



**Eskmuthe Community Rowing Club Committee Meeting
Monday, April 10, 7pm
Fisherrow Yacht Club**

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

In attendance: Kate, Pauline, David, Gaynor (Chair), Sandra, Helen, Katie (Minutes), George

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

David proposed, Sandra seconded

[All matters arising covered in agenda]

ACTION: Katie to merge AGM documents and add as a DRAFT to Big Tent

ACTION: Gaynor and Katie to look at where to keep documents/reports/updates

3. Correspondence

Sported: Veronica is in contact with the person re build.

ACTION: Helen to contact re finances (face to face meeting in Edinburgh)

Audacious Women: Really successful event with lots of great feedback

4. Treasurer's report

- Committee approval needed to pay for 5 FYC associate memberships @£175 (25% of ECRC membership) **AGREED**
- Prestongrange need to be contacted to clarify bill for electricity (**DONE** – Gaynor has passed details to ELC.)
- Residual Funds of Lottery- Committee needs to agree if these can be released in to general funds, or restrict for Repairs.
- Berthing fees for FYC due @ £69.75 per boat. Committee to approve renewal. **AGREED**
Could mark the spaces once craning day (28 April)
- Membership fees are now due, some members still to pay.
- £479 raised at fundraising event
- The revenue brought in by increasing fees from £15 to £30 covered the cost of maintenance of both boats (this wasn't happening in previous years)
- Committee discussed what to do with surplus funds:
 - Build up reserves, designate for future projects – to be discussed at a future meeting.
 - IDEAS: racing/rowing life jackets, need 8 (HLF?), flags, shelters/gazebos/tent, something very weather proof, feather banner (previously considered but decided on flag instead), cox's radio course. **ALL AGREED.**
- Discussion – should there be a charge for participating in a regatta to cover costs for towing etc. **AGREED** £5 per person from now on, to be collected on the day.

ACTION: David to add info about regatta charge to newsletter, Gaynor on Big Tent.

ACTION: Helen to look at mileage for towing the boat to regattas so the driver isn't out of pocket.

ACTION: Pauline to check prices of life jackets, to look at options for shelters (branded or not), plus flag. All these to be discussed and agreed by email.

ACTION: George to check radio course (money for 4 people).

ACTION: Helen to check whether taster sessions for young people are covered by insurance policy.

5. Membership Secretary's report

- We have 43 paid-up or active members, with 3/4 others who we haven't seen for a long time (they are being chased up). More importantly, we have more members rowing regularly.
- We have 4 women wanting to row after Audacious Women (and a very keen Burmese man)
- With the Taster Session on Sunday 23rd April (11am-3pm, Back Sands), we could be at 50 members very soon. Please can as many people as possible sign up to help at the taster day? (now in Events on Big Tent)
- I have chased up everyone for membership forms and have around 80-90 per cent now filled in, to ensure we have up-to-date contact information and medical details. I am working with Helen to match membership forms with payment of annual subs.
- We continue to have a strong presence on social media and will continue to push this, and use it to invite people to try rowing at the taster session day.
- We need to keep flyers in both rowing bags and hand them out to people at the harbour .
- We need to get new members kitted out with club merchandise to ensure we have more walking adverts for the club!
- I will get a newsletter out today or tomorrow, covering: Easter weekend rowing; Port Seton regatta report and regatta fee; new committee; taster session; need for more coxes; merchandise update, etc.

ACTION: David to check progress at end of April.

6. Club Captain's report

March and early April has been a busy time for the club and with more new members joining we have been able to fill six rowing sessions some weekends which is superb.

By the end of March both boats were back in action after receiving some winter TLC. A big "Thank You" to everyone who put work in to the winter maintenance of the boats and the oars and especially to Norman for leading it. We made immediate use of the two boats by holding our rescheduled Audacious Women event and some club regatta training at the lagoons on Sunday 2nd April. Blessed with some lovely sunny weather, the Audacious Women event was a real success. 16 women attended, ably catered for, chatted to and instructed by the Eskmuthe team. Again, thanks to all of our members who came along to help at this event. We received some really good feedback on the day and also by email afterwards. Some women are going to come along to row with us again and two other women are going to contact the coastal rowing clubs close to where they live.

The regatta training was also useful and could have occupied a whole afternoon on its own. The lagoons provide a good environment in which to try out racing starts and turns and we'll probably make more use of them in the future. It would be a good place to do some coxes training over the coming months as well as trying out different techniques for buoy turns etc. Some racing between our two boats could also be fun.

Sat 8th April saw us attending Boatie Blest's regatta, the first of 2017, with a team of 15 rowers including five people for whom it was their first regatta outing. The harbour setting and grandstand style seating make it a great venue for watching other clubs' techniques and the hot sunshine did make it feel a bit like Monaco, as advertised, with added seal and cakes. There was lots of superb rowing from the team in Honesty and to put things in perspective for anyone who thinks we should have done better than we did, four of the six teams in attendance at Port Seton came in the top 11 (of 41 teams) at last year's Skiffie World Championships. I think the message would be watch and learn (and then go and do lots and lots of training). Interestingly, quite a few of the local clubs didn't attend making us wonder whether some clubs are beginning to put more of a focus on relaxed social rowing adventures rather than racing.

