[www.siggiewi-rowing.com](http://www.siggiewi-rowing.com)

### ***(c) Reggio Calabria “Regata del Mediterraneo – Tesori del Mediterraneo”***

This regatta was held in the first weekend of August with travel dates 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Crew was composed of Joseph Grima, Ivan Cassar, Eman Pisani and Benjamin Abela as rowers and Edvard Lee Agius as Coxswain.

This “*Regata del Mediterraneo*” is held as part of the festival *Tesori del Mediterraneo* on the stretch of water of the Strait that unites Reggio Calabria and Messina. The 2024 race included ten crews made up of 4 rowers and a coxswain, all male, mostly coming from the best rowing clubs in Italy, including Frecce Gialle and the National fixed-seat crew of FICSF.

The race is a sprint over 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 in width and are rather heavy to row.



It was unfortunate that at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour prior to departure, the crew which was supposed to take part had to be changed due to illness of two of the participants who were scheduled to compete. Nevertheless, an attempt was made to find alternative rowers, with the result that the original crew members Josef Dalli and Donald Guilford, two very experienced rowers, had to be substituted by Benjamin Abela and Edvard Lee Agius.

The newly formed crew did its utmost to give a good performance, something which was not easy and the actual combination of rowers had never rowed together in the same boat. In fact, an important lesson that was learnt from this experience is that the selected contingent should always include at least one reserve who could both row and cox for eventualities such as this one.

Despite everything, the crew managed to obtain respectable results and in most cases pass other boats. This event gained good publicity in local press.

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Rowing

## Siggiewi Rowers at Reggio Calabria Regatta

By **Byron Falzon** - 16.08.2024 14:19

1



Left to Right: Coxswain Edward Lee Agius with rowers Ivan Cassar, Joseph Grima, Benjamin Abela and Eman Pisani

The Lungomare Falcomata of Reggio Calabria provided an excellent racecourse for a Siggiewi crew to race alongside some of Italy's best rowers in a rather technically challenging sprint regatta.

This Regatta is held as part of the festival Tesori del Mediterraneo on the stretch of water of the Strait that unites Reggio Calabria and Messina. The 2024 race included ten crews made up of 4 rowers and a coxswain, all male, mostly coming from the best rowing clubs in Italy, including Frecce Gialle, the professional Calabrian crew and a crew from the National Fixed-Seat Rowing Club.

#### **(d) Combined Coppa Europa & Palio di Pallanza**

This important regatta was held in Pallanza on the 13, 14 August 2024. SRC contingent was made of Joseph Grima, Mark Schembri, Max Spiteri Fiteni and Malcolm Vella as rowers and Edvard Lee Agius as Coxswain.

This year was a very special year for Verbania as they were celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Palio di Pallanza. The event was given even more prestige by uniting it with the Coppa Europa Fixed-Seat Championships that are held each year sanctioned by the CONI-affiliated Federazione Italiana di Sedile Fisso (FICSF). This Regatta is an important event, recognised by CONI, to the extent that the winners are sometimes awarded CONI medals.

In terms of the races which were part of the Coppa Europa Fixed-Seat Rowing European Championships, the Siggiewi Rowing Club contingent took part in two events from the three scheduled, namely the **Jole** and **Gozzo**. The crew was composed of Edvard Lee Agius as coxswain together with rowers Mark Schembri, Max Spiteri Fiteni, Joseph Grima and Malcolm Vella. The semi-finals for these races were held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August where the Maltese crews obtained very good results, and qualified to participate in the main Finals for both races. Note that training and subsequent races on these boats, were important for the team as it gave athletes with the opportunity to learn and master synchronisation on a semi-stable boat (the Jole), a design which is not too dissimilar to the Olympic coxed four. Here it should be noted that this was an excellent opportunity to row in a “four” all-seated formation.

The Finals of Coppa Europa were supposed to be held the day after, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August together with the Voga in Piedi (VIP) races which were supposed to be rowed by Mark Schembri and Malcolm Vella. However, due to very adverse weather conditions, the races had to be postponed time and time again with the result that for safety reasons, only the Gozzo race was held with the results obtained in the semi-finals being used to compute the classification for the Jole. The VIP races were cancelled altogether. **All in all, these races gave excellent results for the Siggiewi crews who placed overall third in the Gozzo races and Jole races.**

In the case of the Galeone race, training and racing were important as it gave athletes with the opportunity to learn better coxing (In Malta, the role of the coxswain is not given much attention as the regattas are of a very simple linear format, unlike international regattas where the role of the coxswain, sometimes, makes or brakes a crew); 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; as well as synchronisation with the opportunity to row in a “eight” all-seated formation – something which for Maltese rowers is not easy as all boats rowed locally involve a much smaller number of rowers, and never more than two seated. These races, and preceding training, were practised in a historical replica of Galeoni which could be rowed *via* the familiar fixed-seat traditional rowing technique which is practised in Malta. The Siggiewi Crew obtained very good results, both in the semi-final (qualifying for the finals) and in the Finals obtaining a prestigious second place. The Siggiewi **Galeone** was expertly coxed by Edvard Lee Agius (who had to also swim and climb a rope to catch the finish flag) and rowed by Mark Schembri, Max Spiteri Fiteni, Joseph Grima, Malcolm Vella + four guest UK rowers (not included in this claim) and placed **2<sup>nd</sup> Overall**.

