



**Eskmuthe Community Rowing Club
Committee Meeting
Monday 12th July 2021 7:45pm on Zoom**

- 1. Welcome and apologies**
- 2. Minutes of previous meeting**
- 3. Correspondence**
- 4. Club Report and New Members**
- 5. Boatshed – builder, lease, money**
- 6. Treasurer Report**
- 7. Boat maintenance – back in PG and trailer maintenance**
- 8. AOB**
- 9. DONM**

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

In attendance: Gaynor Allen (Chair), David Lee, Pauline Crerar, Georgina Brown, Kari-Ann Johnston, Jude Durnan (Minutes), Stewart Page

Apologies for Absence: Felicity Cameron

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved: Kari-Ann Seconded: Pauline

David is taking care of Life Jackets and bags now.

Queensferry Regatta has been cancelled.

3. Correspondence

NB Regatta

ACTION - David to email North Berwick to see if their Regatta is going ahead.

Skiffieworld's

Due to the planning required it would be good to have a sub-committee to organise the Skiffieworlds.

ACTION – David to post on Team App (done!) Fox, Aileen and Amie all interested in helping).

Row Around Scotland

Our leg (Anstruther to North Berwick) should be happening mid – end August. Dunbar have included us in communications about their leg, ending with the Tweed Row. We will take 2 boats when possible to give more people a chance to row. Our stretch is likely to be between Portobello and North Berwick or Dunbar. There are lots of options about how we do this and dates are still to be confirmed at the moment.

ACTION – Gaynor to put on Team App to let people know and see who is interested in taking part.

We can also take part in the Microplastics Trawl, where we attach a net to drag behind the boat and then we send the contents to a laboratory in Oban for them to analyse.

RowPorty has asked if Eskmuthe would like to do some Friday rows in company with them.

ACTION – Gaynor to put on Team App

Musselburgh Flood Prevention Update

The Musselburgh Flood Prevention Scheme is an East Lothian Council project which is being developed to identify the most appropriate measures to reduce flood risk in the town. A team has been working to assess possible risks to parts of the town. A preferred scheme was approved by the Council in January 2020 and an Outline Design stage started in March 2021. There is a plan for a public exhibition in 2021 to share this – tbc.

There have been public information boards in place since February 2019 and these have recently been added to – see information below:

Email from Gregor Moody the Assistant Manager to the Musselburgh Flood Prevention Scheme, received 7th July 2021:

We are writing to inform you of our new and updated public notice boards throughout the town of Musselburgh. As well as the four boards installed in 2019 at Eskmills, the Roman

Bridge, Shorthope Street footbridge and Goosegreen footbridge, there are now three additional boards which can be seen at Murdoch's Green, Fisherrow Promenade and Fisherrow Links.

The latest update to feature on these boards outlines what has been happening recently with Musselburgh Flood Protection and provides a useful roadmap to understand the next steps, as has been requested by multiple parties. Moreover, they contain a QR code shortcut to our new standalone website which we are busy constructing and hope to have live shortly. This will provide the people of Musselburgh and visitors alike with a quick and convenient way to find out all about the project from its inception to the most recent updates, and to identify opportunities to get involved.

These boards are the latest step in our communicative and consultative process with the public which will be evolving throughout the year. We are currently planning multiple public engagement initiatives where residents will have the opportunity to hear about the project and share their ideas and feedback directly to us and with each other. We will continue to issue updates on these and other developments within the project via email, our public notice boards, letters and our web presences.

ACTION – Jude to send feedback to the MFPS as follows – QR code on the signs is really good and the diagram showing the two previous flood dates is helpful, but the language and tone of the text is very formal and not very 'public' friendly (any other feedback also welcome from Club Members).

5. Club Report and New Members

CLUB REPORT JUNE-JULY 2021

We've had another very busy month, with 25 sessions taking place since the last meeting (June 13th) in generally decent weather. Most of these have been weekend sessions, with just one or two in the week as people's lives seem to be a bit more 'normal' during the week again.

It would have been difficult to get so many sessions without Ciara joining the coxing rota, Jane R doing a few sessions and Eoin really stepping up with regular coxing. Fox is still being trained up, with several others interested, and the coxing situation looks a bit healthier now - but we still need to get a couple more people trained up soon and are looking at this.

