



**Eskmuthe Community Rowing Club  
Committee Meeting  
Mon 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 7:30pm Zoom**

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Actions Update
4. Correspondence
5. Club report/Covid-19 response and planning
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Boatshed
8. Boat repairs
9. Survey
10. FHSA/FWG Update
11. SCRA AGM
12. Merchandise
13. AOB
14. DONM

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

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

Apologies for Absence: n/a

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Approved: Felicity Seconded: David

### **3. Actions Update**

**Cox/stroke swapping** – works well if same household. Need to have a coxes meeting to see what they think, can be cold if don't swap.

AGM – minutes all ok, Pauline will put into Google docs.

**Wheel Lock** – we will need this for when we bring Steddie out. We still have a few weeks to think about the wheel lock.

Pins have been taken out so that the cover fits, but still get pools of water in the cover.

Plan to bring Steddie back to the Crane Out (19<sup>th</sup> October) to make sure we have a space there – Stuart will keep an eye on this.

#### **Crane Out 19<sup>th</sup> October**

Meeting with council about the management agreement. Carpark will have a new design for boats so it is safer. Need to check where boats are going to ensure we can get our boat/s out. Stuart can have keys for our locks the night before and will put more rings into the triangle where necessary.

Will the cycle racks need to be moved? Could put 3-4 at the Harbour Café – budget for Spaces for People. Or maybe some at Murdoch's Green?

CCTV – the pole is up. Stuart is sorting out the data protection part of this – needs to be sorted before cameras can be installed.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Article in East Lothian Courier about the club return to rowing September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020

#### **5. Club report/Covid-19 response and planning**

##### **ESKMUTHE ROWING CLUB: return to renewed shutdown, August-October 2020**

We currently have 56 members, which is slightly down but not unexpected. Of those who have left, one moved to Perthshire and two have said they do not want to return now but might do so in future. One, who joined earlier this year, just decided rowing was 'not their thing'.

Three others have not responded to any contact (via email and text), so I have assumed they have left. Jenny Fairnie, a previous member, wants to rejoin the club, but has not yet paid (she had signed up for a row which was cancelled), along with one other member. However, I have counted them in the numbers for now as I'm convinced they will be back.

The 56 figure is slightly misleading as we would have had new members joining under normal circumstances and have 12 people who are keen to give rowing a try. It's still not clear, given the latest cancellation, when we will be able to start admitting new members, but I would expect membership to be into the mid-60s by next spring.

Out of the 56 members, 13 have not rowed, although 3 of these did sign up for sessions which were cancelled. Of the other 10, 4 are strong supporters of the club who just don't row much, one only just joined before lockdown and has had an injury and one more has had an injury too. Another definitely wants to row, but has been away. It is possible the other 3 have chosen not to row under the current circumstances, as they would all normally row fairly regularly.

To have had 46 out of 56 members sign up for sessions in a period of less than 7 weeks is pretty phenomenal. There is clearly a very strong desire to row and we have more members rowing regularly than ever before. I have tried to ensure those who aren't as glued to TeamApp have had sessions flagged up to them to give them a chance to get a seat in the boat.

Of the 43 people who have been in the boat since August 24, 11 have rowed once, 12 have rowed twice, 11 have rowed three times, 5 have rowed four times, and 4 have rowed five times. Some people have been very unlucky with cancellations and some people have missed 3 or 4 rows. Including the 8 sessions we lost due to the suspension of coastal rowing last weekend, we have had to cancel 16 planned sessions due to bad weather. There have also been some very bumpy, exciting and wet sessions.

If my maths is right, we managed to pack 27 sessions into 40 days, from August 24th to October 3rd, the last time the boat went out. This has included 8 midweek sessions, reflecting the fact that more members are ready and able to cox or row midweek.

We have been helped by the enthusiasm of new cox Eoin, who has taken the boat out four times and had three cancellations. Jane (Renton) was also due to cox (as a cox in training) twice, but was scuppered by the weather, then the ban. We will look to bring Jane and more coxes through when we can row again. When we return to rowing, we will have both boats back. The factor that will limit the number of sessions is the availability of coxes so we are always keen to hear from volunteers to get trained up and join the coxing team.

