

RWSABC
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 30th March 2017

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

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Duncan Graham
Stewart Bates
Ewen Chisholm
Gordon McKenzie
George McCallum
Colin Campbell

In attendance:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Alex Paterson | Life |
| 2. Adam Graham | Family |
| 3. Alistair Black | Ordinary |
| 4. Robert Todd | Life |
| 5. Ian Clark | Ordinary |
| 6. Rose Sloan | Ordinary |
| 7. Paul Edgar | Ordinary |
| 8. George Carson | Life |
| 9. George Carson Snr | Life |
| 10. Willie Bell | Ordinary |
| 11. Shelagh Holt | Ordinary |
| 12. Tom Mackay | Life |
| 13. Joe Heffernan | Ordinary |
| 14. Jim Ford | Ordinary |
| 15. Calum Ford | Ordinary |
| 16. Liz McMahon | Ordinary |
| 17. John Bruce | Ordinary |
| 18. Lynn Morison | Ordinary |
| 19. Karen Graham | Family |
| 20. Marie Paterson | Ordinary |
| 21. Tom Kater | Ordinary |
| 22. Jess McInnes | Ordinary |
| 23. Colin West | Ordinary |
| 24. Geoff Orr | Ordinary |
| 25. Heather Scott | Ordinary |
| 26. Mat Henderson | Hon. Life |
| 27. Allan Cadenhead | Ordinary |
| 28. Richard Will | Ordinary |
| 29. Paddy Rodden | Life |
| 30. Robert Pickett | Ordinary |
| 31. Andrew Tayler | Life |
| 32. John Gow | Life |
| 33. Norman Campbell | Life |
| 34. Billy Carroll | Ordinary |
| 35. Richard Downie | Life |
| 36. Robert Robertson | Ordinary |
| 37. Unknown signature | Ordinary |

Adoption of minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were adopted on a proposal by *Jim Ford*, seconded by *Paul Edgar*

Vice President's Report

Before we go on to club business I want to note the sad passing of Honorary Life member Bill Mathews and Past Hon. Secretary Dr Kelso Wright, both Bill and Kelso had long associations with the club and were active in participants and supporters of our club... our condolences have been passed onto both families.

Paddy Rodden intimated the passing of Wilson McCulloch during the year as well.

It's been an extremely busy 12 months for the management committee and I hope that members have enjoyed the events which have taken place both on and off the water last year.

At the start of last year we set ourselves a challenging and ambitious programme of events to mark our 150th year as befitting a very special time for our club. This was actually quite a daunting prospect and there were a few sleepless nights I'm sure.

On reflection the feedback from members and guests who attend those events has been extremely positive. I believe that the events and activities last year ranging from George's solo 100K Kayak trip right through to the civic reception, club birthday, culminating in the ball highlighted what can be achieved with drive, support from the membership and determination.

None of the activities last year could have been carried out without the support of what I believe to be a truly forward thinking and enthusiastic group of members, sub group participants and volunteers. It's thanks to everyone who helped in some way that we had one of the most memorable years and a fitting way to mark the 150th milestone in our club history.

Our initial investment in time and energies to foster positive relations with the developers next door is starting to reap dividends for the club; we should be seeing the installation of the new boat shed on the beach in the next few months. The longer term benefits hopefully will be seen once people start moving into their new building.

We still benefit from the mast income but as you can see the mast is now in place marking the end of the golden goose...

There were number of operational objectives we focused on in the last 12 months.

- Restructuring of bar administrative systems and finances (*In relation to projected increasing costs*)
- Upgrading of our fire and electrical *systems (to ensure H&S and insurance compliance)*
- Growth in income and membership

We have reviewed and restructured bar administrative costs and invested in chip and pin technology which has been used well, our bar convener can talk in more about that detail about that.

We were looking to improve our broadband and internet capabilities which I'm glad to say has also been achieved thanks to significant effort of George McCallum our club Captain and IT specialist.

