



**Eskmuthe Community Rowing Club
Committee Meeting
Monday, 13th September 2021 7:45pm on Zoom**

Present: David, Felicity, Gaynor, George, Kari-Ann, Pauline.

Apologies: Jude, Stewart.

Minutes of previous meetings: July minutes - David proposed, Pauline seconded. August to be finalised.

Correspondence: Nothing not covered in other agenda items.

Rowing report, August-September 2021

Well, it's been quite a few weeks - with Eskmuthe boats probably covering more distance in a calendar month than ever before. The RowAround has been a brilliant experience for the club - and but for a dodgy weather forecast, we would have made it from the Forth Bridges to Berwick by now.

We made a late decision to join the first two "south side of the Forth" legs, but were rewarded for doing so. The crew from Queensferry to Granton (Charly, Gaynor, Pete, Sandra & Sharon) had a fabulous jaunt on a sunny late summer afternoon. The Granton-Porty crew (Brian, David, Jane R, Jane S & Sharon again) had calm waters on Tuesday, but also lots of sea fret, which meant it was hard to see the haar-bour.

Our own legs were great too. There was a brilliant turn-out for the "there and back" row to Porty (in a swell-y sea) as the RowAround baton was handed to Eoin, who held it aloft as Steddie and then Honesty returned to Fisherrow Harbour. Eskmuthe and Row Porty members then gathered on the Back Sands for chats and cans and chips afterwards.

The following evening, two boats bounced over the waves on a challenging rowing night before handing the baton on to Port Seton.

Two days later, Honesty joined Boatie Blest for a 6am start on the 13-mile row to North Berwick. Charly, Fox George, Sharon & Veronica had excellent conditions for the long haul, which was followed by our first regatta in almost two years at North Berwick. We had a really enjoyable day, with the novice crew winning bronze and several rowers making their regatta debuts.

There was no let-up as both boats covered 10 miles from North Berwick to Dunbar the following day in increasingly tricky seas to complete the next leg of the RowAround.

A week later, the Dunbar-St Abbs leg was 'flipped' to take advantage of the weather conditions. The first crew (St Abbs-Cove) were the luckiest, seeing dolphins (twice), seals and seabirds in a fairly calm sea - before the second crew had to fight through swirling seas to make it to Dunbar.

Our efforts to make it to the border were dashed when the St Abbs-Tweedmouth leg was cancelled due to forecast high winds (which didn't fully materialise) but let's hope we can do it again before too long.

Through all of this, we have continued to hold normal rowing sessions and to bring in more new rowers, so we are now sitting at very close to 60 members, with lots more waiting. Angela, Abi, Morag and Bernie have all joined.

Here's to a slightly calmer month!

Privacy notice

One new member raised questions about why we were asking for certain information. Wendy came up with a draft privacy notice and after feedback from the committee, David will pass this back to Wendy to create a final privacy notice for approval.

Fundraising

We hope to raise £3000 to supplement the boasted fund, by doing our Row 500 Miles (then row 500 more), and cracking on with the buy-a-brick initiative.

The plan is to have 4 rowing machines own the grass next to the start of the prom for two consecutive weekends (2-3 and 9-10 October, 10am-4pm approx) - covered by the gazebo. Members will book in for half-hour slots and their distance will be verified and added up.

If we can do 5km per half hour, or 10km per hour for 6 hours per day, that comes to 60km per machine per day, so 240km per day x 4 = 960km. We will have some down time and some slower rowing, but should be able to get to 800km comfortably, which is 500 miles.

The idea is that members pay £5 to take part, then ask friends, family, work colleagues, etc to sponsor the club for doing 500 miles - whatever people can afford.

The second strand is Buy A Brick, with members/family/friends asked to buy a boatshed brick for £10 and decorate it when the boatshed is built. Businesses are asked to sponsor a brick for £50.

Gaynor & Pauline have set up a free, basic Just Giving page so people can donate easily online or via Facebook without us having to hand out bank details to everyone.

Actions: David to draft email to all members explaining the plan;
Pauline to check on insurance position for any damage to rowing machines

Treasurer's report

We had just under £9000 in the bank at the end of August, which is down on April, but we have paid 4k+ for Durisol blocks to avoid a £1000 increase in price. We are doing well in terms of money coming in from new members, rowing cards and Rowfit.

The money from the Common Good Fund and Area Partnership has now gone into the bank account in early September.

Worlds sub-committee

To be set up in October after the fundraiser.

Action: Gaynor to email Andy R about whether the SCRA is negotiating a deal for clubs to go to The Netherlands on the ferry

Boatshed

Funding - We are at 187k, and need 3k more to ensure we meet the Sport Scotland threshold (which we will fundraise for).

Felicity will contact the Benzies fund as they have not responded to our application; Gaynor is following up with the East Lothian Council Communities Capital Spend fund and we should hear in early/mid October;

There is possible financial support for heating and lighting from Zero Waste Scotland. We are waiting for a report and Pauline will feed back.

Building - the tarmac has been taken up to dig site investigation holes;

There are more electricity cables underneath the site than we thought (not identified on She ScottishPower plan) - we are progressing this with ScottishPower. Diarmid in communication with SP to get this moving and see if all cables can be moved in one go.

Gordon Eadie has not started the report on the foundations. When he reports to Chris, hopefully this week, he can make changes and then submits the revised application for a building warrant.

AGM

To be held provisionally on Monday 4th October (online)

Gaynor to post on TeamApp.

Can people let Gaynor know if they intend to come off the committee?