Since we went back in May, 46 different people have now rowed - excluding new try-outs. We are sitting at a membership of approximately 51, including a few paid-up members who are not rowing (Irene Tait, Fiona Macdonald & Beth Morrison, who never row much, Elaine Johnston, who will be back soon, and Nic Turnbull, who is heavily pregnant).

Shirin (Matthew's partner) is not coming back, Diarmid has moved away and David Wilkie is back in his big boat for good. We haven't heard from Freya, or Ellie Bradford.

The 51 includes new members Simon, who was fast-tracked through as he was clearly very good and has rowed in other boats before. Eddy and Maggie plan to join after their second row this weekend and all 5 other new rowers who have also been out (Claire x2, Niall, Megan and Heather) are all keen to come back. Excluding the 7 who have been out, we have another 27 people on the waiting list! We have had another 5 approaches this week and there is no letting up. With people's permission, I will remove anyone from the waiting list if they are contacted twice and don't reply.

I'd like to give people who are keen after Row 1 a second row quickly; it's unmanageable to give so many newbies a single row and then start again on Row 2 in about 6 months! If they are capable and want to join after the second row, we'll sign them up and get them on TeamApp.

We've not managed to get any formal training sessions yet, but we will from next weekend. Skiffieworlds 2021 are only 340-something days away!

ROWING REPORT AND NEW ROWERS SUGGESTIONS

We re-started rowing on Monday May 17th. Since then, we have had 27 sessions (by Saturday 12th) with 9 cancellations due to poor weather (5 this weekend). We have also taken a family out to sea to scatter a loved one's ashes.

A total of 43 different club members have already been out on the boat, most of them more than once. Everyone has been very enthusiastic and there has been a really good response from less experienced rowers to being given simple, clear instructions on technique. The standard of rowing has been very good.

Also, everyone has followed the Covid-19 guidelines fully and respectfully - although we all hope that we will be able to ease them soon. Wendy has been very clear in her guidance as Covid officer and will continue to monitor the latest guidance very closely and provide advice to the committee and wider club.

We need to decide a couple of things about rowing over the summer:

Training

Do we start offering some training sessions, alongside social rows? Maybe we should avoid the idea of 'technique sessions' as every session should really teach rowing technique.

ACTION – David will post training sessions on the Team App.

New Members

We have had yet more inquiries about joining the club and we really need to start to bring new people in, as we have a responsibility as a community club to give everyone a chance to row if they want to.

We have about 20 new people interested. David will email them all asking if they are still interested and offer them a chance to row in a session over a number of weekends in June/July.

We would have one session on each of these weekends for new rowers and it could work like this: each new rower session would be 80-90 minutes' long and would be split into 2 x 40-45 minute sessions, with 5-10 minutes of chat at the start and 30-35 minutes' rowing (which is enough for new starts).

Two experienced club rowers would row in stroke and No 3 for the whole session, with 2 new rowers swapping over in bow and 2 in each 'half-session'.

This would give us a chance to assess quite a number of new rowers pretty quickly (4 per weekend) and efficiently and help us figure out who is enthusiastic about rowing. They would then be invited to come back for another session, but only after all those on the waiting list have had a chance (although we could make a judgment on this if someone was particularly good).

David is happy to lead on this initially and to run the first 2 or 3 sessions - and come up with a simple check-list of what we should tell new rowers, so there is consistency. It would be good if the first set of sessions are middle sessions so there is an opportunity to concentrate on the new rowers and not have to go through the whole malarkey of getting the boat in or out.

ACTION – David and other coxes will post rowing sessions with new rowers supported by more experienced rowers.

5. Boatshed – builder, lease, money

Boatshed update

We now have the lease! Gaynor has informed the Common Good Fund (as it was a condition of the funding) and also informed the club and the FSHA.

Another quote from Zest builders has come in at £162,401 +VAT this does not include the Durisol blocks and erecting the blocks as this will be done by the club.

Diarmid is estimating that Damien (DJC) will come in at £245k and Zest at £220k. Gaynor has looked at the Zest quote and it is not clear what is included in this, so we need to find out. It may well be that the £25k gap closes a bit.

