

A.C. du Pont response to nominating committee questions 2016 Elections,
October 2, 2016:

One of the members of the nominating committee should be aware that the size of the club is not new territory for LBRA. As I was stepping down as President of LBRA in order to take care of my ill mother, the membership total 226 members. The year before LBRA had won 10 national championships when the USRowing Masters National Championship was hosted in Long Beach in 1997 and LBRA also won over 60 percent of the Gold Medals at the annual Christmas regatta the same year. LBRA had great programs but no space. Housing was encroaching the rowing center. It was time to expand.

Please take time to read my final letter to the membership that was published in 1998 on page 2 of the “Backslash” the Long Beach Rowing Association news letter at the time. On August 17th while many of our club were rowing in Portland Oregon at the Masters World Games I attended the City of Long Beach planning meeting at which the expansion for the Pete Archer Rowing Center was approved this project added the fifth Bay, brought the woman’s locker room into the boat house and added the Gym, office space and a larger shop to the facility. At the time we had raised \$50,000 for a building we would never own and managed a commitment from the City of Long Beach to spend \$200,000 for our building rather than spend it improving the woman's locker room in 10N and a desire from Anita DE France President of AAF (profits 1984 Olympics) to put \$200,000 into our facility to address need for woman's locker room and handicap. We were only \$450,000 of the 1.1 million dollars that was ultimately needed to complete the expansion, almost completely on LBRA's shoulders. John H. Nunn family then offered a Challenge Grant of \$200,000 which got the AAF to commit their promised amount of \$200,000 so now we are at \$650,000 with \$450,000 to go. Thank you John and your family! Boris Beljak who gave over \$270,000 of Empacher equipment before he passed away wrote a check for \$50,000 and loaned us \$50,000, John Nunn loaned us \$65,000 and Earl Johnson Loaned \$25,000. All which was paid back prior to the current learn to row started four years ago.

What was really bad during this time was LBRA's ability to acquire equipment was limited. We were fortunate that we received an anonymous donation for the Red Trailer John Nunn bought the “Nemesis”, Boris bought a new Hudson 8 both for the LBRA woman. Two of the first Peinert singles were paid by the club to match three that donated as a challenge by an anonymous donor. In addition Jim Litzinger donated the Black Vespoli 8+ used in the learn to row program after 2008 Masters Nationals held in Long Beach'

Once the demolition and start stop construction started competitive programs suffered greatly as the ability to row and go to work was almost impossible due to the inability to take a shower and go to work. Proof was that only 16 LBRA members competed in the 2002 USRowing Masters Championship held in Sacramento that year our back yard. Whereas we had a huge contingent in the previous West Coast Masters Nationals held in Oakland CA. We lost the continuity of success from the before and the after of the construction.

Please take time to read 1998 "Black splash" Pg2

1. Surprises are not good. The good thing is that each year is similar. Timely notifications are better than early morning emails. Eye contact warns members to avoid boat house when it may be crowded.
2. The club growing leaps and bounds is not an accurate description. The club has as seen by the aforementioned information has had membership the same size, The previous club population had a lot more rowing during the week and had members rowing later in the mornings and afternoons which did not require as much equipment. These were cops, pharmacist, grave yard postal workers mothers whose kids were in school and others who had non traditional hours would use the club. A bad effect was that the boathouse was never locked for long. The lesson times were more flexible. Winning in rowing is hard work and frequency attract members willing to commit/
3. Encourage activities during low boathouse use. Have great equipment user friendly to shoe size etc. so members don't feel need to own equipment. Some boathouses with lots of Van Dusan's or Fluid have stored boat with out riggers two to a rack. Problem is avoiding damaging boats.
4. LBRA has been good in at stretching a dollar. Security on members is harder but allows more blessings.
5. Ideally the club should cycle boats out every five years to avoid major rebuild. The boats wouldn't have lost value. I don;t like rowing to death boats. The men deserve purchases of boats almost all purchases have been for women, Heavy Pair Doubles and 8+. and sweep oars. Quad set of oars. Mechanical lift Trailer 41 footer width to fenders carry more but expensive Marin is having one built
6. We have potentially solved Spring Regatta /College Opening Day Regatta which is scheduled beginning of March. If we had scheduled all of our previous regattas such all would have gone off. We will have a chance to make some money be reducing expenses with shared regatta. Regatta is registered and we have a good chief referee. Christmas regatta is to full need to limit max for each program entries to two or three, then wait list.