

RWSABC
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 29th March 2012

The Vice President opened the meeting and welcomed all attending members.

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Julia Darby, Mark Hanson, Andrew Crossan, Duncan Graham, Steve McQueen, Steven Haldane, Alan Currie, John Kennedy and Ewen Chisholm.

In attendance:

1. J. Ford	Family
2. R. Will	Ordinary
3. J. Bruce	Ordinary
4. N Campbell	Life
5. P.D. Rodden	Life
6. K. Clague	Ordinary
7. G. McKenzie	Life
8. D. Marquis	Ordinary
9. I. Leith	Ordinary
10. A. Paterson	Family
11. A. Graham	Family
12. R. Downie	Life
13. A. Taylor	Life
14. H. Scott	Ordinary
15. C. Campbell	Life
16. P. Johnstone	Ordinary
17. A. Black	Ordinary
18. T. Mackay	Life
19. G. Connor	Family
20. I. Clark	Ordinary
21. F. Scott	Life
22. L. Morrison	Ordinary
23. B. Carroll	Ordinary

Adoption of minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the 2011 AGM were adopted on a proposal by Adam Graham, seconded by Pat Johnston.

Vice President's Report

øFirstly it falls to me to report that Jim Harrison a member of the club for a number of years and a regular passed away earlier this year. We will miss his dry wit on a Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

For those not here earlier our lawyer has examined and vetoed the proposed amendments as they conflict with other areas so the existing constitution will be in force for this year. I think we may need to have a small independent group of members to look into this area or we leave it as is for the time being.

On the balance sheet numbers the treasurer will fill out the details but as you can see from the accounts we have not had a bad year. Please remember that although the cash on the balance sheet has fallen we have 2 new skiffs a fleet of new poly sea canoes and kayaks and a new slipway which do not appear.

On the water the conveners will again elaborate later but we have been extremely active over the last 12 months with the new equipment all being well used.

A couple of areas that have been falling behind due to a lack of a convener are the house where yet again we failed to spend the budget. However if we had, the accounts would be showing a much larger loss.

The other area being sailing where I am pleased to announce that we have filled this position, so thanks to Billy Carroll for this. However please remember that the convener is there to convene and organize and not to do all the work themselves, so please help out where asked if you are able.

Another new recruit to the committee this year is Steve McQueen taking on the role of social convener. The bar convener would be very pleased if you can come along to functions and as we do not run for profit any money raised goes directly to purchasing equipment, maintaining it and keeping your fees down. For reference if our bar made the same profit as the cricket club your fees could be halved.

The main point that I want to make this year again is that we can only do what you the membership allow and if you just use the club as a boat shed the fees will need to reflect this.

No comments.

Rowing Convener's Report

The club's rowing fleet consists of 2 Heavy fours, 3 Portobello Class Jollyboats, 2 St.Ayles Skiffs, 6 Pairs and 3 Sixteens. We currently have two UKCC Level 2 fixed seat rowing coaches, with another undergoing his final assessment next month

Participation in rowing has seen a resurgence following the launch of the new skiffs last year. The increased participation has been in all age ranges within the existing membership.

The End of Grant Report we submitted to Inverclyde Council, to illustrate how we used the funds they provided towards the new boats, was highly commended by the Council and has led to us being advised to apply for further funding. I have this report with me if anyone wishes to review it.

In a similar vein to the London Olympics our involvement with The Trust in Port Glasgow has a legacy element. They have continued building boats for themselves and are now in discussions with a number of coastal rowing groups with regards to building for them.

In the last twelve months we have attended fixed seat coastal rowing regattas in Anstruther, Portobello, Port Seton, Cumbrae, Portsoy, Queensferry, North Berwick and Glenarm (on the Antrim Coast) and of course at Royal West

We won the overall trophy at Cumbrae and took a second in Anstruther and a third in Glenarm and we won the Men's Fours and Men's Pairs at Royal West. We also ran a race for the P7/S1 juniors at that event; this was very well received and showcased the skills they had been developing since April.

Our activities have not been solely focused on competition. We have run various 'Come & Try' events during the year to give members of the public access to the boats. The most successful of these was at the Comet Festival in Port Glasgow, recorded participation by 145 members of the public. On a wet and wild weekend in Millport the 'Come & Try' team took out 50 members of the public. The efforts of this small band of members should be commended.

There have also been non-competitive trips, one to Loch Eck and one to Carrick Castle.

