



**Eskmuthe Community Rowing Club
Monday 23 April 2018 7.30pm**

**AGM
Minutes**

1. Apologies for absence

Present: Graham Irvine, Sarah Cairney, Sharon McFeely, Jane Renton, Sandra MacAskill, Georgina Brown, Arlene (Fox) Stuart, Paul Greene, Helen Greene, Charlotte MacDonald, Lorraine Roberts, Malcolm Roberts, Irene Tait, Pauline Crerar, Kate Allan, Rebecca Farren, Brian Wailes, Norman Rodger, Veronica Noone, Stewart Page, David Lee, Gaynor Allen (Chair), Katie Swann (Minutes).

Apologies: Freya Liddle, Wendy Barber, Kerra McKinnie, Sharon Hamilton

2. Minutes of previous AGM

Proposed by Veronica, seconded by Fox.

- 3. Chair's report**
- 4. Captain's Report**
- 5. Membership Secretary's report**
- 6. Treasurer's Report**
- 7. Bosun's Report**

All reports added as appendix to minutes.

8. ECRC Strategy and Child Protection Policy

Both documents passed and adopted.

9. Election of committee (board)

Georgina Brown
David Lee
Gaynor Allen
Pauline Crerar
Graham Irvine
Helen Greene
Katie Swann
Stewart Page

10. Election of office bearers

Election of Office Bearers is done by the committee so will take place at the first meeting on Monday 14 May.

Appendix - AGM April 2018 Reports

Chair's report 2017/18

What a busy year we have had!

At the last AGM we secured a full committee for the first time and were able to hit the ground running.

Listening to members

We began the year by asking members what they liked about the club and what they would like to happen. We did this through a Survey Monkey and were delighted with the results as the general feeling was that we are a welcoming and fun club. Most people thought the club was friendly and were generally happy. We followed this up by asking people to tell us what they wanted to do in terms of rowing for the next year and responded by putting on longer rows, including the mammoth Fisherrow to North Berwick, and return to Newhaven. We have been far more adventurous than ever this year and have taken part in some amazing events, such as the state opening of the Queensferry crossing and Castle to Crane – which had the largest number of boats at any event in Scotland. (more from George)

Eskmuthe is a community club and we are determined to continue to listen to members and to encourage members to take part and help to organise all events in the club.

Governance

We have tried to be very proactive and to build on the excellent work done by previous committees. We have worked on new policies for the club including a strategy document, several boatshed documents, child protection policy and a code of conduct policy. The Child Protection and Strategy documents are ready for approval at the AGM. It is hoped that the next committee will continue with these and make sure we have all necessary documents as soon as possible.

Communication

We have really tried to share as much information as possible with members and have made good use of Big Tent, but also tried to put out regular newsletters and are very active on social media. Thanks to committee member Kate Allan we have a great new website – eskmutherowingclub.org.uk - which will sign post everyone to better information about the club, and loads of brilliant pictures.

Boatshed/clubhouse

One of the huge things we have been working on is a new boatshed/clubhouse, which will be of massive benefit to the club as we can carry out all repairs as well as give the club a home and widen our social nights. As part of the work to secure a boatshed, we have enlisted the support of Sported, a UK sports development charity, to help us strengthen the structure of the club and help with the process of getting a boat shed. We have also enlisted a449 Architects to help us with this venture. (more to follow)

Training

We have completed a new coxes and rowers' training programme and have already delivered this to many regular rowers. We would like all club members to receive this training in the coming months. We have looked at our health and safety procedures and altered the way we operate to ensure safety is at the heart of our rowing sessions. Three of our coxes did the VHF Radio Training and we are looking into getting a first aid course for some members. Two of our members did Umpire Training courses at the SCRA Freshwater Sprints. Three committee members also attended the SCRA development weekend recently covering rowing technique, adapted rowing, risk, fitness and lots

more. We are thinking of having a training day to share this with members and will ask people what topics they are interested in.

Social events

We had an amazing night in December with fantastic entertainment from The Normans, and also a very well organised and money-spinning auction. As always the food was great and plentiful and helped raise almost £2,000 and more than 100 people attended. We plan to follow this with a quiz night before the summer.

Grants and local support

Many businesses in the town supported our raffle and auction and we will continue to work with them and maybe try and get sponsorship as the club grows. We also secured £500 for a new boat cover from Aldi Sport Fund plastic bag scheme.

New members

Not only has our membership continue to grow, we now have more active members than ever before, which has led to the club going from strength to strength. Again, I will leave David to tell you more about this.