Upgrading of the fire systems and general health and safety functions of the club, Jim can talk to those.

There are a few people who merit our thanks and acknowledgement for their support and efforts over the last year.

Paul Edgar for being pivotal in generating the structure and enthusiasm within the Kayak discipline for the last few years, Paul stood down as coach and committee member last year but remains a strong support within all of the water sports disciplines.

Our house convener Jim Ford, Jim's operational experience in health and safety and facilities management and the fact the Jim has installed the fire system in his own time and at a far reduced cost, Jim's input and knowledge has been invaluable.

Tom McKay's second book on the Royal West history was published just before Christmas; we also need to acknowledge a generous contribution from a member towards the publishing of Tom's book. Again all proceeds of book sales go directly to club funds.

And again thanks to **Norman Campbell** who has taken on that task of getting another Pair ready for the season.

I hope that we can reflect on what we as members have achieved in the last 12 months and carry forward a momentum to build on what I believe to have been a very successful year.

Captain of Boats' Report

No report

Rowing Convenor's Report

The Opening Cruise 2016 to Roseneath was made in fine weather, and we enjoyed the welcome and facilities of the Roseneath Caravan Park. The Closing Cruise, in contrast was a dismal event. Whiteforeland, which had not been used for more than five months was leaking heavily. Since we had several novices on board, we decided to make land at the end of the Esplanade, and seek warm food at the Esplanade Café. Kayakers continued further up the river . We returned to the Clubhouse later.

The first race of the year the Bellringers Raid from Annan to Boness on Solway was also marred by bad weather. One skiff, the Troon boat was hit by two very large waves in succession and capsized. The support boats were quick to pick up the crew, take them on board, and take the boat home to Annan. All was on film to see. The remaining boats arrived safely, but one of the support boats had engine problems and had to be taken in tow. The organisers decided to abandon the race, and boats and crews returned by road. It is worth noting that conditions were difficult. A strong (F4/F5) NW wind blowing against a rising tide caused short steep waves. The need for good support was clearly justified.

This is the first time a boat has capsized during a race to my knowledge.

At the Troon Regatta in June, where we normally enjoy some success, we were unable to win as a club, though several individuals took part in composite crews and won races.

There was no race from Arisaig to Tarbet this year, at the Viking Festival. (Bob the Viking and Ian Clark were hoping for a hat trick). Sadly this did not happen.

During the Grand Aquatic Extrravaganza, there was fierce rowing between rowers old and new. Pairs, sixteens, and skiffs, a Graham family 4 against all comers gave an exciting race. The other disciplines also enjoyed a boisterous outing.

At the North Berwick Regatta, our pickings were slim, two rowers from RWSABC, in a composite crew for over 40's came in second to win a silver gannet, thanks to some very fine steering by a lady cox from Port Seaton.

The final event of the year was held, as traditional, on a freshwater loch, this time Loch Tummel. Once again, sadly we returned home without any prizes, but had a wonderful day on the Loch.

How is rowing developing in RWSABC?

We have about 5 people out of 9 who have carried on as rowers since last year, and who participate regularly in training and competitions. Although 2016 was disappointing in many ways, it was a busy year thanks to the preparations for the 150th Celebrations. This year we have already started to make plans, and

hope to take part in 12/13 events in the SCRA Calendar, and we have a pool of 18/19 people from whom we can choose.

I made an analysis of the number of outings in rowing boats. It was as follows:

Nos 15 and 16	87	(77)
Skiffs	28	(24)
Zebra	8	(9)
Whiteforeland	5	(6)
No.10	19	(2)
Miscellaneous	7	(13)
Grand Total	156	(145) => 7.5%!!!!

Total Skiffs+Zebra+Whiteforeland+No.10 2016 41 2017 60
That suggests to me that rowing in crews is healthy and growing.