For the past year we have been working with a small group of junior members within the Club who attend the local primary and secondary schools, before expanding the offer to local groups in the coming year. We needed to be comfortable with our coaching capabilities prior to expansion of the programme.

In the coming year we plan to open access to local youth organizations and through the Active Schools Programme run by Inverclyde Council, the schools as well. With British Rowing qualified coaches operating within the framework of the UK Coaching Council we will be able to offer a safe and rewarding experience to the local community. We have already opened discussions with Active Schools, 70th Greenock Scout Troop and Clydeview Academy.

Two weeks ago we hosted an experience weekend for the newly formed Rollicking Rowing Club, from Lochgilphead. With the help of Club members we were able to accommodate 10 teacher, pupils and parents over the weekend and give them two days rowing. I expect we will repeat this form of weekend again as there are a number of clubs forming in Argyll and Ayrshire that will welcome the opportunity to spend time at Royal West to get a feel for rowing as a competitive and a leisure activity.

We are also about to host the first UKCC Level 2 fixed seat rowing coaches course ever held in Scotland. This is taking place in the Clubhouse during the day the weekend after next and the one following that. It is being tutored by two coaches from Welsh Rowing, who have very kindly given up part of their Easter holidays to provide the course. There are 9 members of other Scottish Coastal Rowing Association affiliated clubs attending.

As well as the regattas we plan to attend round Scotland & Ireland this year we also have our own regatta on the 2nd & 3rd of June. This coincides with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and we are going to appropriately mark the event here. The Club has also been asked by the SCRA to organize its first National Championships, we are in early discussions with Castle Semple Rowing Club and Clyde Muirshiel Park with a view to running the event at Castle Semple Loch in October.

The Club has been asked by the Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, our President's Uncle, to represent the county in the Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the Thames on 3rd June. We have been asked to provide a boat and part of the crew. Castle Semple is providing the minibus and rest of the crew, as the only other rowing club in the county. In preparation for this trip Whiteforeland is being scraped down ready for varnishing. There is a small work party on it but they would welcome any willing hands over the coming weeks. Please see Paddy, Norman or Ian.

At a national level Ian Clark represents the West of Scotland on the management committee of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association and I am the Association's Training & Development officer. We have seen a great resurgence in fixed seat rowing across the country and are just as keen to see that same growth at Royal West. By assisting towns and clubs on the West Coast we hope to develop growth locally through exchange of information, good spirited local competition and expeditions.

I trust you are happy with the work we have done in the last twelve months and the plans we have for development within the Club in the coming twelve.

Comments:

- Jim Ford expressed thanks to Adam on behalf of the rowing section.
- Ullapool will be hosting the inaugural World St. Ayles Skiff Championships.
- Keith Clague asked about plans to develop rowing locally with a view to encouraging new members into the club. Adam explained the club's plans to develop in a steady and controlled manner.

Paddle Sports Convener's Report

Once again paddle sports have had a very successful year.

There were 1289 kayak excursions logged in the signing out book, this number does not take into account the evening club session when due to pressure of number, the numbers taking part were not entered in the book, plus weekend paddling by country members and multiday trips,

Over 50 paying temporary memberships were taken out by people trying paddle sports in 2011.

12 of these temporary memberships took out full membership of the club, mixed between ordinary and family. 5 of the new members purchased their own sea kayaks which are stored in the private kayak shed.

The coaching of junior members of the club in paddle sports has been very successful. On most Monday evenings throughout the season 3 groups of junior have been coached, approximately 18-20 juniors per night. This is primarily down to the hard work of Julia Darby, Joe Dow, and George Mc Callum. Adult paddlers have attended well over the season on Monday and Tuesday evening with many night every available club kayaks and canoes on the water at the height of the season.

2 coaches gained their UKCC Level 1 coaching qualification, no mean feat considering that prior to attending the 4 day training course they require to pass the BCU 2 star skills test, foundation safety and rescue qualification and hold a current first aid qualification.

One coach attended a 4 star sea leaders training course in Skye in early April and successfully passed her 4 star leader assessment in the summer. Well done Julia

1 coach attended a disability paddle sports awareness course.

4 members attended a tidal rough water sea handling course in the spring at Cuan sound.

3 members attend a tidal race paddling course in the Falls or Laura during the summer.

George McCallum completed in the round Kerrera sea kayak race and was the 3 traditional sea kayak home.

