



**Eskmuthe Community Rowing Club Committee Meeting
Monday 9 October 2017, 7pm
Fisherrow Yacht Club**

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

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

Apologies: Sandra

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes approved: David. Seconded: George

Communities day was a success, 3 people interested in rowing. Raised £30. Good to raise awareness.

3. Correspondence

St Andrews organised a row and had invited Eskmuthe, but it has been cancelled. Helen still gathering details needed for OSCR. Pauline attended the Portobello coxes training. The Bass Rock row still has places. Members need to sign up for freshwater sprints by Friday. Auction prizes are needed for the Christmas social night - David to contact members and ask. Application in for ALDI funding.

ACTION: Helen to confirm date of AGM

ACTION: Katie and Helen to meet re sponsorship for event (auction prizes) and beyond

ACTION: David to contact members to ask for auction/raffle prizes

4. Report: Club Captain

A slightly easier pace this month.

On 16th Sept - We did one of our coxes' days where we go through all the coxes' information in FYC. There were quite a few people there and lots of lively discussion. It was agreed that it was a good idea for everyone to attend these sessions as they can pick up a lot of information that they may find interesting. The PowerPoint will be put into the files section once as a pdf once it has been updated and other ideas put into place.

17th Sept – Unfortunately we couldn't make it to the Tweed row due to the towing car being broken.

23rd Sept – Both boats took part in the inaugural Castle to Crane race on the Clyde, quite a spectacle with over 75 boats and 400 rowers taking part. After a fairly windy forecast, the weather was pretty good to us on the day. Steddie completed the race in 2 hours 22 mins and Honesty in 2 hours and 39 mins.

In late September and early October we have had more of a return to rowing around Fisherrow and our local area. With the yachts now out of the harbour we have more space there too where we can row when the conditions are rough outside.

The season seems to be extending all the time so there is a row around the Bass Rock being organised by North Berwick on 22nd Oct. The Freshwater Sprints and SCRA AGM are on at Loch Tummel in the last weekend in October. Anyone can attend and row as part of the SE area team, or even just spectate if they would like.

Finally, over the autumn and winter we are going to be updating all the procedures and documentation to do with rowing and safety. We will try to talk people through everything that is going on with the trailer, the boat and the rowing/coxing so that everyone gets their knowledge and skill level up before next season. If you ever want to ask anything, please ask.

Some of the lifejackets might need to be serviced.

ACTION: Katie to email Stewart/Pete to ask if they could service both trailers, including Honesty's tow bar attachment.

5. Reports: Membership

After the surge in membership early in the year took us past 50 members, we took a lighter touch to recruitment to concentrate on giving existing members every opportunity to row. However, the usual combination of family and work commitments and general drift has meant sessions have not filled up as easily as the year has gone on - and membership is sitting around 45, although we certainly have more active members than ever before. However, we certainly do need a larger pool of members to draw upon, and we would like to continue to encourage our membership numbers to grow and keep the current members interested and rowing regularly.

Pauline has been a fantastic recruiting sergeant for the club, so she sat down with David to share thoughts on how to push us back up past 50 members and well beyond.

These are some of our thoughts, split into ongoing work designed to raise the club's profile and membership and specific ideas for recruitment. With the committee's agreement, and with any other input and ideas very welcome, Pauline and David would like to turn this into a calendar of activity for 2018 - with one specific event or activity every month designed to raise membership and/or retain and better engage existing members. We will present this to the committee at the November meeting for approval, then divide up the tasks and crack on!

We've had another spike in interest recently, with Beth and Dave joining and three others (Lorraine, Malcolm and Graham) looking likely to do so, and others interested following the Communities Day.

Recruiting and retaining members is more important than ever as the club takes on the responsibility of the boat shed and Pauline & David see this work as vital in increasing and maximising regular income.

David & Pauline circulated draft of membership strategy. Initial discussion about fee if people join later in the year. This could be pro rata? Or could pay more per row until renewal. Agreed anyone that now joins until end of 2017 will pay £15, then anyone joining early in 2018 can pay early subs for whole year. Will look at tiered membership charges at next meeting.

ACTION: David and Pauline to go away and continue to work on strategy.

6. Boat cover and one-off expenses

The cover has split, so we may need a new one but might be able to repair so will try that first. Noted that we need to build reserves and budget for future expenses. Agreed that we need to consider club income, including ensuring that we cover costs for rowing events. Also agreed that Bass Rock should be £10.

7. Sub Committee: Boat shed update

Helen circulated drawings. Community engagement about to start with community councils etc.

ACTION: Gaynor to circulate community engagement plan to committee members.

8. Website

Kate updated on progress. Agreed minutes would be added to public area of website. To discuss again at next meeting.

9. AOB

Katie to continue working on action plan. We will decide on levels of priority at next meeting.

ACTION: Katie to update AP, calendar and Regular Activities for next meeting.

10. DONM

Mon 13 Nov 2017 7pm FYC (tbc)

Mon 11 Dec Wine and mince pies

Mon 15 Jan