Boat repairs

After sterling work from Norman as bosun for the previous three years, Paul joined him as co-bosun this year and both have done a great job to keep the boats on the water. Every year our two boats Honesty and Steedie, take a hammering as they are our and about from Fisherrow and further afield with regattas. (more from Paul)

Community

Community is massively important to our club and we are always keen to take part in community events in the town, we had a stall at Communities Day at the Brunton and also took part in the Festival Parade and provided support for the New Year's Day Loony Dook. We also ran a session for the local Scout group and gave around 20 youngsters an opportunity to try coastal rowing.

Our club continues to grow and thrive and is now a very established part of the harbour and the town. We believe that this has been an important year in securing a solid base for ourselves and getting the right governance in place to ensure our continued success.

I would like to thank all members of the committee, but especially George for organising so many fun events for everyone.

Gaynor Allen

Captain's Rowing Report

Our 2017-18 Eskmthe year was a lot of fun, saw a number of club firsts and one unique event. On the development side, people have been on training courses for using the VHF radios, umpiring and also attended the first ever SCRA development weekend. At home, as well as running the normal rowing sessions, we did taster sessions, took the scouts out rowing and carried out training exercises for rowing and coxing. Elsewhere we had some really good days out with other clubs at our local regattas and also rows in company.

The regatta season started in April with a fabulous, sunny day at Port Seton, and, after a year off, the RowPorty Regatta was back in June. Our Novice team won a race! and we took on RowPorty at some singing in the Dalriada later in the evening.

In early July, two crews ventured out on a long row along the coast to North Berwick. Blessed with sunshine, a good westerly wind and wildlife, including seals and puffins, the day felt like a real treat. Later in the summer we also did some exploring to our west, beyond Portobello, taking in the sights of Leith and Granton.

August was a pretty busy month! Instead of a regatta in 2017, we had a Fun Day for club members including slalom and blindfold races and a treasure hunt between the River Esk and Portobello. People bought some lovely food and Kate made fantastic origami medals.

With no time to rest, our next task was to dress as Vikings! We fitted a sail to the boat, headed to Dunbar and did a Viking Raid on Tynninghame Beach, with a picnic of course. Great fun was had by all.

Queensferry had a very windy day for their regatta with big waves which made for some hard and exciting racing under the Bridges. North Berwick was our final regatta of the year, racing around Craigleith Island. Another lovely, sunny day which got off to a slightly unplanned start when a gudgeon fell off the boat. Who knew you could secure a rudder onto your boat with half a garden gate fitting and some perforated metal tape! Well, now we all do. Missing only one race, we managed all the others, even spotting dolphins on the water during the afternoon.

After some great lobbying from the Queensferry club, skiffs were allowed to join the flotilla for the opening of the new Queensferry Crossing in early September. We had no idea what was happening on the bridge with the queen but enjoyed being among a whole fleet of different boats on the river and getting a fly past from the Red Arrows. 😊

The last major event of the year was the inaugural Castle to Crane Race on the Clyde, rowing from Dumbarton up to Finneston in Glasgow. Over 400 people took part on 74 rowing boats including 50+ St Ayles Skiffs. Both Sporty Skiff and Chilled Skiff put in good times.

We rounded off the season rowing as part of the SE area team at the Freshwater Sprints and since then, it's just been rowing around home waters. Lots of easterly winds have meant that we've had quite a few sessions cancelled in early 2018 but hopefully these will now reduce. David's got the crews worked out for Port Seton, training has started and we're ready to start all over again!

A big Thank You to everyone who has contributed in any way to these events; maintaining the boats, organising, catering and getting us there. It has to be a real team effort and with a year like this it makes it all seem very worthwhile.

Georgina Brown

Membership Secretary's Report

Club membership is currently 55, although this will probably settle around 50 after the natural annual drop-off. There are 5 or 6 people who we haven't seen for a while who will probably not re-join, although several people have expressed an interest in coming to row and they might push the numbers back up.

Overall, membership continues to rise, from around 35 two years ago to 55 now. 18 people have joined since the AGM last year, including 3 more from Monktonhall Terrace, the rowing club hot-spot. We are actively targeting the three remaining people on the street who are not Eskmuthers.

A larger proportion of club members are rowing regularly and/or taking part in other club activities - boat maintenance and repairs, social events, etc.

New recruits are coming to the club from a variety of sources, with most hearing about us through word of mouth or social media. Our regular presence at the harbour, at community events and in the local media has undoubtedly helped.

All of this will continue throughout 2018 - supported by the new website (Kate Allan has done a tremendous job) - and I'm confident the club will continue to attract new members.

