

**Seil Coastal Rowing Club
4th Annual General Meeting 5th December 2016 6:30pm Tigh an Truish**

Draft Minutes

Present:

Convenor -Sue Fenton, Treasurer-Louise Wilson, Nick Bowles, Ray Norris, Mary Norris, David Glennie, Helen Glennie, George Houston, Alan Coutts, Caroline Morgan, George MacKenzie.

Apologies:

James Fenton, Sue Turner, Ray Turner, George Hannah, Sarah Wilson, Gus Wallace, Jan Fraser.

1. Minutes of 2015 AGM

These minutes were read by those attending and were approved without amendment.

Proposed: George Houston

Seconded: Mary Norris

2. Matters Arising

Nick Bowles asked if the oars had been repaired, Sue Fenton confirmed that they had been repaired by Ewan Kennedy.

Sue Fenton raised the matter of Qualified First Aiders for the Club. These could be on a list for when Regattas were held. George Houston, Nick Bowles and James Fenton are all Qualified First Aiders, and hold a current First Aid Certificate.

3. Convenor's Report:

In March, Seil hosted cox training for the Argyll clubs, which was run by the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association. 16 people attended, three from Seil, in Easdale and Seil Halls and on the water. Thank you to those club members who hosted visiting rowers and coaches. Six members successfully took their RYA VHF radio qualification at the Puffin Dive Centre. March also saw a beach clean along the Sound, following a row. The skiff was eventually successfully registered with the Coastguard 66 scheme, after more than a year offline.

Our regular outings have taken place from Balvicar Boatyard, and I would like to record the club's grateful thanks to Mike and Morag for allowing us to row from there.

We held our third Regatta in June, circumnavigating the island with the help of a bagpiper in the support boat. Three visiting skiffs attended – Pittenweem, Mull and Luig. Fisarakah Creations provided the buffet before the ceilidh, and a pay bar was operated. Ewan and Neil kindly did the honours with the music, aided by Seil Sound.

In July, we met Mark Beaumont at the head of the Sound, as part of the Wild About Argyll promotion. We rowed back down to Balvicar with a cameraman on board (sometimes sitting on the cox's lap), and then enjoyed seeing some photographs at Mark's lecture in the Corran Halls the following week.

We hosted potential rowers from Fort William in February, and went to Lochaber Coastal Rowing in October with Selkie for try a row sessions. They will be building this winter. Selkie also travelled to Iona, where a skiff build will also be taking place this winter. The Saturday saw us, and the two Mull skiffs, take what seemed like hundreds of people out for a try-a-row. On the Sunday, we had a glorious row down to St Columba's Bay and across to Tinker's Hole on Erraid. We saved the ferry fare by rowing across to Iona and back from Mull!

We were invited to Kilmelford for fun races in September, and surprised ourselves by winning one! An excellent BBQ, under cover, made up for the torrential rain.

Four members of the club travelled to Loch Tummel for the SCRA Freshwater Sprints in October, run on a regional basis. The Northwest region had rowers from Mull, Islay, Uist, Lewis, Orkney, Doune, Helmsdale, Ullapool and Kinlochbervie as well as Seil.

Thanks to James for putting a tow bar on his car, and for towing Selkie, which made all these adventures possible.

Seil didn't have a crew for the World Championships in Northern Ireland this time, but Sue went anyway and got a row with the USA composite team in the ladies over 60 category, reaching the final.

Louise expertly mended the skiff cover, and concocted 'rabbit ears' for the thole pins, which makes it sit much better. James mended the tiller, lighting board (several times!), rubbing strip, launching trolley & road trailer and made a new stroke footplate. Allan & Gordon mended the break-back. John Ferris continues to turn thole pins out of old kitchen worktop. Gus very kindly donated new seats, including one for the cox, which make long distance rows seem more appealing and has banished the dreaded rowbot. The bespoke seats were made by Owen Sails and have been much admired. Nick did sterling work behind the SCENES maintaining the website and booking system. Ewan repaired the oar blades in the autumn. All this willing help helps to keep the membership costs down, and to keep the skiff on the water. Thanks to Jean Ainsley for inspecting our accounts once again.

And lastly, and most importantly, our grateful thanks go to Mike & Morag for allowing us to keep the skiff, at no charge, in Balvicar Boatyard.

