

## Glasgow Coastal Rowing Club

Committee meeting Minutes

Thursday 15 December, 18:30

Galgael, 15 Fairley St, Glasgow G51 2TS

Present: Ewan Kennedy, Ian Watson, Gordon McCracken, Ben Duffin, Christine Morrison, Fiona Macleod, Eve Strickland

Apologies: Anabel Rotmistrovsky

AGENDA with related Minutes; Meeting convened by EK

1. Minutes of Meeting 27 October 2016 approved without amendment
2. Matters arising from previous minutes – agreed that all such were covered by present Agenda
3. Finance and membership report – IW had previously emailed detailed report and summarised present Membership and Finance figures as healthy; 57 members and over £500 in the funds. Ian thanked for his work in growing the club to this stage in such a short time. In discussion all agreed that we needed to keep the momentum now established and endeavour to attract more people to join as members as well as ensuring that we provide an ethos and regime that encourages present 1-year members to renew.
4. BD described in some detail a proposed event for w/e 23/24 September 2017: On the Saturday there would be a long distance race, 13 miles in length and 3 hours in duration, from Dumbarton Castle to the Finnieston Crane, open to St Ayles skiffs and other rowing craft. This was to be jointly administered and organised by The Galgael Trust, SCRA and Clyde Maritime Trust. Clydeport had been approached and offered no objection in principle to the event. An Organising Group was being formed and BD asked if a representative from GCRC would join the Group; GM volunteered to do so.  
On the Sunday, it was proposed that GCRC host the Glasgow Cup for the second year. BD confirmed that a similar financial model to the 2016 Event would obtain; GCRC would not require to fund the equipment hire/purchase; safety RIB/Crew; Courtesy Structures et al.  
EK and BD thanked for their analyses and comments on the Riverside Festival and The Glasgow Cup which took place w/e 24/25 Sept 2016. Both had indicated that only by prolonged commitment by a group of committed people; establishment of a structure and objectives; careful planning and clear communication can such events be delivered successfully. In the ensuing discussion, all agreed that GCRC would like to see The Glasgow Cup continue and, to that end, would move to establish a Steering Group in January. Agreed that its first task would be to identify and communicate eligibility criteria to enable interested clubs to apply to take part.
5. Committee members; roles/responsibilities/tasks now & looking ahead: Discussion focussed on the need to maintain and develop not only our internal communication with Club Members but crucially our external communication with associated bodies, not only SCRA and other CRCs, but with Glasgow Life, Funding Bodies etc. As far as our own structures were concerned, it was important to continue to promote GCRC as evolving: it was invigorating to have our extended Committee; prior to the first AGM, we should inform and canvas other members to take office for a year. EK reiterated that he was standing down as Convener. GM and IW recorded their desire to transfer the roles of Secretary and Treasurer, with all support required, to the next generation.
6. Communication with Club Members, including preparation of questionnaire to inform areas of focus: IW volunteered to look at this important exercise and asked Committee members to forward their ideas to him. AR had volunteered her expertise in constructing the questionnaire. From discussion, we needed to identify, among other issues: factors preventing paid-up members from rowing at all; infrequency of certain individual members' rowing outings; likelihood of 1-year members renewing for 2017, etc
7. Rowing

- a. cox training/qualification update: BD described recent model of training – extended single day session rather than multiple short sessions. FM noted her positive response to taking part and suggested that one further session should enable herself and the other trainees, after some further practice with IW or GM, to request ‘Test’ with BD. BD could deliver a session in late January/early February, weather allowing. IW & GM noted the urgent need for more coxes to meet the growing demand for rowing sessions.
  - b. winter schedule report/analysis: IW had negotiated, with Frank Brown of CMT, GCRC’s use of The Tall Ship Cafeteria at weekends to let Members meet Clubmates between sessions and enjoy a warm drink and some food at a discount. IW had produced Membership cards, which would also facilitate approaches to eg outdoor gear retailers to ask for discount terms. GM to pursue these inquiries. Club Members asked to meet on The Tall Ship between rowing sessions and spend some time and money in the café.
  - c. Rowing Session Types & Timings: In discussion the need to explore this issue was identified: although GCRC is a young club, already some members aspire to race and therefore want to train at a higher stroke rate and over extended sessions between rests; conversely, other members are keen to progress their skills but enjoy their rowing at a lower stroke rate with more frequent pauses to enjoy the ambience of the river. We need to address the needs of these two groups while ensuring that we stay together as one Club. Re. the timing of sessions, we need Club members to tell us what they would like and we can then decide if/how we can offer sessions to suit.
8. Skiffs & equipment
- a. Gobhancroit: maintenance, incl. oar repairs, footplates etc : Once in the workshop, BD would give detailed appraisal. Footplates do need replaced; BD could source materials; GCRC to bear costs. Scarf joint repairs to long oars ongoing; No. 1 being done and No. 4 next in line.
  - b. Lady Danger – update; organise work parties etc: LD now in the yard and awaiting space in the workshop. BD could supervise club members who were able to come to Fairley Street during weekday working hours 9-5. From mid-January, important to identify members who will commit to get LD refitted and ready for the water. Also, this is the time to start making a new set of oars to ensure that we can always have two skiffs available – at present, one broken oar will reduce the active fleet to 1 skiff.
  - c. SCRA questionnaire re. oar specifications: with Committee’s help, GM submitted GCRC response
  - d. liaison with Clyde Maritime Trust: Report of recent Meeting. IW had previously emailed Minutes of highly positive meeting. Possibility of shelter area near Pontoon very exciting. Members to be approached re. Pontoon Clean-Up and Powerwash to remove algae etc
  - e. funding sources for road trailer/s and other equipment : update/next steps: EK and BD would provide advice/templates to enable GCRC to apply for equipment. From discussion, it became clear that other items would become necessary eg VHF radios and training.
9. AGM 2017
- a. Thursday 16 February 2017: preparation of agenda/information to Membership with focus on election of Convener, Secretary, Treasurer: committee members asked to submit any item they consider appropriate
  - b. Committee Meeting: next date 2 February 2017
  - c. subscription rates: prepare information for Membership; in discussion, agreed to present information at AGM identifying Merchandising as effective way to increase revenue without increasing subs for now.
10. Festive get-together 9 December: feedback from all present highly positive. FM and AR thanked for their work and exhorted to look at similar and other types of social gatherings for GCRC
11. AOB : All relevant business having been concluded, EK closed the meeting at 8 pm.