Cutting from the Italian Newspaper *La Stampa*

42 SPECIALE LA STAMPA MERCOLEDÌ 14 AGOSTO 2024

SPECIALE EVENTI NEL VCO

Pallanza, la giornata inizia alle 14 con le sfilate. Finali dalle 20

## È la notte del Palio remiero dopo le sfide sui galeoni show di fuochi d'artificio

**L'EVENTO**

**BEATRICE ARCHESSO**  
VERBANIA

**F**uochi d'artificio tornano stasera a illuminare il Golfo Borromeo del Lago Maggiore: festeggiano il Ferragosto ma anche e soprattutto la manifestazione che da più di mezzo secolo a Verbania è legata a questa serata, il «Palio remiero in notturna» di cui si disputa oggi la 50ª edizione effettiva (il primo si tenne nel 1972).

Stasera è il clou del Ferragosto verbanese, da oltre mezzo secolo organizzato dal Gruppo difesa tradizioni Piazza-Villa. Si comincia presto a Pallanza, sfidando il caldo con le sfilate dei vogatori con i remi lungo via Ruga, un momento folcloristico tradizionale che apre ufficialmente la giornata del «Palio remiero». A seguire si disputano le finali del campionato europeo organizzato dalla Federazione italiana canottaggio sedile fisso (Ficsf) per le specialità Jole, Gozzo e Vip (voga in piedi). Le batterie si sono tenute ieri pomeriggio sotto un sole cocente che in parte ha scoraggiato il pubblico, arrivato più numeroso in serata. L'Europeo femminile conta 12 equipaggi Jole, 9 Gozzo e 3 Vip; quello maschile 6 equipaggi Jole, 5 Gozzo e 4 Vip.

«A Verbania c'è un via vai di atleti che anima e colora la città donandole anche un respiro internazionale: ci sono circa 200 vogatori, 90 dei quali ospitati alla scuola di polizia

penitenziaria perché altrimenti non ci sarebbe stato modo di disputare le gare internazionali» dice soddisfatto Armando Ceresini presidente del Gruppo difesa tradizioni Piazza-Villa. Si riferisce alle sfide dell'Europeo ma pure delle diverse competizioni che rientrano nel 50° Palio remiero, tra cui il Palio internazionale femminile conteso oggi da 10 equipaggi (in rappresentanza di Inghilterra, Galles, Cornovaglia e Ficsf Italia) e quello maschile con 5 equipaggi (da Olanda, Inghilterra e della Ficsf Italia). Il «Palio in rosso» vede sfidarsi in acqua le due rappresentative di Piemonte e Lombardia mentre il

»Palio dei campanili« mette sui caratteristici galeoni giallo, rosso e verde i 3 equipaggi degli oratori San Pietro di Trobaso (vittorioso l'anno scorso), San Vittore di Intra e don Bosco di Pallanza.

Infine, il più atteso, il 50° «Palio remiero in notturna» che quest'anno di disputa tra 12 equipaggi: Canottieri Pallanza (vincitrice nel 2023), Canottieri Verbanese, Canottieri Omegna, Canottieri Intra, vigili del fuoco Verbania, Gruppo sportivo Suna, Club sportivo Urania (Genova), Canottieri Arolo (Varese), Canottieri Germignaga, Cerro Sportiva, Canottieri Angera-Monate, Lega Navale Italiana sezio-

ne di Molfetta. Dalle 16 oggi le batterie, poi alle 20 comincia la lunga carrellata di finali che terminerà alle 22 con lo spettacolo pirotecnico, «un ritorno fortemente voluto per i 50 anni del Palio remiero in notturna» dice Ceresini.

**Navette gratuite**

Dalle 19 stasera è aperta la cucina del comitato Insieme per Sant'Anna e iniziano pure a circolare le navette gratuite, grazie alla collaborazione con Vco Trasporti, con soste a cimitero di Suna, tribunale, istituto Ferrini e piazza Gramsci; andata ogni mezzora fino alle 20,30, ritorno dalle 23. —

© RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA

ieri a Pallanza si sono svolte le batterie. Oggi le finali

DANIELO DONADIO

Correnti che durano nel tempo



GRUPPO DIFESA TRADIZIONI

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## FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA CANOTTAGGIO Sedile Fisso

presentano:

# 50

# PALIO REMIERO

*sul Lungo Lago di Pallanza... l'unico in Notturna*  
**MERCOLEDÌ 14 AGOSTO 2024**



3° PALIO REMIERO INTERNAZIONALE ROSA

8° PALIO REMIERO ROSA

3° PALIO REMIERO INTERNAZIONALE



2° PALIO REMIERO DEI CAMPANILI

7° FIXED SEAT EUROPEAN ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS















## ***Annex VI***

### ***Egalite` - SRC's first ever Coastal Rowing Boat***



In April 2024, the Club officially took delivery of its first ever coastal rowing boat, a Eurodiffusion C4x+ which is one of the most stable coastal rowing boats ever built. This was possible with the financial support provided by APS Bank through their CSR programme.