RWSABC is a unique Club, as well as a great history, we also have a healthy selection of kinds of rowing: Seniors – Rowing on Long Rows, The Saturday Morning Social Rowers, Racers in St Ayles Skiffs, and our very own Iron man, Colin Campbell, rowing in 16's. No other Club in the SCRA has this.

Maintaining our boats

We still have a problem to find someone who will maintain our boats, and repair them when necessary. Mega, no Giga thanks must go to Norman Campbell and Paddy Rodden who have put a huge effort into making the pairs and 16's usable. We plan to have Zebra refurbished by GalGael, using funds set aside for this. We will keep looking for a more permanent solution.

PS

Look out for races on the Clyde on September 23rd from Castle to Crane, and 24th the Glasgow Cup.

Paddle Sports Convener's Report

Paul Edgar a Scottish Canoe Association Level 3 Coach was convener for the kayaking group for over 3 years. Paul stood down midway through last year. During Paul's period as convener, the kayaking discipline grew and develop. We would like to thank Paul for this hard work and dedication and look forward to him coaching the new members to the club in the coming season.

Last year could be summed up as "same as, same-as but with a slight twist".

We continue to have somewhere in the region of 40 to 50 active paddlers. Slight change of emphasis towards the safety side last year. We held two excellent first aid courses, run by Phil Jones of First Aid Matters, who is also a Boat Club member. With 23 first aiders, covering all disciplines within the club, if you are planning an accident the Boat Club is a good place to have it.

3 Level 3 coaches who let their qualifications lapse, renewed them after attending a Coaching Matters meeting run by the SCA at the Boat Club. We are very grateful to Robert Todd, Matt McElroy and Colin Campbell for renewing their coaching qualification. We are also grateful to Robert Pickett, Lindsay Dowd and Allan Cadenhead for completing their SCA Foundation Safety and Rescue qualification.

The safety aspect continued with the talks organised and managed by Tom Kater. There were excellent talks by both boat club members and external speakers. I would like to thank everyone involved with the talks. I am already looking forward to next winter talks – especially the talk on cooking – delicious sample of cloutie dumpling provided.

Again on the safety aspect, we held the normal winter pool sessions. We are again grateful to Inverclyde Leisure, the Waterfront. For the first time we used this to introduce complete beginners to kayaking. We also used the pool to practice deep water rescues. Both activities have been considered a success.

A number of notable events last year:

1. One member of the club completed a 100Km paddle in a single day (62 miles)
2. Held the Tail o' the Bank race with over 30 participants from all over Scotland and the North of England.
3. Weekend trips to:
 - a. Cuan Sound
 - b. Loch Etive
 - c. Bute
4. Erskine Bridge to the Boat Club with over 30 paddlers
5. Continued with the New Year Dip (for the swimmers) where they swam 2 km along the Esplanade – and back.
6. Held many 1 day paddles from the Boat Club to various destinations.

We hope to run the above events again this year but substitute the traditional Clyde Swim for George's epic paddle. Like to thank all those who organised and took part in the events.

Looking ahead. We applied and were accepted as a Scottish Canoe Association Focus Club. This is a joint partnership between the SCA and the Boat Club. The SCA will provide dedicated support to help us develop, grow and promote canoeing in the West of Scotland.

We are aiming to grow membership in all disciplines but are aware we need to be careful to comply with Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) guidelines. This aspect will take some time.

How are we going to grow Boat Club membership? We have already Vimeo videos made by the Greenock Drone man with music by our own Lesley MacLaren and extra footage by a number of club members. We continue to promote the club and club activities through Facebook, the club website and email. Already a number of really good suggestions and ideas on how to develop and grow Boat Club membership have been put forward. It's going to be an interesting and busy year.

Sailing Convener's Report

No report

Open Water Swimming Report

The first full season of Open Water Swimming at RWSABC was in the 13-14 season. This makes this year the 4th full year that Open Water Swimming was offered at RWSABC.