Note – as a charity we do not pay VAT!

We need to decide if we can proceed with prices rising so much at the moment. It is unlikely that these will come down given Covid and Brexit, so then we need to consider can we

afford for the club not to proceed? We have broken three oars and damaged the boat in the few weeks we have been back, and are very lucky the museums service is allowing us back into PG. We are now a sizable club, which means the boats/oars and other equipment will get battered.

Funding in place

We already have

£95k – Common Good

£67k – SportScotland

(We have paid £9k from the club, but not including this as already spent)

Club further contribution £8k

= **£170k** (we have spent £9k from the club already on fees, this isn't included)

Further funding applications

Musselburgh Area Partnership - £6k

ELC Communities Fund - £30k

£10k local fund

= £46k

Total if all come through- **£216k**

David is going to lead on fundraising and we are going to ask members/ wider community and businesses to sponsor a brick. Pauline thinks her work will match fund some of this. We need to look at more funding applications.

We have to make a decision about how to move forward:

A: Do we proceed at all given the extra costs? We do need to maintain the boats and won't be able to do this without premises.

B: Do we leave it until we definitely have the funding in place? Prices may continue to rise because of the situation which would put us even further behind with plans.

C: Do we continue as planned as we do have some wriggle room because the building warrant won't be through till September. Then we need a start date. We will pay in instalments. We can ask for a waterproof shell (with electricity and water). The Zest quote includes plastering, finishing the kitchen etc, that we don't need. For now we need a building that we can maintain the boats in and we can put in the rest later. Also 10 per cent will be held back for a year to make sure everything is ok.

Financial details

(see attachments)

Email from Diarmid 12/7/21

Damien quoted £178k, excluding tiles & blocks (£17.5k) and utility connections (est.£20k) and the kitchen, shower and internal finishes - so £216k in total without these. So Damiens' offer would prob require a budget of £225k to complete the internals, which increases the delivery cost to around £245k (with 10% contingency).

So overall, and subject to confirmation of some key costs with Ian at Zest, we are comparing a build delivery cost of £220k (Zest) v £245k (DJC).

Hope this helps in your budget planning.

However I'd suggest only proceeding with Zest if the club is (a) 100% certain about what is included / excluded in his price - e.g. including facilitating the soil sampling and temporary fencing, (b) comfortable with Ian as a builder and (c) certain that he understands the Durisol bit ok and is prepared to supervise it and include on his insurance / warranty.

Professional fees

To pay:

Paris Steele - they estimated about £2k and

Gordon Eadie (structural engineer) an estimate of £2,378.30 ex VAT and £84 plus VAT an hour for any extra services.

We have already paid £9k for architects and ELC costs (not included below as already paid)

ACTION – The committee decided we needed a boatshed and will have to raise extra money. Gaynor and Diarmid will go back to Zest to ask what the quote includes. Gaynor and Felicity to apply for more funding. Eskmuthe to do a fundraiser.

6. Treasurer Report

£12,205 in Club Bank Account

In June - £390 Member's Fees, £192 Rowing Cards, £183 Row Fit, Life Jacket payments.

Costs – New Wheel Clamps, Insurance for the ground we have leased - £386 per year

We need to consider who pays for the re-arming of a Life Jacket if it is accidentally inflated? Costs £12 each. Club can buy the re-arming kits, but the individual would pay club the cost back.

7. Boat Maintenance – back in PG and trailer maintenance

Honesty is back at Preston Grange.

We have quite a few oars which need to be fixed. Graham has asked his friends in the council's workshop to fix this while we have no facilities. One oar is almost unfixable and the only way it can be used again is to put a metal rod through it. This would make it unfit for racing as it would not comply with SCRA rules, but ok for training.

Trailer – Stewart has been working on the trailer Honesty was on and has adjusted the benches so they are angled towards loading the trailer.

Action - We will use Honesty more than Steddie to keep Steddie in good condition for races. When the boats are back, Honesty will go on Steddie's trailer as this one is easier to use and does not cause damage to the boats.

7. AOB

8. DONM Monday 9th August 2021 7.30pm Zoom.