Sigġiewi Rowing Club acquired this boat, “Égalité”, to intensify its efforts to become a fully inclusive sports organisation by using rowing as a platform to foster equality and address social challenges. This coastal rowing quad, a coxed sculling boat which is rowed by four individuals, is wide, robust and stable enough to be used in the Maltese Coastal waters. This type of rowing is inherently egalitarian where rowers can row in the same boat regardless of their physical stature, gender, or socioeconomic background. This is possible due to the fact that the sculling used naturally balances out port and stern side by having each rower holding two oars, one on each side. Moreover, at international level, there is a growing trend to have mixed-gender and mixed-ability sculling races which at club level promote collaboration and teamwork between genders and athletes of various abilities.

The boat has a long history which span over fifteen years. Manufactured in France in May 2008, it was originally part of Arklow’s first coastal sculling fleet, a set of three boats named Liberté (Solo C1x), Égalité (Coxed Quad C4x+) and Fraternité (Double C2x). It was raced all in various regattas in Europe including Great Britain (Plymouth in 2009, where it was rowed by a women’s crew), Lake Garda where it was rowed in the World Championships at Lake Garda by its second owner, Cairndhu Rowing Club who also rowed in the First Irish Offshore in Wicklow (winning Silver). It was purchased by Cove Rowing Club, the third owners who also raced with it until recently in Ireland.



Its present owners, Siġġiewi Rowing Club opted to retain the boat's original name, Égalité, a name which literally means equality, since this term perfectly reflects the ethos behind this boat: achieving equality through rowing. The concept of equality is central to many political and social movements and is often associated with ideas of social justice, human rights, and democracy. It advocates for the removal of barriers that create unequal treatment and treating people fairly and without discrimination in all areas of life, including sport.

Égalité was officially blessed by Fr Josef Mifsud, Parish Priest of Siġġiewi, and launched in Malta at a ceremony at Ghar Lapsi earlier this year as part of a Sports Festival organised by Reġjun Punent, with representatives from APS Bank present.

















## ***Annex VII***

### ***Coastal Rowing Training and Competitions Overseas***

In 2024, formal Coastal Rowing training and coaching could start at our Club, something which was made possible with the acquisition of our ever coastal rowing boat, a Eurodiffusion C4x+, one of the most stable coastal rowing boats ever built. This was possible with the financial support provided by APS Bank through their CSR programme.

In practice, this meant that we could open up coastal rowing to a much wider cohort of individuals, and we could also commence more intense training. Here it must be said that prior to this, all training used to be performed using a Coastal Leo boat which is privately owned.

In terms of training, the Club is truly grateful for the help received by a number of international coaches and athletes who visited our club and rowed with us, particularly Jaime Rus Alba from Spain, Mark McCrea and his family who sold us the boat from Ireland; Emre Demirkol from Turkey and others.

In 2024, SRC athletes competed (and medalled) in a number of coastal competitions namely:

- (a) The Endurance Mille Remi Genoa Race (silver medal) in June 2024;
- (b) A 28km “Ocean to City” Endurance Race in Ireland (Gold Medal);
- (c) The World Championships (C1xM, C2xM and C4x+M) and the World Beach Sprints (C1x)

#### ***(a) The 2024 Coastal Regatta Mille Remi in sciù mâ Genoa Italy, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024***

This is an important Italian Coastal Rowing event with Società Canottieri Genovesi Elpis as Local Organizing Committee in collaboration with the Regional Committee of FIC (Italian Rowing Federation) Liguria which is open to international participants. The race is in a rather rough stretch of open water, very different to the way rowing in Malta is conducted, over a race distance of 6,000 meters circa with various turns, as is typical in World Rowing International Coastal Regattas (i.e. x6 of Malta Regatta). This was the first time that SRC rowers (Mark Schembri and Joseph Grima) competed on the Kanghwa boats which are known to be rather challenging in rough waters, something which requires determination and courage from athletes who have never rowed on Olympic sliding-seat boats. Despite this, the two rowers faired fairly well with both athletes being able to finish their race without any assistance and medalling as 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Amongst the



objectives achieved, this race helps to build a network of collaborators, which is essential for a developing entity like us.



