



## Eskmuthe Community Rowing Club

### AGM

Monday 8 April 2019, 7.30pm

Fisherrow Yacht Club

**Attendance:** Alison Adams, Gaynor Allen, Wendy Barber, Rachel Bower, Elaine Brown, Georgina Brown, Sarah Cairney, Dave Clark, Pauline Crerar, Rebecca Farren, Ed Fernley, Aileen Graham, Helen Greene, Paul Greene, Graham Irving, David Lee (Minutes), Freya Liddle, Sandra Macaskill, Charly Macdonald, Fiona Macdonald, Amie MacGruer, Eoin McDunphy, Sharon McFeely, Veronica Noone, Stewart Page, Lorraine Roberts, Pete Strachan, Irene Tait, David Wilkie.

1. **Apologies:** Kate Allan, Richard Cawkwell, Andy Duncan, Sharon Hamilton, Jane Renton, Arlene Stuart (Fox), Katie Swann.
2. **Minutes of 2018 AGM:** Approved by Stewart, seconded by Veronica.
3. **Chair's report:** Already circulated. Summary - busiest-ever year for the club, with a rise in membership and far more members rowing regularly. Lots of opportunities for members - social rows, long rows in company, regattas and a wide range of social events. Gaynor said we were an inclusive club and encouraged all members to put forward ideas (such as Eoin suggesting a very successful club curling trip and Skiffiepsych by Kate). (See Appendix 1)
4. **Treasurer's report:** Already circulated. Summary - very successful year, with increased income (revenue up 45 per cent). The club has £6,800 in reserves, with almost £2,000 of that designated for the boatshed and additional funds set aside to cover the replacement costs of a trailer and cover in case they need to be replaced quickly. (See Appendix 2)

Eoin raised an issue of members joining late in the rowing year. Gaynor said anyone joining in 2019 (before the AGM) would be able to roll their membership over to the 2020 AGM. It was agreed to look at whether people joining towards the end of the calendar year should get a reduced membership at the next committee meeting.

5. **Membership report:** Pauline said membership was at an all-time high of 55 and while this would probably dip to 45-50 with non-renewals, we would probably pick up quickly due to lots of interest from prospective new members. We will look at a software programme for membership used by the local athletics club. Pauline was thanked for her work on Team App and Kate was thanked for her great work on the website.

**Bosun's report:** Paul said there had been a lot of work on Steddie (including oars, rowlocks & footrests), with real attention to what rowers and coxes want. Honesty is getting spruced up now. More people have been helping, and we have stuck to the budget. There are still tweaks to be made and Gaynor asked members to give feedback on what they like/don't like.

6. **Election of committee (Board of Trustees):**  
Seven members were elected: Gaynor Allen; Georgina Brown; Pauline Crerar; David Lee; Sharon McFeely; Stewart Page; Katie Swann. There is one vacancy to be filled.

Office-bearers will be elected by the new committee at the next meeting.

The formal AGM business was closed, with updates following on Skiffieworlds and the boatshed.

## Appendix 1

### **Chair's annual report, March 2018 to April 2019**

We have had an incredibly busy year and the club has seen improvements in all areas. We have increased membership, been to more regattas and on more expeditions, carried out modifications to Steedie Falconer to make her a better racing boat, made new oars and generally had more people out on the water more often. On land, we have had more people attending RowFit sessions and embarked on the Skiffiepsych project to examine the psychological aspects of rowing and team work. We have continued to hold regular social events, including brilliant 5th birthday fundraiser, a water-themed book group and a curling trip!

#### **Rowing Regattas and Expeditions**

Throughout the season, we have competed in local regattas hosted by Boatie Blest (Port Seton), Portobello, Newhaven, Queensferry, and North Berwick. We have been more successful in the regattas overall and ventured as far afield as Portsoy (with Dunbar) and Ullapool, where we reached the final of every category that had a final. We also reached the semi-finals in one category at Port Seton. The season ended with Scottish Coastal Rowing Association's Freshwater Sprints on Loch Tummel and Pauline, Sharon and Graham won three gold medals for the South East Scotland team. We also won a gold medal at the Queensferry regatta, where Steedie was victorious in the mix-up race.