Organised Open Water Swimming takes place on Thursday and Friday evenings. The first organised session was on 21 April and the last one was on 9 September which was 40 opportunities for swimming. On most evenings there were 4 to 6 swimmers. We held 4 "Open" swimming sessions on Friday's where members of public were invited along to come along to the club and either try Open Water Swimming for the first time or to reacquaint themselves with it. These sessions were well attended with around 25 swimmers: I have reviewed the book where club member's "book out" and I have counted around 300 swims between April 2016 and March 2017. During the 2015-16 season the equivalent number was around 200.

I maintain a list of swimmers who have expressed an interest in Open Water Swimming at RWSABC. Currently there are 125 names on this list.

On Saturday 11 June there was a swimming event as part of the Grand Aquatic Extravaganza. Twenty three (23) swimmers participated in this event and they did 2 loops around a course which was along The Esplanade. I hope this will become an annual event. The fastest swimmer was Vincent Hutchinson with a time of 22:07, the fastest women was Michelle Ashworth at 31:16 the last swimmer completed the event in 51:10.

There was no Clyde Swim from Kilcreggan to the Boat Club in the summer of 2016. It is expected that this event will be reinstated for 2017.

On New Year's Day there was a swim at the Boat Club. It was attended by 26 swimmers, some went in for just a dip but others did "proper" swims.

I consider that this season has been successful. My main regrets are that I did not organise a Clyde Swim and that we have very few new full members joining to take up Open Water Swimming. Almost all full members participating in Open Water Swimming were members before Open Water Swimming was offered at RWSABC.

I envisage the 2017 season being organised in similar way to the previous seasons.

I thank all the other committee members for their assistance and support in my fourth season as convenor.

Beach & Rescue Boat Convener's Report

Beach tidy's – the beach tidy's have been successful with good numbers attending them. Most recent was the 5th Feb before the Inspection of Boats. There will be more beach tidy's this year when the weather is better and I hope that there will be good numbers like last year to make sure everything is in order.

Container to be moved- The container that is on the beach will be moved this year to allow Room for the New shed that is going to be put in

New Shed- There will be a new shed being put on the beach by Ogilvie's in replace of the container. This shed will have power going to it that my father (Jim) and I will put in place. The contents of the new Shed will be discussed by the comity.

Slipways – The slipways have been a problem over the winter due to the weather, however the power washer I have been using may be too weak and I will organise getting the stronger one off of Jonny Bruce that should get the job done faster and better as it will be more efficient.

Al Black advised that the slipway is completely dry at the low tides

Rubbish on the Beach- Rubbish is always going to be a Problem as we are at the end of the esplanade and in a bay so all the rubbish floats and lays on our beach and stays there. We just have to stay on top of this as we don't want all the small rubbish to build up to make the beach look like a mess however, we seem to be on top of that at the moment.

Boats to be Rearranged – some of the boats that are on the beach have been there a long time and may be time that we look to rearrange them so that we can possibly make more room down there. There will be plenty of notice if any changes will be made

Plants on balcony this is a good idea as it adds a nice touch to the club for people that walk by and I feel we should continue to do this. Just need to remember to water them.

Social Convener's Report

150 Celebrations: It has been a busy year socially at the club with the 150 celebration events being a major part of it. The Ball and the Grand Aquatic Extravaganza were hugely successful and well done to all who took part in organising those events.

The Boat Club Acoustic Sessions continue to be popular and it is great to see members and friends coming along to listen and support us. NOT just folk music. ... we have everything from Quo through the Beatles and Bowie. So come along and listen or sing or play an instrument.

As in previous years, more boat club session players joined the club in 2016 and I know more intend to do this year. So it is good to see the sessions bringing new blood into the club.

Broomberry Drive: Played 60's and 70's music in their 3rd visit to the club last year. This event gave us a small profit and £1300 was taken at the bar on that day.

They are playing again on the 22nd April and tickets are available at £6 from the bar. There will be support acts from members of the club including me and one of my friends and a band consisting of Gavin Stewart, Al Black, and Tom Kater.

