

# **Glasgow Coastal Rowing Club**

## **Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday 18 April 2018 18:30

Hillhead Sports Club, Hughenden Road, G12 9XP

Present: Robert Beetham, David Brown, Olive Burnside, Bob Darcy, Jim Dick, Lindsay Easton, Mary Easton, Richard Edwards, Eric Grant, Karena Hansen, Shona Henderson, Peter Jopp, Mac McKechnie, Fiona MacLeod, Gordon McCracken, Sheila McGubbin, Marie-Claire McGuinness, Liz Mitchell, Ross Paterson, Lesley Slaughter, Colleen Souness, Michael Stratigos, Susie Taylor, Ian Watson, Ben Wilde

Apologies: Eva Bolander, Eve Brown, Liza Downie, Irene Graham, Sophie Kostin, Andrew McConnell, Ewan Strachan

## **Agenda**

### **1. Welcome and introduction**

GMcC welcomed members and asked for approval of the minutes of last year's AGM. They were agreed without amendment.

### **2. Convenor's report**

During the year 2017–18 club member numbers have risen from 65 to 94.

Four members have become certified as VHF operators, having undertaken a course to do so.

Nine committee meetings have taken place, the minutes of which are available through the GCRC website.

Members from clubs from far and wide have visited Glasgow to row with us, including Broughty Ferry, Denmark, and An Eathar in Carloway, on the Isle of Lewis.

We have been grateful recipients of a £500 grant from the Sports Council of Glasgow which enabled us to buy a set of new oars.

Members provided help with events including Castle to Crane and the Glasgow Cup in September 2017, manning the finish line, helping with get-out for vessels, and facilitating parking.

The club has made trips to several events around Scotland, including at Largs, Loch Tummel, Cullen, the Western Isles and Broughty Ferry, in addition to attending the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival in Portsoy.

Many thanks are extended to Ewan Strachan for his sterling efforts with running repairs on the skiffs throughout the year.

Several members are now volunteering with Clyde Maritime Trust, with the goal of building two skiffs for use by the club.

The club came together in early December 2017 to hold a Christmas Social event in Dram, which was well attended by members.

In March 2018 the club was pleased to take tenancy of a barge on the pontoon which had been vacated by the local branch of the Sea Cadets. Many thanks to all the members who came to assist with cleaning the barge and setting it up for GCRC's usage.

In an inaugural first, the club will be taking part in the GiFestival 2018, when we support the artist Robert Thomas James Mills in his contemporary art performance on 20 April 2018. This will consist of a row up river, culminating in a short stop at the South Portland Street Bridge, where RTJM will conclude his performance.

Early 2018 has seen us take possession of two further vessels: a flattie built and donated by Ben Wilde, named *The Mighty Splash*; and a Dinky Dory named *Bonxie*, donated by the Local Energy Action Plan, Lochwinnoch. *Bonxie* requires a bit of work to paint and finish off but good progress is being made, thanks to the space lent to us in the CMT workshop.

Several different types of rowing sessions are now available, with short introductory 30–40 minute rows for people interested in trying rowing, hour-long sessions for members, and longer sessions available thanks to Ewan Strachan and Shona Henderson.

Members have adapted enthusiastically to the recent change in terminology and to the opportunity to try skipping the boats. Four of our members have in recent weeks also attended the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association's Coxing Course in Largs, and they will cascade the information gleaned from this course to club members in due course.

Maintenance of our current cohort of skiffs is ongoing and subject to the space available to us in the Clyde Maritime Trust's workshop. *Gobhancroit* will shortly be lifted and taken in to the workshop, where we estimate that the programme of maintenance required will take circa 3 weeks. Once completed and returned to the water, *Lady Danger* will then similarly undergo a 3-week overhaul to see her fit for continued rowing in 2018/19. Ideally a thorough refit should mean that going forward we may only have to take the boats in for serious maintenance on a biannual basis.

If any members have lengths of leather that they would be interested in donating to the club for use on *The Mighty Splash* as collars we would be grateful. Sheila McCubbin offered us leather – accepted.

GMcC is standing down as Convenor with immediate effect, although he will maintain involvement with the club in other capacities. At this time he was pleased to record that the club's future is bright, because we have a strong sense of community and collaboration; we recognise that the key question for any prospective member must be 'What can I do for my Club?'

### **3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2017/18 for approval**

We finished 2017–18 with a surplus of £549.95. Contributing to the surplus was a higher than expected membership (94) and the very healthy return on the tombola stall we ran at C2C in September. We are grateful to the Sports Council for Glasgow for a grant of £500 toward the cost of a set of new oars. Merchandise netted £252 but we have £330 in stock which we hope sell in 2018–19.

We made a very healthy return on the tombola stall we ran at C2C in September, and we hope to follow that again this year.

We achieved a reduction in our Insurance from £500 to £334 by switching companies. As we should expect, maintenance accounts for much of our expenditure (£2,000).

Admin is fairly minimal: Wordpress (Website), G suite being the main elements.

### **4. Projected Budget 2018/19**

We're expecting a few non-renewals so have budgeted accordingly (£900). To date around 30 members renewed, but past experience is repeated we would expect this number to be exceeded.