***(b) The Ireland 28km Endurance Regatta, Ireland, June 2024***

This regatta, held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024, saw SRC athlete Mark Schembri obtain most excellent results and is a most important and rather tough rowing Endurance Race which was held at Rás Mór. It is considered as “Ireland’s very own long-distance rowing race attracting hundreds of participants annually”. It includes races over four course distances: the 28km Ocean Course, 22km City Course, 13km Monkstown Course and the 4km Youth Course and is modelled on London’s Great River Race, with start times being staggered with the slowest boat types leaving first, and the fastest boat types leaving last.

This Endurance Regatta started in 2005 and has grown from its origin as a race for traditional fixed-seat boats into an all-inclusive rowing and paddling event, embracing everything from traditional wooden working boats, currachs, skiffs, gigs and longboats to contemporary ocean racing shells, kayaks, canoes and even stand-up paddle boards.

Given the option to take place in the using a coastal C1x boat, the boat which is considered as the future of coastal rowing worldwide, with C1x Coastal Beach sprints becoming an Olympic Race as from LA 2028, the athlete very diligently opted to get out his comfort zone and attempt to race this 28km event as “solo”.

Despite the limitations associated with Coastal Rowing on the World Rowing type boats, the athlete prepared well for this race, including through the participation of another event the week before in Genoa, and training in Malta on a Leo C1x. The race itself was conducted on a Swift C1x where the athlete was assisted in terms of boat handling by Kelly Nolan who did a sterling job not only as a boat handler (essential for tough and long coastal races such as this one) but also for acting as the equivalent of “team manager” for this event.

Here it musty be said that although this race can be rowed along two routes, a long and shorter one, Mark opted to row the longer 28km route.

**The result obtained was excellent, with Mark Schembri placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the C1x category for the full race, and within the to 10 overall;** obtaining a time which was rather similar to the 4-manned quads which are well known for their speed. This augurs well to the future of coastal rowing in Malta and Siggiewi Rowing Club, particularly when on the boat there would be athletes like Mark Schembri, who ought to be congratulated for his outstanding performance, who gives his 100+% in such events. It was “test of endurance, a personal challenge” ... and Mark came up on top.



***(c) The 2024 World Rowing Coastal Championships, 3-8 September 2024, Races: 6,7,8 September 2028 followed by the Beach Sprints***

This is the main and highest level of Endurance Coastal Rowing event at world level by World Rowing, the world rowing federation. It had the world's top coastal rowers, including former Olympic rowers and world champions from all round the world. The event was over the whole weekend, and was preceded by a few days where one could train and set the boats.

This event saw, for the first time in Maltese rowing history, rowers from a Maltese Club taking Club in all three main male events namely the single C1x, the double C2x and quad C4x+. More specifically the crews were as follows:



### Single CM1x

Mark Schembri	Rower
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### Double CM2x

Mark Schembri	Rower
---------------	-------

Jan Tanti	Rower
-----------	-------

### Quad CM4x+

Joseph Grima	Rower
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Max Spiteri Fiteni	Rower
--------------------	-------

Jan Tanti	Rower
-----------	-------

Benjamin Abela	Rower
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Edvard Lee Agius	Coxswain
------------------	----------

The race was over a 4 km stretch, reduced from the standard 6km due to the very bad weather and water conditions. In fact, it was rather unfortunate that the crews could not train as much as they had planned prior to the races, something which was not ideal, particularly since this was the first time that the rowers were rowing in such a prestigious event (the highest level possible) and in much more difficult water than they are accustomed to. It was also unfortunate that the C4x+ made a rather bad start as the boat was pushed out by the currents from the starting line just before the start, with the result the boat had to make a rather difficult manoeuvre to re-enter the race. This unfortunate event taught a very important lesson to the crew – that of always placing itself well in the middle of race-course, even if this translate to slightly longer racecourses. This incident, in practice, had little effect on the final result of later races for the C4x+ as it did not result in a penalty and thus still permitted the crew to race in Finals B.

In the case of the C1x and C2x the athletes gave a very good performance to the extent that they managed to pass a number of crews. Their efforts were evident as they managed to go past a number of seasoned crews. Nevertheless, since the number of participants in the C2x and C1x races was very high, the placing obtained was not high enough to lead to a Final. In fact, it was only the C4x+ boat which raced to the final where this time the start was uneventful and the crew managed to surpass a number of

boats including a rather strong boat from South Africa. The full results for these races attached below.

Here it must be mentioned that this form of rowing is new for Malta and the effort made by MLT athletes in being the pioneers in this sport is to be commended. Post-analysis showed how much the Maltese contingent had improved, with rowers being in full-sync at all times and feeling “in command” of the race.

Following this race, Mark stayed in Genoa and represented Malta in the World Rowing Beach Sprint Championships in C1xM.









