

✨ WhatsApp Communities as replacement for Yammer ✨

As everyone knows there has been difficulties with Yammer over the past couple of years which has resulted in poorer communication in the club. We have been exploring long term solutions / alternative platforms and have been trialling WhatsApp Communities for a couple months and feel like it will solve some if not most of our communication issues for the time being! For obvious safeguarding reasons, this community will be for **adult members only**. We hope to have a club-wide platform in the near future.

💬 More info on WhatsApp Communities 💬

WhatsApp communities is a way to organise WhatsApp groups under one umbrella, enabling community members to chat in topic-based groups. There is an announcement channel where important club announcements will be posted.

📣 Announcement Channel 📣

By joining the community you will automatically become part of the announcement channel. **All Lea RC members are required to be part of the community and therefore get important notifications from the announcement channel.** Only admins can post we aim to use this channel sparingly, i.e. for important safety announcement or important club wide news.

Privacy note: member contact details are hidden from the community at large. Your phone number will not be public by joining the community and therefore the announcement channel.

🍊 Topic-based Groups 🍊

Once you join the community you will see a list of topic based groups, please browse these groups and join ones you find important.

Some groups will be open to all users to join without admin approval and users can post updates, stories or questions e.g. *Club News & Stories*. Other groups will be private and invite only e.g. *Rowing Board*.

And finally, some groups will be open to all users to join but users won't be able to post, the idea being the group would be used by admins to post updates or info about the group topic and links etc could be shared e.g. *Boat and Equipment repairs*.

Privacy note: By joining a group, your contact number will be visible only to others in the same group (as is typical in standard WhatsApp group chats).

Joining link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Lf5c1P5pU69HVQbQLwiUeA>

Lea RC WhatsApp Community acceptable use policy

Welcome to Lea RC WhatsApp Community! Our goal is to provide a collaborative environment to connect with members and bridge various groups to share and disseminate meaningful information.

Your activity in this network is governed by the following requirements:

- Everything in the Community stays in the Community! (No public posts or Tweets, and so on).
- Please do not post confidential information from closed groups into whole-club open groups.
- Be respectful to other members. It is acceptable to disagree, but please do so in a respectful manner.
- Add value with each post.
- You are responsible for the material you post to the Community.
- It is important to substantiate ideas, but please keep messages brief and to the point.

Q&A:

Do I have to join?

Yes, all Lea RC adult members are required to join the community. Lea RC members have a responsibility to keep up to date with important safety and security announcements. There is no obligation to join any of the groups under the community.

What is happening with Yammer? / Will we lose history from Yammer?

We will keep Yammer operational for a period as we transition into using WhatsApp Communities. Over the next couple of months we will make back-ups of relevant information on Yammer to ensure no important information is lost. We are still exploring potential club-wide platforms to adopt in the future.

Can I make my own groups?

No, only administrators of the community can make new groups. If you have a suggestion for a new group that you think would add value to the community, please email captain@learc.org.uk with your suggestion and justification for the group.

Do I need to/ Can I move my groups under the community?

For the time being we are going to keep individual squad chats separate from the community. If there is a Lea RC group chat that you think would benefit from being under the community umbrella please email captain@learc.org.uk with your suggestion and justification.

Can parents of Lea RC junior members join?

No. Unfortunately only adult members of Lea RC can join at this time.