Overall, this short rowing window has been brilliant for the club, with huge enthusiasm to get back in the boat. The fact that we filled 8 sessions for the weekend of 10th/11th October about 5 days in advance was phenomenal - and what a shame that all the sessions were lost after the change in Covid-19 guidance. However, that enthusiasm isn't going to go away and it's also great to see that pretty much everybody has remembered all the basics and is rowing really well. Let's hope we're back in the water fairly soon.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Pauline sent Power Point with Slides showing the Treasurer's Report Overall Summary to 30 Sept 20

Lifejackets purchased by members have all been paid for and this is now off the accounts.

Biggest item is the Rowing Club cards – much easier and more efficient system to manage the rowing cards in a cashless way. There was £28.63 left in the tin which will be paid into the bank.

## **7. Boatshed**

The saga continues.

Still no conclusion with the fire safety issue with the doors and windows being on the boundary. Chris (our architect) thinks we need a fire risk assessment which will show the council we comply with the regs and also give the council extra security that another agency is underwriting it. This will cost an estimated £2,000 as opposed to the cost of fire doors and windows or reducing the footprint of the building. Diarmid (one of our members who is a civil engineer) agrees this is the best way forward as we have been stuck in this deadlock for a few months.

Lease - nothing as yet, but the council lawyer has said he would look at it.

Funding - Felicity is working on the SportScotland Application and Gaynor is helping. We will meet the council's Sport's Hub officer to see what help he can give us. The Common Good application is on hold until the lease is sorted. Gaynor applied to the Aldi Sport Fund for £2,500.

## **8. Boat Repairs**

PG

Graham has worked hard to repair the bow oar and brought the others in the set for Gaynor to rub down and varnish to keep them in good condition. Steddie is ready to come down to the harbour, but the latest restrictions have made this difficult. We will bring her back and two sets of oars asap. After months of working under fairly difficult circumstances, PG is pretty filthy. I would like to

advertise for two people at a time to go and clean once Steedie is out. I would also like to ask for this not to be me or Graham.

Once PG is cleaned, we can reorganise and continue to look at things like a new rudder and stroke footrest.

Well done, particularly to Graham, for moving forward with repairs with Covi restrictions and floods in place.

PG has been tough and the rain now pours through the ceiling. I have emailed Kate from ELC to ask what they have planned for the building when the work begins on the refurbishment of the site.

## **9. Survey**

Kari-Ann has done a lot of work on this -

33 out of 56 members responded

29 gave names, 4 anonymous

28 out of those 33 have rowed since August 24<sup>th</sup> 2020, 4 said they would rather wait

COVID Guidelines – most members really happy

Feedback/suggestions about ensuring that our RA is ongoing/regularly reviewed

Face Masks – most said happy with, but some asking for scientific evidence to see what the benefits actually are – need to refer to Scottish Government guidelines on this

Should Stroke wear mask? – some different views on this - individual choice, should this be down to the cox/stroke? Informed choice and personal responsibility.

Difficulties getting booked into a rowing session – members understand the need to go for 1 row per week and aware of sometimes it is the fastest finger first when seeing posts on the Team App.

Members appreciated being asked their views in this survey.

Kari-Ann to put together a summary of responses which will be posted for all members to see.

## **10. FHSA/FWG Update**

Diarmid agreed it would be good to have a Fire Risk Assessment, approx. £2k to get this – Chris getting quotes from 3 firms.

For the Fire Report /RA doors/windows should be a metre away from property line, due to fires within buildings as windows could smash and could injure people on the property

Council said the update from the lease would be on Friday, but it's been three years.

Felicity has sent over the documents and is awaiting feedback on what else we could add to this.

Pauline has the figures for the business plan. Steven could advice on what might be realistic to apply for.

**11. SCRA AGM**

SCRA – Freshwater cancelled. AGM happening on line – can send one person form ERC to this, either Gaynor or George

**12. Merchandise**

Merchandise – Rebecca has collected everyone’s orders and is in the process of getting that sent off.

**13. AOB**

George suggested making a calendar with pictures from this year and possibly some of the sand sculptures during lockdown

**14. DONM**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 7:30 ZOOM**