*Credit: Official World Rowing Photography*

## ***Annex VIII***

### ***Malta National Indoor Rowing Championships***

In 2024, Club continued with its tradition to participate with a number of athletes and para athletes at the 2024 Malta National Indoor Rowing Championships which this year were held on Saturday 16th November 2024 at the Ta` Kandia Indoor Rowing Facility, Siggiewi.

Apart from a remarkable performance by Peter , who obtained highly improved personal bests, and that of Kurt Farrugia who rowed for the first time after a year-long recovery period from surgery, Siggiewi Rowing Club congratulates the following athletes who medalled in these championships:

- Leanne Xuereb Ungaro who won Gold in the 500m and 2000m in F-HW
- Claire Sammut who won Gold in the 2000m in F-LW
- Jan Tanti and Owen Vassallo who won Silver and Bronze respectively in the 2000m and 500m M-HW
- Allan Vargas who won Bronze in the 2000m M-LW category
- Christian Frendo who won Bronze in the 500m M-LW
- Owen Vassallo and Mark Schembri who won Gold and Silver in the 1000m M-HW
- Kyle Gluam who won silver in the 1000m F-LW
- Khloe Portelli and Oliver Pirotta who medalled in the junior categories
- Owen Mallia, Kurt Farrugia, Daniela Cachia and Jean Cassar who medalled in the male para categories and Elsie Tanti Cascun, Sarah Craig, Maria James, Kylie Glaum and Abigail Laferla who medalled in the female para categories

These results would not have been possible without the many hours of coached training put in by our athletes and para-athletes whose dedication is second to none. The Club also thanks the various coaches who coached in 2024, including Juan Farrugia, Jan Tanti, Mark Schembri and Leanne Xuereb Ungaro.

The below are some images from the event.





































































## **Annex IX**

### **Infrastructure & Infrastructural Projects**

In 2024, SRC was involved in various infrastructural projects, where **the support and advice of Perit Eman Pisani, an SRC member, as well as others, was truly appreciated.** These include continuation with the extensive refurbishment of the sea-front property which is being used as our boathouse (a 15 year lease obtained in 2022 through the kind support of the Lands Authority, the Ministry for the Economy and Industry and the Honourable Minister Silvio Schembri) with extensive renovation work in preparation for planned expansion with the arrival of the para and Olympic boats.

Most of this work is being carried out by **inmates of Corradino Correctional Facility and prison wardens whom we thank.** Their work was instrumental in transforming the premises to its present state with half of it (front part) being usable.

Also important were the commencement of “works” regarding the replacement of dangerous roof over existing inner room. Through the intervention of the Hon. Omar Farrugia, who visited our Marsa store in February 2024, it was agreed that Public Works would execute and finance the project. An application was lodged with the Planning Authority (Application number DS/00070/24) as a “dangerous structure” by Public Works Perit Karl Cutajar, which was received on 07/03/2024 and approved the same month. The method statement involved the “erection of scaffolding underneath existing roof consisting of steel beams supporting xorok. Removal of tiles, torba and stone slabs. Removal of heavily corroded steel beams. Placing of new steel beams, placing of stone slabs, laying of torba, placing of extruded polystyrene, placing of plastic, laying of steel mesh, laying of concrete, laying of torba and placement of tiles”, of which, unfortunately, only the “erection of scaffolding underneath existing roof consisting of steel beams supporting xorok” was carried out together with preliminary work and reports on adjacent third party properties. This was carried out under the supervision of Public Works Perit Trevor-Francis Caruana.

Following extensive meetings and conversations, we were informed towards the end of 2024 that Perit Trevor-Francis Caruana would be replaced by Perit Deborah Cassar with the scope of expediting the work in 2025. **We thank the Hon Omar Farrugia and Public Works for their support and hope that this work is truly brought to completion soon. We also thank Missio for storing some of our boats within their premises till works are completed.**

In addition to the works in the boathouse, work is also ongoing to get up and running the launch site just oppose (former Sea Malta site). In this respect, following discussions we modified the agreement with Enemalta for the use of their ex Sea Malta premises on a *mera tollaranza* basis to be able to launch boats and started work to secure site though the “Kommunitajiet Inklussivi” scheme. In particular, a fence was set up to hoard off any possible danger from the former Sea Malta building and the site was cleared as much as possible. **We thank Minister Julia Farrugia and the Ministry for Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector for their kind support.**





