



Page 1 of 3

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 17th November at 7.30pm in Largs Sailing Club

Members in Attendance:

Caroline McGinlay, Siobhan McGinlay, Iain Burnside, Ross Gibb, John O'Connor, Theresa O'Connor, Gary Watkins, David Cousar, Susan Shepherd, John McFarlane, Ian Reekie, Marianne Reekie, Robin Scott, Joan McEachran, Pat Cassidy, Alison McEvoy, Eric Grant, David Mellor, Hugh Maclean, Eddie Wood, Arthur Graham, Iain McGachie, Lucie Aitkenhead, Lynda Graham, Louise McCarron, Donald McLatchie, Jane Grant, Doreen Mathie.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Lucie welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Elizabeth Pratt, Helga Chapman, Jane Stronach, Jill MacDougall, Ailsa Morrison, Alan Cowan, Jim Gregor, Ian Ward, Alison Donnachie, Jacqueline Simpson, Sharron Duggan, Kevin McBride, Clare Johnson.

2. Endorsement of November 2021 Minutes

The minutes of 2021/22 AGM were proposed by Eddie Woods and seconded by David Mellor.

3. Annual Report (see attached)

4. Financial Report, and approval of subscription rates

The Club accounts were circulated to membership before the meeting on the Club website. Jane explained there had been a lot of challenges this year which included the world championships in Holland. The club financial position ended year in a slight deficit which will be covered by a grant we have had agreement of but not received funds to date. No questions were raised.

Jane thanked Ian Ward for checking the financial statement. Accounts were proposed by Louise McCarron and seconded by Eddie Woods.

Lucie thanked Jane for her work on the finances and managing all the bank accounts.

Proposal for increase in Annual Membership Fees (Nov 22 – Oct 23). Historically, it was agreed that all fixed costs should be covered by membership fees and maintenance must now be included in this equation. Fixed costs now stand at £3000. For this reason, the Committee proposed that the adult membership fee be increased to £35 for the new financial year which started on the 1st November 2022. After some discussion this proposal was unanimously agreed by AGM.

5. Reports from Membership, Maintenance, Regatta, Youth & Social and Fundraising

Each committee member briefly covered their area of responsibility as covered in the annual report. Lucie thanked all the committee members for their contributions to the successful running of the club.

6. Re-election of committee members

Current committee & non-committee members were all standing for re-election:

Chairperson: Lucie Aitkenhead

Secretary: Iain McGachie

Treasurer: Jane Grant

Regatta Secretary: Doreen Mathie

Maintenance Officer: Donald McLatchie

Social and Fundraising Officer: Louise McCarron

Youth Officer: Lynda Graham

All existing committee members were re-elected, proposed by Iain Burnside and seconded by John McFarlane.

Proposal of re-installing a Youth representative on the committee was agreed. Ross Gibb has volunteered for the role. This was proposed by Louise McCarron and seconded by Lynda Graham.

Confirmation of Non-committee positions in Training and Safety Sub Committee: Gary Watkins, Iain Burnside and Arthur Graham, Douglas Park Gardening co-ordinator: Gary Watkins.

7. Any other business

Sale of Club equipment – Hugh raised concern at the sale of road trailer and trolley to Forfar. He felt that it had been sold for below market value. Committee explained that there had been issues surrounding the safety and viability of the particular road trailer and the challenge of not increasing our footprint at LSC. It was agreed that the Club asset register should be available on the Club website and that there should be, be a process for sale of large equipment where committee require membership authority to sell, as with existing limit on purchase of equipment.

David Coursar asked about the status of the purchase “wish list” It was confirmed that all items had been ticked off. Another open discussion day would be held in the New Year to generate a further “wish list”, and if necessary finding sought for expensive items.

Small boat – David Mellor asked about the possibility of the club having a small boat for training. This led to a discussion around the possibility of utilising Lochwinnoch during the winter months for rowing when Largs coast not suitable. The Club have looked at the possibility of utilising Lochwinnoch and members of the Safety committee have viewed the site and facilities. All looks positive at this stage. Further discussion will take place at next committee meeting before end of the year. We anticipate we will have both skiffs available in the new year and will have decided how we move forward on this topic and will inform membership at that time.

Youth Event – Ross advised that, post worlds in Holland, youth groups from various nations have been discussing the possibility of holding a Youth event in Ireland in 2024. Ross will bring the committee more information about the event, and what support the Youth team might need to attend.

Honorary Membership - In recognition of his dedication to the Club since its inception over 10 years ago Lucie presented Hugh Maclean with a plaque recognising his status as an honorary member of the FOCCR's.

8. Presentation of Bill Erskine Cup

Lucie gave a brief speech (provided by Alan Cowan) about the background of Bill Erskine and the pioneering work he did in setting up FOCCR's and his active involvement in it. The Cup was this year presented to Arthur and Lynda Graham for their support of the Youth section of the Club over this and previous years.

9. Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Drinks and chat enjoyed by those in attendance. Thanks to Ross for hosting the bar, and thanks to the RNLI volunteers for the card and gift stall.



Firth of Clyde Coastal Rowing Club

Annual Report

1st November 2021 - 31st October 2022

Summary of the year

The Firth of Clyde Coastal Rowing Club was established in 2012, and all this year we have been celebrating our 10th Anniversary. From a small group of interested people, who pulled together the money and enthusiasm to set up the club and build both our skiffs, we now have a strong and active community club with just over 100 members. This year has seen the club take part in a number of regattas, including the World Championships in Holland, and the racing scene is going from strength to strength. Our commitment to the community continues with a number of special events throughout the year, and the regular schedule of social rows. The 10-year celebrations continue with our first ever Dinner Dance, which I am sure will be a great success.

Membership

Our membership grew in year from 84 to 104 members in 21/22 season with the membership annual fee remaining at £25. We closed the membership for a short while in the summer, so that we could catch up with the "Covid backlog" waiting list, and for new coxes to be trained. We have now been able to offer everyone on the waiting list a taster session, and have re-opened the membership. We will continue to build our membership, taking into consideration our capacity to safely accommodate more members.

Treasurer's Report for the period 1st November 2021 to 31st October 2022

The accounts show a different picture this year due to a return to more normal activity coming out of lockdown, attendance at Skiffie Worlds and a lively fundraising schedule. Skiffie Worlds were funded by the competitors and in the case of the Youths through separate fundraising. The exception to this was transport of the skiff to The Netherlands. Whilst the year ended with a slight deficit, it should be noted that grant funds to cover the cost of the new road trailer (purchased to facilitate ease of launching and recovery) and launch trolleys (£2710) have been confirmed. Sale of the old road trailer and trolley raised £500. Ian Ward has verified the accounts and a signed copy is held by the club.

The impact of increased membership and a return to more regular rowing and regatta attendance has inevitably had an impact on the skiffs and maintenance costs have increased to almost £1000. The skiffs are being overhauled by Martin Hughes at the boatbuilding school in Irvine this year and he has quoted a similar price. On-going maintenance through the year will continue to be carried out by club members maintenance team. Fixed costs now stand at approx. £3000, covering insurance fees, Largs Yacht Haven berthing fees, Largs Sailing Club membership fees, Scottish Coastal Rowing Association membership, website and maintenance.

ACTIVITIES

FOCCR Club Rowing

In the year we had 215 social rows, 167 race rows, 35 long distance rows, 24 Technique rows and 43 guest rowers so quite a busy year. We had 90 active rowers in the club with just over a third rowing over 20 times.

At the request of members, we introduced different categories for rowing, social, fitness, race training and long distance, all of which were well supported. We plan to continue with this approach unless directed by the membership. Our rowing is normally Saturday morning, Tuesday/Thursday evenings. Through this year members have been encouraged to organise rows to suit themselves as long as they have a qualified cox with them. This has resulted in many rows taking place all through the week and at various time of the day through the year and the committee are keen for this to continue.

FOCCR 10th Anniversary Regatta

Our own regatta planned for 10 Sept was cancelled due to the death of the Queen. We managed to reschedule on 8 October and thankfully the weather was on our side. We had seven clubs able to make the rescheduled date with Troon winning overall closely followed by FOCCR's. Thanks to the race team, umpires, safety crew, catering team and volunteers who helped in the various tasks needed to make the regatta a success. We finished the day with a ceilidh in Fairlie which was enjoyed by all, thanks to Louise for organising.

Local and National Regattas

We had a busy and successful regatta season. It began with Loch Awe where our team came a respectable 3rd, followed by Troon where our ladies and men's pairs sprints got 1st place and the club a 2nd overall. Our visit to Arran regatta was marred by ferry and weather issues so we were unable to take a skiff, however we did manage a small representation who had an enjoyable day. Next outing was to Prestwick where we achieved two 1st and were 3rd overall. Royal West was next on the schedule but unfortunately we were unable to tow to the event and at last minute Royal West offered us their second skiff but we were unable to muster a full crew. At The Nith Raid we came 1st and at The Bellringers Raid next day a 2nd. Last outing of the year was to Rhu who held their first regatta which resulted in a win for FOCCR's.

Overall, we had a very successful year with Worlds and local regatta. We would like to thank the towers and regatta captains for their support through the year.