We asked members to consider a making a donation to fund for improving the barge and pontoon area. Members have very generous and we expect the fund to reach £500. We are budgeting £500 towards the cost of installing an electricity supply and painting the barge exterior.

We intend to submit another grant application to the Sports Council for Glasgow. A decision has yet to be made on a suitable project, e.g. a skiff trailer.

Given the increase in our fleet we need to acquire a further 3 lifevests.

The club is grateful to the CMT for our continued free use of the pontoon facilities, and we acknowledge the need to maintain the facilities we enjoy to the best of our abilities and the need to keep them in good order.

The artist Robert Thomas James Mills has made a donation of £200 to the club, as we are assisting him with his art performance on 20 April 2018.

New committee member Michael Stratigos is looking at further options for funding applications which we may be able to make. Club member Marie-Claire McGuinness suggested contacting Thornwood Community Council to see what funds may be available to us through their grant scheme.

Thanks to IW for keeping on top of membership and finance, particularly for providing crucial up-to-date accounts and projections at Committee Meetings.

The members approved the budget with no changes.

## **5. Subscription rates 2019/20**

BW stated that raising subscription rate would be contrary to the open and affordable access ethos of coastal rowing. All members therefore agreed that remain at the current rates, £20 (£10 concession).

## **6. Committee Membership: Election of Office Bearers – Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.**

### Resignations:

GMcC's resignation as convenor was accepted. Thanks to Gordon for his leadership in this role.

FMcL resignation as secretary was accepted. Thanks to Fiona for providing detailed minutes of the meetings.

### Appointments:

Gordon McCracken nominated Fiona MacLeod as Convenor, which was seconded by Susie Taylor. FMcL duly accepted this role.

Ian Watson nominated Kate Borland as Secretary, which was seconded by Shona Henderson. KB duly accepted this role.

Ian Watson motioned that he was happy to continue in his role as Treasurer. All members ratified this.

Ben Wilde has resigned from the committee as he has recently relocated to Argyll. He will remain a club member.

Michael Stratigos has joined the committee. IW suggested that he have a focus on fundraising and grant applications, which was seconded by Marie-Claire McGuinness. MS duly accepted this role. MS will also provide liaison between Clydebuilt/CtoC and GCRC.

G McC remains on the committee. IW suggested that he have a focus on boat maintenance, which was seconded by Kate Borland. GMcC duly accepted this role.

All members are welcome to join the committee in a general capacity and all members are welcome to attend committee meetings, though it would be helpful for members wishing to attend to email us (admin@rowglasgow.org.uk) to let us know that in advance.

## **7. Kelvin Harbour: Clubhouse Use / Facilities**

GCRC now has tenancy of the barge. Big thanks to everyone who helped clean out the barge and set it up.

IW has installed signage to remind members about appropriate usage of the barge.

Frank Brown (CEO of Clyde Maritime Trust) has indicated that club members should take an active interest in trying to improve the environment around the barge.

The club has various aspirations for the barge, with the different rooms being used for alternative purposes.

Mac McK from GalGael offered his thanks for the use of the barge for storing *Orcuan*'s lifevests etc. and he volunteered her crew to assist with maintaining the facilities.

*Disposal of waste building up at booms and around slipway:*

MS to contact Catherine Sewall of Marine Conservation and David Belcher of the Friends of the River Kelvin re: pontoon clean up.

Club member Marie-Claire McGuinness suggested contacting Thornwood Community Council to see what PPE/advice they may be able to offer, as they organise community clean-ups from time to time.

MS raised the issue of whether we should be focusing on cleaning the environment around the pontoon and/or removing the detritus that gathers in the river/booms. MS to discuss with Catherine Sewall.

## **8. Fundraising**

All members should feel free to email us an ideas they have re: fundraising – all welcome!

FM has booked Wee Dram for a club pub night on Friday 4 May from 6pm.

## **9. Calendar 2018**

4/5 May 2018 – Greenock and Anstruther are looking for female rowers for regatta races – anybody interested should look at their Facebook pages.

GMcC noted that a new role focussing on regatta-attendance could be helpful to the club – if anybody is interested in this role then please step forward. This would involve liaising with other clubs when they host events, and organising within GCRC to see who would like to attend such events.

14/15 September 2018 – Castle to Crane will run on Saturday with many other water- and shore-based activities over the weekend. The cost to hire a stall for the weekend will be £60. C2C has already been in touch to request volunteers to help with the finish line etc. Members note that it would be helpful to have a clear communication line with the organisers so that there is no confusion about responsibilities.

## **10. AOB**

BW was presented with a framed picture on birch ply of the 1937 diagram of how to row, inscribed 'To Ben, who started the whole thing off, from the grateful members of GCRC', as a symbol of our thanks for his significant contribution to GCRC, from building the boats, to founding the club, to skippering races and teaching members.

A great many thanks are extended also to GMcC and IW for their important roles on behalf of the club to date, and for their ongoing commitment to rowing on the Clyde.

Thanks also to all members who attended tonight's meeting.

AGM was drawn to a close at 19:40.