The Beacon: I ran monthly sessions at the Bistro from February until September. The Beacon donated £1200 to us for our sessions and they either have donated or plan to donate a further £400. It is intended to restart Beacon Session at some point this year.

Bridge of Weir Senior Citizen's Club: A member of the club heard us at the Beacon and asked us to do a session for them. I offered to play for free as they are pensioners but was told they normally give £50 to their entertainers. They loved us so much they gave me £75 for the club and want us back this year.

The Ten Gallon Bratz: Played to a full house again in 2016 and provided us with healthy bar takings. I expect to have them play again this year as they sell out with a couple of weeks of releasing the tickets.

Tasting Events: During 2016 we held a Whisky Tasting Night and a Gin Tasting Night. In February we held a Fizzy Wine Tasting night. These have proved to be fun and informative, as well as tasty. Such has been the success that I will be arranging a Rum Tasting evening later this year. And maybe fit in another whisky / gin tasting too.

John Graham, Jim Jack & Friends: Returned to the club having played in 2015. Again tickets sold out very quickly and a fun night was had on the 18th of this month to a capacity crowd. The band gave the club a £60 donation.

Hopefully these events have boosted the vitality of the club. They have certainly brought us some additional income, additional members and helped with the bar takings for the year.

I plan to do a Club fundraiser this year, using the talented members we have in the club. I hope as many of you as can will come along to support that event and or/ donate a raffle prize.

I am in discussion regarding putting on a 60's disco and if successful I would hope to then do a 70's disco.

Alex Paterson emphasized the effort that George puts into organizing these events

Bar Convener's Report

There's been a number of changes to our bar structure in both staffing and running costs last year in an effort to look at efficiencies, the operational review has resulted in reduced running costs which is positive, we have re structured how staff are paid and are mindful of the implications of increased minimum wage and pension costs going forward.

Staff changes - Barbara is leaving us at the end of April and moving to Australia to be with family. Kyra also left to pursue a career in midwifery which resulted in Emma joining the team; we have another new staff member Hannah in the wings ready to take on Barbara's shifts.

The installation of the chip and pin along with a more reliable broadband has been a good addition to our payment facilities and is working well.

The bar has been busier and it seems we are attracting applications for functions by the general public, this is also thanks to George Carson's efforts around social functions at the club, we are mindful that we need to keep a close eye on what we agree too in relation to functions so as not to jeopardize our license and club facilities.

What's next ? The beer store chillier is on its way out and will need to be replaced, the cost will probably be offset by the profit made by the bar this year.

We also want to change the display cabinet's and bring them up to date.

We continue to look at getting a better deal from our suppliers and will be looking to improve on what we currently offer behind the bar this year.

House Convener's Report

It has been another busy year but I hope everyone can see the positive improvements to the club I would like to thank all the club members who have given their time freely to achieve this, this has saved the club a substantial amount of money and allowed much more to be done within our tight budget

The mast revenue has given us an opportunity to deal with some long standing issues and Compliance, unfortunately this will be ending this year but we have built up reserves which I will be putting to good use.

I can happily say that the club is now full compliant with all current codes and you may well not see all these improvements but as a club they are vital.

A new fire alarm, new emergency exit lighting, new external lighting, 5yr fixed wiring testing, PAT, Gas safe certificates, New security alarm and monitoring are a few of the items.

The action list to track and prioritise the spend is working well and we can now target other fabric issues such as the rear wall and ladies changing room waterproofing.

The new shed on the beach is another welcome bonus to the club and I will make sure we have water and power to get the most from this new resource

I would like to ask for your further support in this very important year for the club to make sure it continues to be the best it can be and we all do what we can to help maintain and promote the Club

Lynn Morrison asked when the works to the Ladies changing rooms were planned for. Jim explained that the order had been placed with the roofing contractors and we were awaiting the removal of the fence by Ogilvies before this could commence. Jim gave an assurance that the programme of works would be posted on the noticeboard ahead of time.