Skiffie World Championships in Korgene, Netherlands

In June, a group of 10 youth and 17 adult rowers travelled across to the Netherlands to compete in the Skiffie World Championships. They were accompanied by a large group of family and friends as supporters. We raced in almost every event, got into 8 finals, and came 12th overall out of 50+ clubs. We also had a really lovely time, getting to know each other better, making new friends, and enjoying some fantastic racing. The great setting, and lovely weather helped everyone to just have a great holiday. We all came back with huge enthusiasm for racing, and many of the teams have kept up their training schedules, which has shown in the great results at the other regattas this summer.

Youth Development

We are the only club in the south west region to have youth members. We have a core group of ten most of whom have been rowing with the club for a number of years. There are four x U26, six x U18 members and four youths waiting to try out and hopefully join. The highlight of the year was competing at the World Championships in Holland. All ten youth members attended, they had the most amazing time rowing, socialising with the many other nationalities and of course partying. They continue to be a credit to our club. We will continue to train at the weekends and we are hopeful that there will be some youth regattas we can participate in next year or host our own. Thanks to everyone who supports our youth on a regular basis and also a big thank you for the fundraising efforts last year.

Maintenance

Busy year for the two skiffs (Saltire & Thistle) with the increase in membership, world championships and increasing number of rows they need regular day to day maintenance on top of the annual maintenance of strip and repaint. Committee and members would like to thank all those who have helped in any way with the maintenance of the skiffs through the year.

A summary of maintenance activities this year: new floor and overhaul of box trailer, keel band repaired on Thistle, new seat cushions for both skiffs, both Teal road trailers overhauled before world championships, one Teal trailer sold, new Mersea combi road trailer purchased plus two launch trolleys (both jockey wheels

Page 4 of 5

replaced under warranty), interim varnish repairs to Thistle prior to our regatta, straps and bar buckles fitted to Thistle cover, Thistle now in for annual maintenance to be followed by Saltire and new offset footrests to be fitted to Saltire in conjunction with new oars.

Social & Fundraising

FOCCR's and families of the Youth members built on our traditional programme to deliver a tremendously successful and exciting year of events, bringing everyone together throughout the community, to raise valuable funds for the club in general and for the Youth in particular: Christmas Party, St Patrick's Day Party, Bingo Night, Monthly Winter Quizzes, Swim & Row with the RNLI, Dance with the Skanks, Cake Sale, Regatta Catering & Ceilidh, 10th Anniversary Dinner Dance, Weekly Saturday Morning Coffee & Cake.

These efforts were further boosted through generous grant funding secured from The CalMac Community Fund, North Ayrshire Community Participatory Budget Scheme and Magnox Socio-economic Scheme which went towards/covered the costs of the Combi Trailers & Trolleys, All-weather Cushions, Maintenance, New Oars, Training, Youth Kit and towing to regattas costs.

Many thanks to the fundraising group, the catering group, the youth, their families, everyone who supported the events, the many local business who donated raffle prizes and all the grant funders. In an effort to keep subscription fees as low as possible and to carry on having a lot of fun together, we plan to be just as busy in the coming year and look forward to your support.

Community Links

The club continues to build strong links with the local community. In April the club members joined the Largs Beach Clean, focussing on the area around the Yacht Haven and Pencil beach. In May, the youth rowers joined forces with the local sea swimmers, and took part in a relay row/swim from the Marina to the Green Shutters. They raised £830 which was split between the youth rowers Worlds fund, and the RNLI. In August we were happy to host rowing taster sessions as part of Pride Youth Games 2022, a residential for LGBTQ+ young people aged 16-25 to try different physical activities and have fun together. The rowing sessions proved very popular with the young attendees. The Douglas Park FOCCR flowerbed continues to be a popular club project, headed up by Gary, and many local people have commented on our lovely plot.

Safety and Training

Safety on and off the water continues to be high priority. During the year we held our first Man Over Board Exercise with the RNLI. A number of members signed up to become coxes and an internal mentoring and training program was established. Rowing Technique sessions have been introduced focusing on achieving a safe and efficient stroke. During the year training outings were enthusiastically attended by members wishing to develop their racing skills prior to travelling to the Netherlands and the Skiffeworlds. Further sessions have proved popular for members attending local South West Coast regattas and further afield long- distance competitions. Our old launch trolleys were replaced along with one of our road trailers with models that no longer require any heavy lifting when transferring a skiff to and from the road trailer and make launching and recovery easier for members.

Plans for the Coming Year

In 2023 we plan to build on the club's current strong position. In order to ensure that we remain accessible to all, we will strive to keep our membership fees as reasonable as possible, and to raise the funds required

to deliver an exciting programme of rowing activities, and keep our skiffs in good condition, by a varied programme of social fundraising activities. We will build our rowing strength by continuing our training

Page 5 of 5

programmes for coxes, rowing technique, fitness and race training, and we will attend regattas across Scotland (and maybe Ireland), to win as many medals and have as much fun as we possibly can!