



**Eskmuthe Community Rowing Club Committee Meeting on Monday,
February 13, at 7pm at Fisherrow Yacht Club**

Minutes

1, Welcome and apologies

In Stewart's absence, Gaynor chaired and welcomed everyone.

In attendance: Sandra, Veronica, Gaynor, David and George

2, Minutes and Matters Arising

David proposed and Veronica seconded previous minutes.

Matters arising all covered below.

3, Correspondence –

Sported – Financial info is needed in order to fill in the form Sported need before finding us a mentor to help with the Boat House. Sandra suggested the whole exercise could act as a health check for the club to look at policies on child protection, equal opportunities, health and safety, governance, etc.

Action: Gaynor to get financial info from Helen and fill in Survey Monkey

Audacious Women – About 17 people are down & 4 more have signed up via gmail. We have capped it at 25. Sandra suggested trying to get emails from AW and staggering times, to make sure no-one is hanging around too much. Lots of helpers have put their names down. It was asked if two boats will be available, but this is unlikely.

Action: Gaynor to check if emails are available.

Wider Achievement Day at MGS – George and Gaynor attended and although it was not busy and few kids came up, they spoke to Active Sports Co-ordinator Paul Huish about increasing the membership of young people. Paul is going to promote the club in school and Gaynor and George will organise the lagoons three Fridays in a row in the spring in an attempt to get seniors to try rowing.

Action: Gaynor and George to decide dates and get back to Paul.

4, Treasurer's report (See Helen's document)

It was agreed that we have sufficient resources to buy tools which are needed for ongoing boat maintenance. Norman will send specific links for what is required to Helen (cc Gaynor) and Helen will purchase online.

Action: Veronica to ask Norman of source tools and send links to Helen.

Helen to buy tools.

5, Membership Secretary's report and increasing membership

6 new members already in 2017 (taking us into mid-40s) with 2/3 more people very interested. The club seems much more on people's radar; we have very good engagement on social media

Plans to keep membership strong:

- Chase up members who haven't been rowing to keep them in the club;
- Buddying system for new rowers who need more support;

- Keep pushing social media – preview all sessions; pics from all sessions; keep using humour; more direct calls to action.
- Use annual event programme to drive more people to club (Audacious Women could help us recruit members)
- Think about using website better [to be discussed at AGM]
- More newsletters – one to go out soon with lots of news!

6, Sports Hub report

George attended and passed on details about our ‘community regatta’ [working date August 6th] where we will invite clubs and organisations from Musselburgh to take part.

There are a series of youth regattas planned to try to instill more interest in rowing among young people, including one at Eastern (Portobello) on 16th Sept.

Action: George to check with STRIVE if they can process PVG checks and to see if Gaynor’s ELC PVG can be used for the club.

7, Club Captain’s report

George said 26 different people had rowed in January, which was excellent for the time of year in only one boat.

We have introduced training exercises, which have been well-received, but it has not been possible to do one every weekend, as planned, due to the large number of new rowers.

Rowing sessions are being monitored on Big Tent by George & David to ensure we have a well-balanced crew in each boat, with flexibility to welcome new recruits but also to ensure there is enough experience in the boat. George has tried hard to get new people having a go at stroke and even cox quite early on to take away some of the mystery and to build broader capacity.

In better weather, with both boats on the water, we will have greater flexibility for longer row and more training. The year is set fair!

George is also keen to do more briefings on coxing/health and safety/good practice in the Yacht Club soon, and to involve new members.

8, Boat house update plus Harbour Feasibility Study

The boathouse sub-group (Helen, Sandra, Veronica) has met and produced a document to help us move forward, with suggested timelines, with a hoped-for completion around June 2018.

Sandra was thanked for taking editorial control of this.

There is lots to do. Some issues raised:

Do we have the capacity/commitment in club to drive on this big piece of work;

The cost could be up to £100,000 as we will need to do everything by the book;

Some grants are conditional on ownership or long leases;

Early March, Sported will pair us up with a mentor;

Need to be clear this is Eskmthe project with wider community benefits – not a community boathouse;

Need to be clear about who will benefit and how, specifically, from a boathouse.

Rates = big issue. Charity discount would make it manageable;

Action: Veronica to speak to Stewart about where we are with lease and feed back asap; very important to move this forward quickly;

Veronica to produce high-level, bullet-point slides ahead of meeting with berth-holders on February 22nd on objectives, community use, planning and funding. George, Veronica, Gaynor & Helen attending for club.

Action: Sub-group to arrange meeting of wider club to discuss how to take project forward after AGM

9, Prestongrange boat maintenance

Work on Steedie progressing well; water-line almost painted.

Still to do: fit bung; move the towing ring and fill hole left behind; re-varnish gunwales; finish new rowlocks, swap boats over for quick spruce-up of Honesty before we have to vacate Prestongrange in March. PLEASE use Doodle Polls on Big Tent to sign up to help – MORE HELP ALWAYS NEEDED!

Gaynor has contacted ELC to ask about extending the date we leave PG.

10, Social night – A quiz and a quiche, Saturday 11th March

David and Charly sorting quiz (and source prize & chase people for raffle prizes – please all feel free to ask); David on the bingo; Helen to be asked to co-ordinate food after being so wonderful last time.

11, AGM

Monday 6th March, 730pm, in the yacht club bar. Agreed that we could take committee to 10 to encourage new blood, but need to put forward an amendment as existing limit is 8.

Action: Gaynor to do this.

12, Dates of next meetings:

6th March AGM – 7.30

10 April,

8th May

5th June