The adult coaching sessions have primarily been lead by myself and Lewis Smith and assisted by Keith Clague. Lewis arrange a number of weekend coaching sessions leading towards the required skill for the BCU 3 star Sea skills award, plus a number of combined advanced trip to tidal areas on the West coast to increase members experience.

Active Coaches in 2011

Dave Marquis

Lewis Smith

Keith Clague

Joe Dow

Julia Darby

George McCallum

Paddling activity at weekends has again been strong with groups of paddlers independently paddling in small groups from the club and further afield throughout the year, there is no closed season for competent paddlers!

Behind the scenes a number of members need to be thanked.

Maggi Blair for her help with the junior paddlers.

Keith Clague for the excellent paddle rack for club paddles.

Forbes Scott for assisting with the maintenance of club equipment.

Pat Johnson for opening the bar on a Monday evening April till October.

Andy and Sue White kids end of season BBQ and presentation along with Maggie Blair.

Alan Mortimer for providing medals for all the junior paddlers and Quaichs awarded to adults members for services to paddle sports.

Notable events 2011

Clyde Swim again paddle sport provided safety cover for the swimmers.

Oban sea kayak demo day.

The juniors end of season paddle BBQ and presentation.

Adult paddlers curry night and awards of Endeavour achievement and services to the club.

The arrival of Baby Max congratulation to Lewis and Magda

New Equipment purchased in 2011 from the club paddle sports budget and the sale of 5 club GRP sea kayaks

2 LV RM Atlantic sea kayaks

1 Canadian Canoe

4 Canadian paddles

1 junior sit on top kayak

1 junior sea kayak

1 double sea kayak

5 junior paddles

Sea Expeditions undertaken 2011 by club members

St Kilda

Turkey

Majorca

Numerous trips in and around the Clyde and the Cowal peninsular

West Coast trips

Coirebhreacain

Grey dogs

Cuan sound

Kerrera

Skye

Dorus Mor

Scarba

Luing

Jura

Ailsa Craig (aborted)

Arran

Garvelloch Islands

Summer isles

Some members have been attending informal pool session at Dunoon swimming pool.

PROBLEMS FACED BY PADDLE SPORTS IN 2012

Lack of storage space in the private kayak shed there are only 2 places left on the racking system.

The success of the junior coach session may mean we are unable to accept any junior temporary or new juniors, including new junior family members in the coming season. The number of juniors we can cope with will be dependent on the number of coaches who volunteer to coach juniors this season. One has already indicated that they will not be available to coach juniors this season.

We may have to restrict the numbers dependant on coach availability.

The problem could be compounded if any of the active qualified coaches resign from the club or are unavailable.

Proposed budget spend for 2011

1 new Atlantic RM LV
1 junior sea kayak
10 junior buoyancy aids
4 adult Buoyancy aid
1 expedition flare pack

Comments:

- Pat Johnston asked whether members should provide their own buoyancy aid. Dave Marquis replied that the club tradition is to provide suitable equipment for new paddlers.

Sailing Convener's Report

2011 was a successful season despite the weather washing out chunks of the schedule. The Albacore regatta was a successful event in June 2011 and the Prizegiving evening in November was most enjoyable.

The Albacore Regatta for June 2012 has been postponed because of a clash of dates, it is hoped that it can be rescheduled later in the year. Wednesday evening sailing starts Wed 18/4, beach clean and hut move on Saturday 14/4.

No comments.

Rescue Boat Convener's Report

No report. The boat has not yet been serviced.

No comments.

Beach Convener's Report

Andrew Taylor reported that we now have a slip suitable for almost all states of tide. The January storm gave the beach a severe pounding, much of the surface has been stripped.

No comments.

House Convener's Report

In the absence of a House Convener, Norman Campbell reported that there were several items requiring immediate attention: the stairs to the front door are sagging, the turret on the corner above the bar needs tying in, the balcony doors need replacing, the balcony stairs need replacing and the gable end of the repair shed requires attention.

Insurance is being pursued regarding the roof. The roofer has been to assess but has yet to submit a quote. The loss adjuster did a walk round and took pictures but did not carry out a survey.

Comments:

- Keith Clague asked whether funding could be sought for works, this will be investigated.
- Jim Ford asked whether any quotes were available for the works outlined, we are awaiting a quote for the balcony doors. Norman will obtain quotes for the entry and balcony stairs.

Bar Convener's Report

The financial situation with the bar was slightly muddled last year due to an error in the application of the club's standard bar percentages and this prevented better results being achieved. You will note from the year's accounts that the bar all but broke even, showing only a nominal profit.