*The front part of the boathouse following renovation*



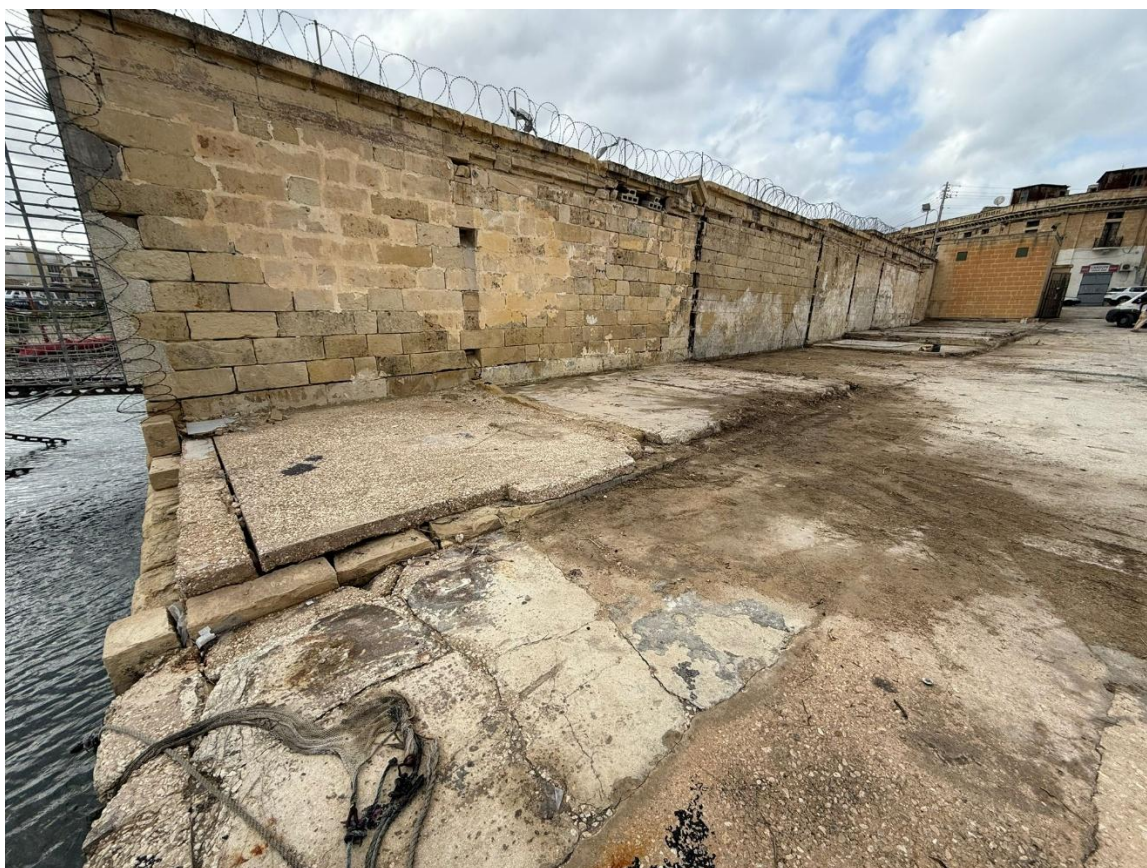
*Visit by the Hon. Omar Farrugia on 8-Feb-2024*





*The scaffolding installed by Public Works in the back room*





*The cleared site*



*Fencing to hoarder off former Sea Malta building as required by H+S report drawn by Enemalta.*

## **Annex X**

### **Grants**

In 2024, SRC applied for various grants and also carried out work financed by other grants.

In particular, SRC applied for a large grant through **“Kommunitajiet Inklussivi 2024”** which was awarded. The Project, which was approved, is permitting Siggiewi Rowing Club (SRC) to upgrade its operational space to remove any physical barriers that remain, namely lack of proper sanitary facilities and rendering the boat sea-launch site safe, accessible and fully usable by everyone - including but not limited to individuals with visual impairments; reduced physical mobility due to physical disability, old age, obesity etc (see Annex IX for more detail). Work is essential to provide SRC's para rowers, amongst others, with a meaningful on-water rowing experience for the safe launching and embarking/disembarking on para rowing boats purchased through the Julian Bajada Challenge in collaboration with the Malta Paralympic Committee. The work will also give a big impetus to projects promoting and favouring inclusion, accessibility and the health benefits (physical and mental) associated with on-water rowing that we are currently running. These include two major projects funded by MCVS [SIS2024 Removing Barriers from Traditions and Sport: Let's empower everyone, everywhere; VOPS2024 Inclusive Rowing for a Healthier Self and Society].

Technical Brief for this work emphasizes that work needs to be fully CRPD compliant and performed under scrutiny of SRC and Malta Paralympic Committee, the national body responsible for para sport in Malta. We are also consulting with CRPD and our numerous members with disability. More specifically, though this grant SRC will commission work to make its Boats Store in Marsa (government property leased to the Club for 15 years) and the sea launching site opposite (ex Sea Malta premises, which was made available to us through agreement with Enemalta) fully usable by everyone by:

1. Replacement of an existing pre 1967 water closet to a more equipped disability friendly sanitary facility following CRPD guidelines which work includes the levelling and tiling of the floor area, supply+installation of enclosure including door that needs to be wide enough for wheelchair users, supply+installation of a new water efficient Water Closet fitted with toilet seat suitable for use by physically impaired individuals together with fold-away bar and horizontal grip handle; supply+installation of a wash hand basin fitted with long handle mixer water tap and disability-friendly mirror. These need to be connected to the main public sewer either via the exiting connection (which needs to be checked if still operational) or through a new supply.
2. Provision and Installation of a temporary pontoon / floating deck along the ex Sea Malta site of width c. 1-2m and length c. 12m to be used to launch rowing /para rowing boats and embark / disembark on them safely and with more ease. Needs to be fully usable by individuals with physical disability or reduced mobility.

