

2012 Club Activity Survey

70 clubs were affiliated to Rowing Ireland for the 2013 season, not including temporary college and school affiliations.

From this number, 50 surveys recording club activity in the 2012 season were returned, representing 71% of the affiliated clubs. The below information is based on the information received from these 50 surveys.

The breakdown of clubs by province was as follows:

Table 1

<i>Province</i>	<i>Number of Clubs</i>	<i>Returned Surveys</i>	<i>Membership*</i>
Connaught	10	7 (70%)	562
Leinster	17	12 (70.5%)	1080
Munster	29	19 (65.5%)	1855
Ulster	14 (<i>13 N.I./ 1 R.o.I.</i>)	12 (87.5%)	1201

**Based on returned surveys*

Rowing Population (Registered and non-Registered)

There were approx. 3000 competitive rowers registered for the 2013 season. The data returned from the surveys suggested a much larger rowing population, incorporating recreational, rowers, social members, unregistered beginners and coaches. The 50 clubs who responded recorded a total membership of 4919, incorporating ordinary members and life members.

Considering this number is based on 71% of the clubs in Ireland, the total membership of all 70 clubs could potentially exceed 6,900. This figure is divided into 61% male and 39% female members.

The rowing memberships of the clubs break down as follows (not including recreational members/ coaches):

Table 2

Adult Men (18-31)	802
Junior Men	1305
Masters Men	436
Total	2543

Adult Women (18-31)	552
Junior Women	793
Masters Women	151
Total	1496

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- The average club has 94 members. However, when the clubs are separated into schools, universities and ‘commercial’ clubs, the average membership works out as follows:
 - University clubs: 96 members on average.
 - Schools clubs: 53 members on average.
 - Commercial clubs: 103 members on average.
- The highest number of members recorded in a club was 359. Five clubs have less than 20 members, one club has no members. Five clubs have over 200 members.
- The total membership of clubs is divided into 39% female and 61% male members. However, in terms of actively rowing members, as indicated in Table 1 above, the divide is 37% female, 63% male.
- Among junior rowers the gender divide is most significant: 62% of juniors are male and 38% are female. Of the 50 clubs who responded to the survey, four clubs (all attached to single-sex schools) only accommodate Junior Men.
- Membership fees for Juniors ranged from free membership (in clubs attached to schools) to €360, with the average membership costing €120.
- Senior membership fees ranged from €5 to £500 (€590). Five university clubs have membership fees of €10 or less. €307 is the average Senior membership fee.
- Clubs attended an average of 7.6 Rowing Ireland events in 2012, with an average of 1.8 Grand League events. 26 clubs, 52% of the total who responded, attended overseas events in 2012.

Coaches

Based on the survey responses received from 50 clubs, the average number of coaches per club is 7.2.

The average ratio of coaches to athletes is 1:13.

When asked about the highest qualification their coaches had obtained, the following data was returned:

- 117 coaches had completed an **Introductory** Course.
- 137 coaches had obtained **Level 1** Certification.
- 43 coaches had obtained **Level 2** Certification.

- 7 coaches had obtained **Level 3** Certification.
- 9 coaches had unspecified 'Other Qualifications'.

The information received from the 50 clubs who responded to the survey listed 359 active coaches. 313 of these coaches have obtained some form of Coaching Qualification, 87% of the total.

Clubs have an average of 2.7 **Level 1** coaches per club, 0.9 **Level 2** coaches per club and 0.1 **Level 3** coaches per club (i.e. one for every seven clubs).

In addition, the 50 clubs who completed the survey returned the following data:

- 237 members had completed a **Code of Ethics** training course, an average of 4.7 per club.
- 211 members had been processed through **Garda Vetting** (or **Access N.I.**), or were in the process of doing so, an average of 4.2 per club.
- 96 members had completed a **First Aid** training course, an average of 1.9 per club.
- The average club committee consists of 9 members.

Equipment

The 50 clubs who completed the survey recording the following equipment belonging to each club:

- 127 **eights**, an average of 2.5 per club.
- 223 **fours/ quads**, an average of 4.7 per club.
- 170 **doubles/ pairs**, an average of 3.4 per club.
- 314 **single sculls**, an average of 6.3 per club.
- 88 **launches**, an average of 1.7 per club.
- 34 **recreational boats**, an average of 0.7 per club, but 31 clubs (of the 50 surveyed) have none.

- 400 **rowing machines**, an average of 8 per club.
- 48 **trailers** between 40 clubs, 10 clubs do not own a club trailer.

Clubs have an average of 1.8 spare racks. 33 clubs stated they no spare racks and the highest number of spare racks in a club was 27.

In addition, 215 private boats were stored within the clubs, 4.3 on average per club.

Facilities

From the surveys returned from 50 clubs:

- 11 clubs have a clubhouse less than 10 years old.
- 6 clubs have a clubhouse between 11 and 25 years old.
- 12 clubs have a clubhouse between 26 and 50 years old.
- 4 clubs have a clubhouse between 50 and 100 years old.
- 9 clubs have a clubhouse more than 100 years old.

The other eight clubs either lease space from another club, or use a shared facility.

33 of the 50 clubs have a club gym (66%), 17 do not.

Of the 33 clubs which have a club gym, 19 are less than 10 years old.

Limiting Factors to Club Growth

When asked to estimate their club's capacity to take on new members, a huge variation in numbers was reported, with responses varying from 0-75.

On average, clubs have the **capacity** for an additional 9.7 rowers, but 21 clubs stated they had no capacity for additional members.

One Munster club stated that they currently had a membership waiting list of 40+ people!

Clubs were asked to rank the following factors which limit the growth of their club on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the most significant factor, 5 the least):

- **Coaches**
- **Equipment**
- **Space**
- **Finance**
- **Other**

Of the five topics, 38 clubs cited **Coaches** as a limiting factor, 16 of these were ranked 1, indicating a very significant limiting factor.

Equipment was also mentioned frequently: 37 times out of 51 responses, 10 of these were ranked 1.

Space and **Finance** received 31 mentions each.

Schools

13* of the 70 clubs affiliated to Rowing Ireland are attached to schools, 18.6% overall. Five of these are attached to male single-sex schools, the other eight are attached to mixed schools.

Table 3

<i>Province</i>	<i>Number of School Clubs</i>
Connaught	3
Leinster	2
Munster	4
Ulster (all N.I.)	4

8 of these returned surveys. 4 clubs had no clubhouse of their own, and operated from a shared facility with another club.

The membership fees vary hugely: three clubs offer free membership, while two charge over €250. The average fee charged was €91.

**This number does not include schools which were temporarily affiliated for the School's Regatta.*

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Universities

9 clubs are attached to universities (12.9% overall), 8 of which returned surveys.

Table 4

<i>Province</i>	<i>Number of University Clubs</i>
Connaught	1
Leinster	3
Munster	3
Ulster (all N.I.)	2

Membership fees for university clubs were generally very low, ranging from €5- €60, (€23 on average) which can probably be attributed to financial support from the universities themselves.

Thanks all the clubs who took the time to fill out the survey. It helps paint the picture of where the sport is going.

For further information please contact info@rowingireland.ie.

