



Eskmuthe Community Rowing Club

Committee Meeting

Monday 21 October 2019, 7.30pm

Fisherrow Yacht Club

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

In attendance: Georgina Brown, Gaynor Allen (Chair), Pauline Crerar, David Lee, Sharon McFeely.

Apologies for Absence: Katie Swann, Stewart Page

2. Minutes

Minutes approved: Pauline & Seconded: Gaynor

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Correspondence

Reminder from OSCR. Pauline confirmed that when she last spoke to Helen she still intended to do the full OSCR submission. We still have 2 months to do the entry on their website so still time.

Events in the calendar for 2020 include NB on 28th Aug, the relay potentially in Sept (should find out more at the SCRA AGM on 26th Oct) and another Falkirk wheel/canal event in May.

5. Club Report (David)

Eskmuthe had one of its best-ever days on September 14th 2019 at the Eastern pop-up regatta.

Up against some of the strongest teams around in North Berwick, Boatie Blest and Eastern, we went home with two bronze medals, three silvers and a gold. The performance of all rowers and coxes showed how far we have come, with the relay gold an epic end to a brilliant day - with the celebrations continuing late into the night!

We eased off training after the Eastern regatta, but have still had a few good, tough sessions. The focus has been mainly on getting new rowers into the boat for social sessions and helping newer rowers to develop their technique. This is coming on well, with club membership at a record high of 63, with more people on the verge of joining.

The weather has been very mixed, with some lovely flat-calm, beautiful early-morning rows, alongside very bouncy rows - and a couple of cancellations

We also took two boats to Berwick for the annual Tweed row, which was great fun (on a lovely day) but quite hard going too.

In between all this, we held a very well-attended coxes' training day to boost the number of coxes available to cope with the increasing number of rowers and had another good response to an open day to start the season's repair programme at Prestongrange.

Club members turned out in force to lead the Marine Conservation Society's beach clean and we held our first "pop-up beach clean" after seeing the Back Sands was a real mess after a very windy, wild weekend.

The most positive thing at the moment is not simply that we are bringing in new members, but that they are engaging with a whole range of club activities - Prestongrange, beach cleans, coxing, different kinds of rowing and the forthcoming social night in November. We are working hard to offer lots of opportunities to our members old and new - and they are responding brilliantly.

6. Membership Report – see above

7. Treasurer's Report (Pauline)

Highlights from the slides: £7,934.35 in bank, 4 new members in Sept; great amounts coming in from rowing and regattas again this month and the Social night cash has started to come in. Purchased 2 lovely new jockey wheels that everyone is admiring and also a set of wheels and tyres for Honesty's trailer!

Considering opening a new bank account as the current one does not provide debit cards and is free unless we have more than £100k in the account. This amount could be breached by the boat shed money so we need to consider a change. Could also keep the BofS account open though. Pauline has researched other banks and Santander is the only one with a £250k limit.

ACTION: Pauline to send her research notes round the committee for comments.

8. Boatshed

Now that we have planning permission Gaynor and Dermid had a meeting with Blueprint who they felt didn't get our sustainability agenda and didn't come up with any alternatives to the plans already in place.

Gaynor and David also met up with Chris from Native Architects in York who have done hempcrete builds in Orkney and Colonsay.

Chris confirmed that

- being near the sea would be fine for hempcrete just as it would for breezeblocks (you wouldn't leave either of them unrendered and exposed) .
- Hempcrete can bear some weight and it should be fine for kitchen units to be attached to a hempcrete wall without any additional wood batons.
- We should consider wet pour.
- <https://www.cat.org.uk/> The Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales. There is always interested parties in CAT that would be willing to help and interested in our build. (Would be worth an Eskmuthie adventure to Snowdonia)
- Hempcrete walls wouldn't be any thicker than normal however the temp inside a hempcrete building would be mean we may not need a heat pump.
- Chris thought we also wouldn't need steel beams so that could also bring our costs down.
- The timber frame would be designed and maybe built offsite. Seems to be the best way to build these days.
- Chris also suggested a fully pitched roof rather than having a flat section. Gaynor will have to go to the planning dept with that and ask if that can be incorporated without having to go back through planning permission again.
- VAT – Pauline check with HMRC who confirmed that a new build charity building that was used for our charitable purpose would be exempt from VAT. We should do the application for VAT recognition asap. We can call for advice any time we need to.
- Gaynor is going to get 3 comparisons of the architects costs(?) and go to the subcommittee with them.

9. Prestongrange – We got back in last week and it was lovely to see some new and old faces on day 1 open day. Tools and benches were put back into the centre of the room. Initial plans are to make spares of footrests, etc. Also putting new blades on the new oars and making them a bit lighter. Gaynor will post some event son Teamapp.

10. Freshwater sprints – George has just emailed out the teams and everyone has travel sorted out.

11. Coxes in training – 10 new coxes went through training on 12th Oct and had a go on the water afterwards. George will continue to add sessions specifically for practice out on the water.

12. Autumn Social – raffle and auction is in hand. Tickets have been printed and the first draft of the program created for David to review. Ticket money has started to arrive into the account and some tickets have been issued. It's been agreed that we will use the crockery in the rugby club so will need volunteers to wash up afterwards.

13. Winter sessions – George has identified some weekends where the tide doesn't suit launching from the harbour so has suggested we go to the lagoons. Events will be added to Teamapp soon.

14. AOB -

15. DONM - Mon 11 Nov 7pm FYC