Jim carried out our annual fire alarm test at this point so that the members in attendance knew what to expect in the event of a fire.

Subscription Convener's Report

Membership has increased throughout the 2016/17 season and currently stands at 242.

This takes account of all lost and new members.

Lost members; As previously mentioned 5 Honorary life members passed away

5 members resigned by letter.

8 resigned by default.

New members; 23 ordinary, 7 Associate, 2 ordinary /family, 2 junior /family

1 reinstated honorary life member.

As you can gather this represents a net increase in membership of 7.

Temporary membership.

This continued to be popular last season with 27 individuals taking advantage of what is very good value for money. 13 of those transferred to full membership.

Breakdown of current membership; 88 ordinary, 50 Honorary life members, 1 Honorary member, 38 Life members, 5 Ordinary family members, 1 Ordinary life family member 5 Junior family members, 1 Student member, 49 Associate members, 1 Honorary President, 1 Country member, 2 Honorary members (post.)

The gender breakdown of this is 200 males and 42 female members. The numbers of female members have increased in the last few years. I would expect the trend to continue.

Membership cards

These will be distributed in the same way as last year, at the bar, following payment of subscriptions.

As you are aware subscriptions are due in April. There are a flexible range of payment methods. However, I would request that all members complete a renewal form irrespective of method of payment. This ensure that I am aware of your payment and saves time sending out unnecessary letters and emails.

As per the constitution the names of any member who has not paid their subs by the 1st of June can be posted on the notice board. I have no wish to do this so would respectfully request that members pay their subs promptly, complete all paperwork and ensure that they identify themselves to their payment. If any member has difficulty, please approach a member of the committee.

Tom Mackay asked about the option to pay subs in monthly installments across the whole year. Was advised that this was open to abuse and required a higher degree of supervision by the Subs Convener & Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

Heather talked through the accounts and asked for any questions.

Paddy Rodden questioned the significant increase in the deposit account balance when compared with last year. Heather explained that we had planned a higher level of spending on the House in 2016-17 than we had time to organise. We have deferred the spend until 2017-18 so the money is sitting in the deposit account.

Paddy Rodden questioned the lower than expected utilities costs. Heather explained that with new boiler & heating, also updating of some of the electrics and negotiations with the suppliers, we have managed to reduce our costs.

Adoption of Accounts to 31st January 2017

Proposed by *Robert Robertson*, seconded by *Mat Henderson*

Proposed Budget for 2017-18

Heather talked through the proposal

Robert Robertson asked if the recent re-valuations carried out across Scotland would impact on our rateable value going forward, had this been taken into account in this budget. Adam replied that he had checked and our rateable value was not going to change.

Adoption of Proposed Budget for 2017-18

Budgets formally proposed by *Al Black* and seconded by *Robert Robertson*

Election of Office Bearers & Committee

In line with the requirements of the Constitution the Office Bearers stepped down.

Vice-President A. Paterson sought re-election

Hon. Secretary A. Graham sought re-election

Hon. Treasurer H. Scott sought re-election

All three were proposed by *Mat Henderson* and seconded by *George Carson*

There was no counter proposal this was carried by the meeting

Ian Clark stepped down from Committee and the VP thanked him for work in the last few years.

The following members volunteered for Committee at the meeting or by contacting Hon Sec

1. Karen Graham - Proposed by *Alex Paterson*, seconded by *Jim Ford*
2. Willie Bell - Proposed *Tom Mackay*, seconded by *Allan Cadenhead*

There being no other vacancies or volunteers these appointments were accepted.

AOCB

In recognition of his work to promote Inverclyde and Royal West the VP proposed that Lord Lieutenant Guy Clark be elected an Honorary Member of Royal West. This was seconded by *Norman Campbell* and approved by the meeting.

The VP made an appeal for volunteers to work with him to look at funding streams for Club development projects.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 21:11

Alistair Black proposed a Vote of Thanks to the Chair that was seconded by public acclamation.