A priority for me in the near future has to be to get more people in the club to take on coxing duties. A small number of people are covering a very large percentage of the coxing shifts and, if for some reason those people are unable to cox then the boats may not be able to go out. I will organise some more of the training evenings and also some on water training. There are some people who are potentially really good coxes out there, hiding behind their oars, please volunteer!

Question re possibility of more focused training for regattas, as often first time people have rowed together in team. We could get people to sign up asap, and then get teams lined up as early as possible, although categories are not always consistent. Also consider one session at weekend is a training session and do some training one Sunday at lagoons.

ACTION: George to do doodle poll for another cox's training session.

ACTION: Katie add regattas to agenda for next meeting

7. Boat shed report (Note of subcommittee meeting on 29 March)

- Discussion about the location of the proposed shed. It was unanimously decided to pursue the boatshed on the original site (7 parking spaces) asked for, at the back of the Quay and next to the Cappa.
- Boatshed or no boatshed? Three options are on the table:
 - A traditional build made to look similar to the Cappa.
 - A modular eco building. Essentially converted shipping container, all eco-friendly with solar panels etc.
 - Do nothing.

ACTIONS:

- Helen and Veronica to ask at work about costings for 1 and 2.
- Gaynor to speak to architects who have designed the North Berwick container plans.
- Gillian to find out from Stewart where we are with the lease and if Dennis can give us a quote.
- Helen to pursue signing the lease for the seven parking spaces from East Lothian Council.
- The group is now going to explore the costs and pros and cons of each option and will come back to group when we have more information and a plan. This will be brought back to the committee at the May meeting.

8. Prestongrange boat maintenance report

- **Outstanding tasks from Prestongrange:** The only outstanding task from the winter's boat repairs is the need to refit the bow tow ring on *Steedie*. This will have to be done away from the harbour as power is required. The old tow will have to be removed, the hole filled, then sanded and repainted and a hole will have to be drilled in the correct position for the tow to be refitted. This will probably take a couple of days to allow glue and paint to dry.
- **Other Repairs:** The most critical repair is the need to replace the gudgeon (the bracket for the rudder pin) that fell from *Steedie* at the recent event at the Lagoons. Paul is trying to source a replacement but, assuming we find one from the same supplier as before, this will need to be cut to size with a power saw, so again the repair can't be done at the harbour. In future it may be worth checking screws and other fittings such as wing nuts on gunwhales are secure before rows, as that was the second occasion the gudgeon had come loose. The stroke footrest that broke at the same event has been removed from the boat and I am unsure who has it. I assume it just a case of re-gluing the block.
- **Oars:** Assuming there is no damage to oars over the summer, it is probably not worth doing any further work on oars until after the Scottish Coastal Rowing reach a decision on whether or not to implement a standard oar.

- **Tools:** We really need to make an inventory of all our tools, paint varnish, epoxy etc. and also mark any items that need to be repaired or replaced. We currently need to replace two mouse sanders, and repair the belt sander. It will be helpful to do this over the summer so that we start next year's work with a full set of resources.

Outstanding tasks – update. Paul has ordered parts but they will need to be cut down. Who will be responsible for finding space to do repairs? Gaynor has emailed Prestongrange to see if building be able to use at other times of year. Gaynor volunteered space on her drive for repairs.

ACTION: George will investigate new ropes for the anchor

ACTION: Gaynor to glue piece

ACTION: Katie to reply to Norman to ask him to organise a team to inventory tools and let him know about location for repairs.

9. Moving the club forward - good governance

We need to be more consistent re policies/housekeeping given recent growth of club, this would also support any applications for funding.

ACTION: Child protection training – Katie, George and Gaynor to confirm at next meeting what level they have.

ACTION: Helen to draft documents for Code of Conduct/health and safety/child protection/financial procedures

ACTION: Katie to invite Fiona McDonald to next meeting to ask her about her idea for an Equal Opportunities policy.

Agreed that a survey of members would be useful at this stage to find out what they think of the club, and may also help support more people to cox.

ACTION: Katie, Gaynor, Kate, Pauline to meet and discuss, then circulate details of Survey Monkey questionnaire to be approved by email.

ACTION: George to send questions to Gaynor

10. AOB

Can a boat be used for yarnbombing during Voluntary Arts Week (Steedie)? **AGREED.**

Data Protection – to discuss at next meeting

Sponsorship – approach local businesses, on agenda for next time.

ACTION: Katie to add Data Protection and Sponsorship to next agenda.

11. DONM:

10 May 7pm

5 June 7pm