To resolve this situation the Committee has looked in depth at the whole bar perspective, costs, percentages, labour etc. And have overhauled the whole package to ensure that this year the optimum benefit to the club will be achieved. Now the mark-up percentages are in place and being maintained at their appropriate level in relation to our purchase expenditure, we are confident that this coming year will show a realistic profit in relation to the bar usage we achieve.

No comments.

Subscription Convener's Report

We have 255 members, consisting of 72 Ordinary, 14 Family, 41 Life, 13 Juniors, 7 Country, 33 Associates, 53 Hon Life & 22 Juniors named in Family memberships. During the year we had 38 people used the Temp membership scheme to try out water sports for a month. Some of whom transferred to full membership of the Club.

We had 22 people resign last year and 24 joined. We also had 3 defaulters who did not formally resign.

In total we raised £ 24,385.75 in subscription. This was down £ 1,229.25 on the figure budgeted for subs this year, but up £ 79.50 on that raised in 2010-11.

A folder at the signing out book containing Temp membership forms and envelopes. Can conveners and coaches please make sure the forms are filled in and then either slipped through the door or left behind the bar at night for the Subs convener to deal with.

The renewal & application forms have had to be extended to include a separate form for those members who wish to be registered with SCA. This section of the forms is self explanatory and should only be filled in and signed by those wishing to be registered with SCA.

No comments.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the financial report and talked it through.

Comments:

- Jim Ford queried the figure for sale of boats. Pat will look into the records and liaise with Dave Marquis. An explanation will be posted on the club notice board.

Adoption of Accounts to 31st January 2012

Proposed by Norman Campbell, seconded by Gordon McKenzie.

Adoption of Proposed Budget for 2012-13

Paddy Rodden asked for a clear definition of Family Membership. The Subs Convener read back the Constitutional description.

ö4.10 **Family Members** are members of the same family; Spouses, civil partners and cohabitants over the age of 18, their children and / or children for whom they are legally responsible between the ages of 8 and 18. Adults shall be Ordinary Members and shall be entitled to take part in the management of the Club. All those under age 18 must be under appropriate adult or family supervision at all times.ö

Following discussion of the budget, the figures were adopted on a motion proposed by Ian Clark and seconded by Norman Campbell.

There was no counter proposal.

Election of Committee and Office Bearers

Three Committee members co-opted during the year, Billy Carroll, Norman Campbell and Steve McQueen were proposed by Adam Graham and seconded by Andrew Taylor.

From the body of the meeting the following members were elected unopposed

Alex Paterson
Keith Clague

There were no further nominations

Andrew Taylor, stepping down as Vice President proposed Alistair Black for Vice President, seconded by Adam Graham.

Hon. Secretary: Alistair Black proposed Adam Graham for Hon. Secretary, seconded by Jim Ford.

Hon. Treasurer: Alistair Black proposed Heather Scott for Hon. Treasurer, seconded by Norman Campbell.

There were no further nominations

Alistair Black welcomed the new members onto committee and thanked Andrew Taylor and Pat Johnston for their work on behalf of the club.

AOCB

1. 200 Club. The monthly fee for the 200 Club has never been reviewed and is still £1. Alistair Black proposed that the monthly fee be increased to £5, seconded by Pat Johnston.
2. Paddy Rodden intimated that Colin Campbell the boatman has Parkinson's and may soon have to retire from the post. Paddy proposed that when Colin does retire he be awarded Honorary Membership. Seconded by unanimous acclaim.
3. Paddy received a telephone enquiry from a relative of Birdie Bowers regarding a Birdie Bowers Memorial Dinner. There are no plans to hold one at present. It was intimated by the Hon. Sec. that respects were paid to Birdie Bowers on Wed 28th March by crews rowing the Club skiffs Chippy McNish and Birdie Bowers. They rowed past his former home with lowered flags.
4. Alex Paterson noted that the AGM was held on the exact centenary of the death of Birdie Bowers and proposed that Honorary Membership be bestowed posthumously on Henry (Birdie) Bowers and Henry (Chippy) McNish. Seconded by Dave Marquis.
5. Tom Mackay asked whether the club had made itself known to the producers of TV drama Waterloo Road, now being filmed nearby. Norman Campbell replied that he has already spoken with the location director who is looking for a location for a canoe-based storyline. Development of this relationship will be investigated.

There being no further business the meeting concluded with the best wishes for the coming season from the VP and a vote of thanks to the Chairman from Paddy Rodden.