



April 2026 Newsletter

Message from the Chair:

Well at long last, its officially Spring. Longer days, and hopefully more chance of the weather being good for rowing. We did manage the occasional fantastic winter row on some cold and sunny Saturdays. The most memorable for me being the day the marina was frozen, and the oars were sliding over the ice. We had Jacqueline's fitness challenges to get us off our couches, and I know that many of you have been sweating away on your rowing machines. Time now to get some proper rowing underway.

Membership

Hopefully you have all now paid your fees for this year, due on 1st March. We are now sitting at 76 paid up members. The membership list on the system has been updated, and the password changed, details currently pinned to the top of the Whatsapp page. Bianka has taken over as membership secretary, and has started to work through the outstanding list of people wanting taster sessions to try out rowing. Normally these sessions are 10.00 am on a Saturday, so if you are out rowing on these sessions, then please welcome our potential new members.

Safety and Training

We had a good turnout for the training session from Heartstart on defib and CPR training. Largs Yacht Haven are hosting a Marine Safety Day on Saturday 16th May, where there will be safety demonstrations, free lifejacket servicing, and lifeboat tours. We will let you know more, when we have more information.

OYT Scotland are organising an RYA First Aid at Sea course, to be held on Saturday 18th July, in Barrhead. Please contact Lucie if you are interested in attending.

Youth Officer: We are still looking for a club member to take on the role of Youth Officer. As a club, we have always had a strong youth membership, but they have now all grown up, and we will very soon no longer have any members under 18. In order to encourage some new members, we are planning to work with the Training section of Largs Sailing Club over the summer; if it is too calm to sail on a Monday evening, we could take the trainees out for a rowing session, and introduce them to the sport. If any members would be interested in getting more involved with the Youth section, either as a Youth Officer to do some of the organising, as a Cox on a Monday evening, or as a regular crew member on a Monday, then please get in touch with Lucie. We would be particularly interested an anyone who already has PVG certificate.

Weekly rowing sessions.

Club sessions are now up on the system for Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday mornings. Please get signed up. We try to post the rows a month in advance. Remember, the cox is the initials with an asterisk beside them: if there is no cox yet on the system, just be aware that the row might not go ahead.

Introduction to race training sessions have been added to the April bookings schedule on Saturdays at 10.00am and Tuesdays at 6.30pm. These sessions are open to all members, and are to give anyone who fancies giving racing a go a chance to try it out, or to refresh your skills. Sessions will be at a comfortable pace for everyone, with plenty of breaks, and will introduce racing basics like starts and turns. This is a great opportunity to get yourself ready for the summer regatta season, starting with our own regatta on 2nd May. Caroline is running these sessions, so if you have any questions, please just contact her direct.

Regattas

A number of regattas are now up on the web site for booking, starting with our own event on Saturday the 2nd May, and our row to Wee Cumbrae on the Sunday. Our regatta secretary Doreen may well have already signed you up for a job on the day. There is a lot to do on regatta day, whether its food preparation, beach control, parking or selling raffle tickets, so it's always all hands on the deck. We are holding our usual raffle, and this year the proceeds are going to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. Please bring any suitable prizes along on the day, leave in the trailer, or hand to any committee member.

Other regattas on the schedule are Royal West (Greenock) 16th May; Arran 30th May; Troon 6th June; Ullapool 10th July. Attending a regatta, either our own or an away event, is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow club members and participate in club activities and we encourage members to come along, take part in the racing (see above re race training), or just come along for the fun.

Towers: to take a boat to a regatta requires someone to tow it on the road trailer. If any of you have a tow bar and would be happy to tow to a regatta, then please let Doreen know. Expenses are reimbursed.

Coxes

As a club, we are so grateful to the coxes for giving up their time to make sure the boats are on the water as much as possible. Fancy becoming a cox? Then please have a chat with a current cox to find out a bit more about what's involved, or talk to Iain McGachie, or Lucie.

Quiz Night

John's famous quiz nights are going to continue throughout the summer. Not only are the quizzes great fun, with an opportunity to socialise with your fellow members, but they also raise funds for the club. Come along and join a team, or bring your friends and family with you. Many thanks John, for doing this for the club.

Remember for ongoing up-to-date information read the Minutes of each Committee Meeting, posted monthly on the website, and come for a coffee on Saturday mornings.

