

RCC Canoe Contingency Claim

The majority of the club's equipment, including all of its soft kit, is stored in the Union's stores in South Kensington. The Union is responsible for the maintenance of the stores. For at least two years, we have been asking them to replace the damaged door, as it allowed rats to freely enter our stores. Despite our own attempts to discourage rats, by removal of any food or edible objects, they have been able to enter.

Subsequently, much of our gear has been damaged by rats eating it.

- Lots of the damage does not impact the immediate functional use of the equipment, such as pockets on cags being eaten through. However, the damage has definitely reduced the lifetimes of many items of kit.

- Some items have damage that stops them being used, but it is repairable. We have had 2 decks, and 1 top deck, that have holes in the neoprene. The repairs are simple and we can do them, but they do require time and expensive sealant.

- Other items are damaged beyond repair, and have been made useless. This includes 2 cags which have had huge holes eaten into them, and a buoyancy aid which has had its foam heavily damaged.

The Union, finally, have replaced the door to our stores so they should now be rat-free. However, we haven't budgeted for such a large loss of equipment, and these losses due to rats have happened for a few years running. This means the number of people we can take on trips is now limited by our lack of sport and safety equipment.

Breakdown of costs:

To repair the damaged kit -

£7.58 - Aquasure neoprene sealant

To replace the ruined kit -

£71.98 - (£35.99 x 2) Replacement Cags

£18.99 - Buoyancy Aid

Total amount we wish to claim - £98.55