**FLOOD EMERGENCY REACTION PLAN [FERP]**

**JULY 2017**

Following the severe flooding of December 5th 2015, the Club has taken action, invested in property improvements and drawn up a plan to mitigate the effects of flooding and reduce damage to boats, other property and the premises.

**Winter boat storage**

The Clubs have arranged storage of little-used boats at Crooklands from November to March. This will remove these boats from risk in the boathouse and provide more space to move smaller boats to high racks if required.

**Reconstruct the ground floor of the boathouse**

With the help of a Sport England grant of £5,000, the base of the building has been completely covered with concrete.

**Flood Resilience**

With the help of a £5,000 grant from the Lancaster City council and a donation of £4,600 from the Galbraith Trust, flood barriers have been made for all the ground floor doors. These will prevent water entering up to 2.0m above the landing stages [‘normal’ river level]. A soak-away has been built at the lowest point of the boathouse floor. This has an automated sump pump which will pipe water away to discharge outside the building at approx 3.0m above the landing stages. The lowest 1m of the walls has also be treated to give a waterproof barrier to reach 2.0m above the landing stages. This is given a 5 year life by the suppliers and will need re-treatment by 2021.

**Advanced warnings**

The club website has a live feed from the river level gauge operated by Shoothill at Skerton Weir, the top of which is outside the boathouse. The Government Digital Service river level gauge at Caton (approx 3 miles above Skerton Weir) is also monitored by the committee regularly. These levels in conjunction with tide tables for Heysham are used to assess the risk of rising water levels above the Weir.

**Environment Agency early warning**

Six members of the Committees are included in the SMS TEXT warning issued by EA based on water levels in the Howgill Hills which is about 200m higher than Skerton Weir and about 35 miles upstream. This warning will give advance warning of high river level at Skerton.

At least 2 of the members can be at the boathouse within 15 minutes of this warning. Depending on the assessment of flood risk, they will

* fit the flood prevention barriers
* move boats to higher racks
* arrange the removal of boats (which could mean storage on the club trailer on higher ground)
* removal of other at-risk contents from the property.