The focus in recent months has turned to ensuring that we offer a good service to existing members, as well as recruiting new ones. This has included a broader range of different rowing opportunities and the introduction of a 'Welcome to Eskmuthers' presentation, which aims to give newer members an overview of the club and coastal rowing - including health and safety, rowing techniques and getting the boat in and out of the water. There are also more regular newsletters to members to keep them informed what is coming up.

I have also worked with George, as Club Captain, to assist with regatta team selection and, for the first time, organised training sessions ahead of regattas so the crews can row together before the event.

Onwards and backwards!

David Lee

Bosun's Report

We returned to PG last year on September 11th to carry out general maintenance on our two skiffs. We had sessions on Monday & Wednesday nights from 7pm until 9pm & Saturday 10am until noon.

We made new rollocks for both boats, repaired damaged footrests & repaired both rudders & built a new one also. Repairs were carried out on dents & scratches on both boats, the team replaced rowing plates on both sets of oars as needed & varnished them also.

We painted both boats inside & out applying a minimum of two coats including varnishing the gunwales. Honesty had extra work done in taking the anti-fouling paint off which took us down to the bare planks on the grey section of the exterior.

We are still in PG until May with plans to improve & renovate our oars, clean our tools & tidy the unit before leaving.

In the eight months that we have been there we have had 16 club members helping out with repairs, of those 3 visited once and a core group of 6 visited most weeks. To date 400 hours of repairs have been carried out & we have used a budget of £1210 for wood, glue, paint, tools & electrical equipment & sanding accessories.

Paul Greene

Treasurer's Report for the Financial year to 31.03.18

Overall a successful year, with the club increasing income by 23%, mainly due to successful fundraising events and the increase in rowing income. Expenditure rose by 37% on a operational level, due to the increase in repair costs. It should be noted however that due to changes to the financial year end in 2017, which resulted in a 13-month reporting period for that year, income and expenditure had to be adjusted.

The club at the year-end held overall reserves of £3.4K, of which £500 is restricted, as a result of a successful funding bid from Aldi for a new boat cover. There is a residue of £147 of the Awards for All funding. £500 was used from this fund this year to purchase lifejackets and a radio course for three club members.

Due to the successful fundraising events held over the year, the club has managed to commission the initial design for the boatshed at a cost of £2160, and designate a further £1.3K for future development of the boatshed. This leaves £1.4 k of free funds, for operation costs.

Treasurers Report												
Eskmuthe Rowing Club to 31.03.18												
Summary												
B/fwd 01.04.17		£3,753.48										
Income	£5,959.09											
Expenditure	-£6,295.67											
Total funds		£3,416.90										
Summary of funds		b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Total							
Unrestricted Club funds		£1,440.31	£3,288.12	£3,316.79	£1,411.64							
Designated-Fundraised		£1,695.43	£2,170.97	£2,508.92	£1,357.48	Designated for Boatshed						
Restricted - Aldi Money		£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Restricted for Boat Cover						
Restricted - Lottery Money		£617.74	£0.00	£469.96	£147.78							
Total funds		£3,753.48	£5,959.09	£6,295.67	£3,416.90							

Treasurers Report								
Eskmuthe Rowing Club								
Accounts for the period 1st April 2017 - 31st March 2018								
				Income 2016/2017 - (13 Months)	Income 2017/2018	Expenditure 2016/2017 - (13 Months)	Expenditure - 2017/2018	Restricted Expenditure (from 'Awards for All')
Income								
Membership				£1,545.00	£650.00			
Rowing Money				£1,343.05	£2,304.10			
Rowing of the Marches				£450.19	£0.00			
Fundraising				£1,163.88	£2,670.97			
Sweatshirts				£274.00	£334.00			
Donations				£65.00	£0.00			
Total Income				£4,841.12	£5,959.07			
Expenditure - Club Funds								
Insurance						£570.33	£575.40	
SCRA						£60.00	£60.00	
Berthing Fees						£139.50	£140.90	
Sweatshirt Payment						£289.62	£367.80	
Equipment						£488.51	£183.34	
Repairs - Sandpaper/Fibreglass etc						£445.18	£1,210.65	
Fundraising Costs						£46.41	£348.92	
FYC -Associate Membership						£105.00	£175.00	
Website						£0.00	£212.94	
Rowing of the Marches						£525.02	£0.00	
Misc Costs						£0.00	£390.76	
Boatshed						£0.00	£2,160.00	
Total Expenditure - Club Funds						£2,669.57	£5,825.71	
Expenditure - 'Awards for All'								
Lifejackets								£199.96
Radio Course								£270.00
Total Expenditure - 'Awards for All'								£469.96