3. Clearing up of the "launching site" together with the provision and installation of a steel fence (or its equivalent) of length c. 60m fitted with a moveable precast concrete foundation to render the site clear and safe for everyone (including individuals with physical or visual impairments) and enclose off potentially unsafe areas. This enclosure needs to be in accordance with the provisions of a H&S report already drawn and subject to the approval of the site owners.

Images and further information available on <https://siggiwi-rowing.com/quotes-03-05-2024/>

Another grant Club worked on was the **VOPS grant VOPS A4.06.2024 “Inclusive Rowing for a Healthier Self and Society”** funded through the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector supported by the Ministry for Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector. This project is designed address some of the still unresolved issues related to Malta's health and disability sectors by providing a setup that can permit changes in one's lifestyle to ensure healthier lives and promoting well-being of all individuals, particularly those who can benefit the most, both physically and psychologically.

More specifically, the Club is working to ensure that the sport of rowing can be practised in a safe setting accessible to a wide variety of people including physically/visually impaired individuals who benefit from the perspective of inclusion, a means to a healthier self, or as prospective competitive athletes as well as individuals with health/medical conditions (e.g. obesity, diabetes, etc.) who benefit from being physically active in an inclusive full-body sport possibly as part of their medical treatment/rehabilitation. This can soon be done through a combination of land training at the Club's Siggiewi facility within Dar tal-Providenza but also on-water using state of the art boats which are known for their stability.

Completed activities by December 2024 included Preparation & Quotes/Tendering: This activity was completed with tender for the purchase of boats issued in April 2024; Adjudication in April 2024 and negotiation of T&C with successful bidder till July 2024 when contract was signed and first payment made. Following physical examination of the boats it was found that the boats prior to delivery in September 2024, we found that the boats that were going to be acquired, although fulfilling the specifications, were suited for high level athletes and could potentially be seen as being less safe by end users with disability, health and/or mobility issues - the target population of our project. Following advise from MCVS and extensive discussions with the supplier, it was agreed that the supplier (Peter Doyle representing Kanguha Coastal) would provide at practically the same cost boats from a different manufacture which had already been tested and used extensively in competitions by athletes with disability (Swift). Thus in November 2024 a second agreement was signed to take this into account. Modified payment terms and supply date were also agreed. On 31-Dec-2024, boats were in transit (delivered to Express Trailers Genoa Hub on Monday 23 December 2024) and reached Malta in January 2025.



A call for "staff" was also issued and adjudicated in June 2024. A second call was issued in November 2024 since person appointed in summer needed to reduce his workload. New staff was engaged on December 2nd, 2024.

Ongoing work on this project throughout the year included:

- Training of Club Members: Club members have been training and assessing the best manner to launch and row safely using these types of boats using a similar boat to the one being purchased. Focus is on safety (primarily), as well as coaching methods to be applied and technique. Newly appointed staff, Leanne Xuereb Ungaro as well as Club President attended an intensive training programme in Italy in the last weekend of December.
- Boathouse was being prepared for the imminent arrival of the boats through the installation of custom-made shelves which are being manufactured by our members (using money from VOPS A4.06.2024 Overheads).
- Running of a Pilot of Rowing for Health + Inclusion: With the reassurance that funding is now available to offer this most important programme in a dignified manner, the club has ventured into piloting through indoor rowing and land training how rowing can be of benefit to individuals with health and mobility conditions, and these are being encouraged to take up on-water rowing. End-users currently include people with intellectual and physical, impairments, MD, obesity.

Another project that was run through a SIS grant was the SIS-A1-16-2024 project "Removing Barriers from Traditions and Sport: Let's empower everyone, everywhere". This project started in with an adjudication process which has been completed and a call for quotes was issued, and adjudicated. Comparative bid analysis and quotes were submitted to MCVS early in 2024 and approved from their end. Immediately following the adjudication process, as soon as so authorised by MCVS, Mr Mario Aquilina was informed that was chosen as to approved supplier for the traditional rowing boat and we asked him to commence the work immediate. Once SRC received the funds from the granting agency, and Mr Aquilina confirmed that work had commenced, the agreed deposit of 2000EUR was made via bank transfer to the account provided to us by Mr Aquilina for the purchase of wood. We note that although we have photographic evidence that work has indeed commenced, we are very concerned that the progress is too slow, at least in our opinion. In fact we are truly concerned that despite all our efforts, the work will not be finished within the timeframe of project and an extension may be necessary. Given the very delicate nature of this project, an extension was requested.

