

Ottawa Rowing Club AGM 2010  
Athlete's Rep Report  
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As stated by the other exec members, this past year has been a busy one for the club and, as a consequence, for the executive. It has been an eye opening experience for me, as a club member, to see the executive team at work.

This year most of my time as athlete's rep. has been spent watching the executive do their thing. I have had the chance to see the club transform again, as it has done for a number of years in its recent history. I have also tried to convey some sentiment from executive to athlete and vice versa. Finally, I was pleased to continue with the great work that Julie (former athlete's rep) started a year back with the athlete's fund. The effort toward the fund and this position in general was made much simpler with Julie's continued involvement and hard work as well as the support of the executive.

#### The executive

I have seen the executive work its way through many tough and decisive issues this year. As previously stated, our club is going through a period of significant growth. Perhaps this has come from a good reputation or from a natural pattern of interest in sport, or a combination of the two. Regardless, we have had to make decisions which will effect the club's future structure and capacity. The members of our executive have approached every issue with professionalism and the interests of the general club membership in mind. I have been given a new appreciation for the lengths this group goes to in the interest of equity and transparency.

#### The club

With a new coaching position being added and a change to the fee structure for competing athletes there has been a lot to convey back and forth both to members and the executive. It is surprisingly hard to gauge the interests of the club membership. The executive tries hard to make its decisions after consultation among themselves, and then among the members.

Despite their best efforts there still seems to be a certain amount of misunderstanding between what athletes want and what the executive is working towards. In my position, as a competitive athlete as well as a member of the executive I have had somewhat of a conflict of interest. The most important piece of advice that I can give is for club members to take a more active interest in the organisation of their club. It seems that there are many who volunteer and work hard to make this club run, however there are relatively few who provide much needed input when the executive is charged with coming to a decision.

If I had to say something to the future of the club and my idea of what should change with my position I'd suggest a more structured approach to consulting the club membership. Speaking to club members was a great way to get to know more of the people who I spend my early mornings with every day. In addition to casual consultation it would be good to see some deliberate

process for allowing club members to directly consult the executive on the subject of major decisions. As the club grows this is going to become a more important and complex issue.

#### Athlete's Fund

The athlete's fund is a great initiative and I was honoured to be involved with it. The athletes who have benefitted so far are well deserving of our support and they will continue to be. I can't express the level of commitment shown by Julie who not only set up the fund, but has continued to be involved with its direction. I hope that we can continue to find more and more successful fundraising opportunities for the fund. I also look forward to helping my successor with their contribution to the effort.

This year's rowing and executive participation has been a pleasure, and I can thank all of the great people who provided their support throughout. As long as we all remain interested the club will certainly continue to thrive and grow in a positive direction.

EKM