Our social rowing expeditions were also stepped up as we ventured to Holy Island and Coquet Island (Northumberland) and rowed in a flotilla from Kinghorn in Fife to Inchcolm Island (on the Forth). We also took part in the flotilla to celebrate the opening of the Victoria and Albert Museum on the Tay in Dundee and rowed to Paxton House on the Tweed. This year, we had the first Eskmuthe road trip where members took the boat to Portsoy, then on to Findhorn before meeting up with fellow members for the unforgettable Ullapool regatta. We also did our first New Year's Day row in a while and gave a salute to the Loony Dookers.

We decided to host our first full club regatta in three years, which proved a big success. We had eight teams on the Back Sands and had very positive feedback from all competing clubs, who all enjoyed the fun races (the blindfold race and the 'double mix-up' race). We also made us over £1000 on the food and raffle. This was a huge undertaking and we were very pleased that everything ran smoothly - thanks to careful planning and great support from club members.

#### **Membership**

Our membership continues to rise steadily, and we have stopped needing to do taster sessions to attract new people as people are now regularly approaching us. We are trying to hold more structured new rower days to give those who have approached us a chance to get on the water. We have had a few people leave the club, but this has been more than offset by those joining - and we are above 50 members and rising. More importantly, we have more members than ever rowing regularly.

#### **Training and the World Championships**

We have completed a new coxes and rowers' training programme and have introduced a rowing technique session to help improve performance also posture. We also hope this will keep rowers healthier and cause less injuries. We have been doing lots of training sessions (every other weekend weather permitting) and are really trying to get fitter and stronger to compete in Skiffieworlds. Our RowFit sessions are going well (Thursdays 8-9pm at Queen Margaret University) and we have tried some Saturday morning sessions, but these have not really taken off. We are encouraging all rowers to work on their personal fitness as that will make a real difference to our competitiveness as a club. It is great to see the improvement in almost all rowers as we are more focussed, and members are showing real commitment.

## **Boat repairs - Prestongrange**

We went back into Prestongrange in September this year and decided that Steedie should get a complete overhaul. We started with workshops on basic joinery and made a new workbench. We made new oars and began making significant changes to Steedie, moving seats, and making new rowlocks and new footrests. Honesty is now in for a quick facelift. We have encouraged more people to carry out the repairs and this has proved successful, with more hands on deck. The boat building/maintenance is a very big part of the club and should be an even greater focus when we get our boatshed.

## **Eskmuthe Boatshed**

We have been working on getting our own boatshed in the car park at Fisherrow Back Sands for several years and are hoping the end is in sight. We have tweaked our original proposal and have had new plans drawn up that we hope will work better for the club. These will be submitted to ELC planning along with letters of support from local organisations and a traffic survey of the car park to prove the seven parking spaces are not used very often. We will keep members informed of our progress.

The building will consist of a workshop, which will take up two-thirds of the space, and a member's area, which will use the remaining third. We hope that members will benefit greatly from having our own building with the potential for social activities, fitness and creative elements. All club meetings and training sessions will be held there.

## **Governance**

We now have code of conduct documents for committee members and members. 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. We also have child protection and a club strategy document, which covers the next five years. These can all be viewed on the club website.

## **General**

Our two boats have been on the water more times than in any other year as our club continues to grow and members row more regularly. In the first week of January, both boats were out 4 days out of 5 - and we have introduced regular Monday and Friday rows, which have proved very popular. We will also be able to organise more evening rows (when tides allow) and in general, we are trying to put on sessions whenever rowers want them, as long as we have a cox available. ADD SOMETHING ON TRAINING MORE COXES? -This increase in rowing and regattas/expeditions, alongside changes in the way we collect fees for travelling, has brought in extra income for the club and made it more financially viable in terms of covering the costs of keeping both boats on the water - and a potential boatshed.

## **Community**

Community continues to be important to our club, and we took part in the town's annual festival week parade as well as taking the Scouts out and fitting in new rowers. We have also refurbished picnic benches at Prestongrange as a thank you for using the Arch Store for our repairs.

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 another important year in securing a solid base for ourselves. We are always trying to get better, work with our neighbours and make sure the club serves its membership.