Since the boat is not yet available to us as we were hoping, we replaced on-water training through indoor training, were we are pleased to see so many happy faces. We had the honour to present this and other work we do to the Hon Minister Julia Farrugia

and MCVS Chair, in the presence of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh in October 2024, amongst others.

Apart from these grants, Club also executed a CSR grant provided by APS (see annex on Egalite`) and applied for other grants which were not awarded. This include a TIS and VOPS grant from MCVS as well as a large InterReg grant with the University of Malta, the University of Palermo and a Sicilian SME. Club also applied to have a governmental employee seconded with the Club, which application had to be left in abeyance.

***(a) Images of the boats acquired through VOPS in transit***









***(b) Images of the boat being manufactured for us by Mario Aquilina financed through SIS***











## ***Annex XI***

### ***Events and Outreach***

These are a collection of images from **some** of the Events and Outreach Activities we took part in 2024, which include:

- (a) 1<sup>st</sup> January Event at Dar tal-Providenza
- (b) Visit by HE Dr George Vella, President of the Republic of Malta, January 2024
- (c) Participation in TV event prior to March National Regatta
- (d) Malta Trust Foundation TV Campaign – April 2024
- (e) Handaq Middle School Sports Event, April 2024
- (f) May 2024 – Hal Kirkop Middle School
- (g) Sports for Kate Event at Marsa Sports Club, May 2024
- (h) Olympic Day Event, June 2024
- (i) Pageants of the Seas Event, June 2024
- (j) Illum ma Steph - TV Programme – June 2024
- (k) Festa Gheneb, Pjazza Siggiewi – September 2024
- (l) European Week of Sports – September 2024
- (m) Regjun Punent Event at Ghar Lapsi, October 2024
- (n) Visit by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward, October 2024
- (o) Milied fil-Pjazza, December 2024
- (p) Christmas Event at Dar tal-Providenza, December 2024



**(a) 1<sup>st</sup> January Event at Dar tal-Providenza**



***(b) Visit by HE Dr George Vella, President of the Republic of Malta, January 2024***





***(c) Participation in TV event prior to March National Regatta***





**(d) Malta Trust Foundation TV Campaign – April 2024**





***(e) Handaq Middle School Sports Event, April 2024***





***(f) May 2024 – Hal Kirkop Middle School***



***(g) Sports for Kate Event at Marsa Sports Club, May 2024***





***(h) Olympic Day Event, June 2024***



***(i) Pageants of the Seas Event, June 2024***



***(j) Illum ma Steph - TV Programme – June 2024***





*(k) Festa Gheneb, Pjazza Siggiewi – September 2024*





**(I) European Week of Sports – September 2024**





***(m) Regjun Punent Event at Ghar Lapsi, October 2024***







***(n) Visit by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward, October 2024***



**(o) Milied fil-Pjazza, December 2024**





*(p) Christmas Event at Dar tal-Providenza, December 2024*





***... This is Siggiewi Rowing Club***



## ***Annex XII***

### ***Club Assets and List of Donations and Sponsorships***

#### ***(a) Club Assets***

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), % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 800
2. The Kajjik “Tias” with registration number S25283 donated to the club by Josef Dalli, % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 640
3. Painted old wooden oars donated by Kalkara Regatta Club, % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 320
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, % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 640
5. Two Concept2 rowing ergs, a pair of slides and one ski-erg (purchased through the SIS 2022 grant), % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 2400
6. One Concept2 rowing Erg, donated by Malta Trust Foundation in 2023, % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 800
7. One Concept2 rowing Erg, donated by Dr Julian Bajada in January 2023, % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 800
8. Two Concept2 rowing Erg and two pairs of sides, Purchased through the SIS 2023 grant, % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 2400

9. Two grey Concept2 with PM3, purchased at a reduced price second hand in May 2023, % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 800
10. Miscellaneous Gym Equipment and Weights, estimated value: €500, % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 400
11. Two Single 1x and Two Double 2x/2+ boats (HANGZHOU LIANGJIN BOAT CO. LTD.), % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 9547.01
12. C4x+ Coastal Boat Eurodiffusion, % Owned on 31/12/2024: 100 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 6700
13. C1x, C2x and C4x+ Purchased through Tide Ventures (Swift racing), % Owned on 31/12/2024: 79.2869484655472 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 17116.07
14. Tal-Pass Boat Being manufactured by TR Boats (Mario Aquilina), % Owned on 31/12/2024: 56.7404 Estimated Value on 31/12/2024 (EUR): 2837.02



***(b) List of Donations and Sponsorships***

*The funds received, in the form of donations, sponsorships and grants, from non-Governmental entities which exceed 1000eur were as follows:*

APS Bank	€ 6,560.00
Malta Trust Foundation	€ 4,260.00
Medichem Ltd	€ 5,000.00

*A full list of funds received is available on request.*