Apart from emergency repairs, other routine maintenance has not yet been done, however, and is a priority for this winter – we are looking for somewhere warm and dry. Any ideas?

However, despite the highlights mentioned, there have been many bluebird days over the year when we have been unable to field a full crew and more keen rowers, and coxes, are needed, preferably ones without bus passes.

Sue Fenton also said the NCRA are proposing regattas especially for young people.

George Houston asked if Oban had finished their skiff build at MRC. Sue Fenton said that they are nearly finished but had been given extra time until January to complete the build and find suitable alternative storage for her. Selkie's trailer will then be used to move her to her new location.

Sue Fenton said that with Iona, Fort William, Lochaline and Oban building there were 143 skiffs now made, Selkie being number 44.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Accounts for 2015 -2016 were circulated by Louise Wilson. The Accounting year runs from 1st November to 31st October.

Total Income £2,026.56.

Total Expenditure £1,480.28

Cash at Bank £2,039.18

Income came from Subscriptions and proceeds from the Ceildh, clothing and beach clean.

Expenditure accumulated from Insurance and SCRA membership, boat maintenance, ceildh costs, ferry transport costs of Selkie to Iona Skiff build launch, and clothing.

Louise said there was less income from subscriptions this year as there were fewer members than last year.

Sue Turner has been added as a cheque book signatory so there are now three people available to complete the two required at any one time.

Louise said that cash was better than cheques as there was no Co-Op bank in Oban any more. Helen Glennie asked if the club funds could be held by a bank that was in Oban. Sue Fenton and Louise Wilson said they will look at the Clydsdale Bank and TSB to see if they are more user friendly for small Charitable groups such as the Seil Coastal Rowing Club. George Houston said Clydsdale Bank is used by other local groups. Thought was also given to on-line banking.

Accounts 2015 - 2016

Proposed: George MacKenzie

Seconded: Ray Norris

5. Setting of Membership Fees

Louise said subscription fees could remain at £10:00 per annum.

Proposed: David Glennie

Seconded: Mary Norris

6. Election of Officers

The Convenor, Treasurer, and Secretary stood down and then were re-elected to continue in office for the 2016 to 2017 year.

Convenor: Sue Fenton. Treasurer: Louise Wilson. Secretary: Sue Turner.

Proposed by Nick Bowles

Seconded by David Glennie

7. Management Committee

The Management Committee members willing to re-stand were James Fenton, Ewan Kennedy and Gus Wallace. All will continue in office.

Proposed by Mary Norris

Seconded by Nick Bowles

8. Regattas 2017

Sue Fenton said that the SCR website had details of forthcoming Regattas including one in Holland. The next world championships would be in three years time.

The Seil Coastal Rowing Event for 2017 was thought to be one that could involve more members of the community. This would be better than a Regatta. Louise Wilson suggested a Triathlon type event with rowing, cycling and running. This was thought to be a different, promising and an idea with potential.

Caroline Morgan suggested events in which children could take part, like a fun run.

Sue Fenton to talk to Kim and with Ken Jones as to how a triathlon involving Selkie could materialise. This could involve Luig and Easdale as well as Seil.

Social Rowing could also be considered with groups rowing to other islands.

Nick Bowles thought that there were not enough people involved in Seil Coastal Rowing, it was noted that it was not as family orientated as other clubs as there were fewer young people available to take part.

9. Winter Maintenance

Ewan Kennedy has been able to mend the damaged blades to the oars by cutting and sanding. They have been repainted but will need further paint treatment over winter.

Ewan had also offered to make a set of new oars. It was felt that the current oars should not be lengthened but that a new set could be produced.

The SCRA have given £1,000.00 for the cost of design of a standard oar, which will be longer and with a spooned blade (design by Ullapool, Australia and Ewan). Selkie will be one of the boats to try them out. Ewan will make them. The cost for each oar will be £50.00 (£200.00 per set)

The standardising of oars will be better for everyone. The level playing field and common denominator for all, as with the design of the St Ayles Skiff itself.

The use of thole pins was thought to be better for younger people.

Unanimous vote decision made by all present to try the new longer oars.

Selkie is in need of re-painting as there are areas of bare wood now showing. New paint will need to be obtained. Selkie will need to be housed in dry conditions to dry out prior to repainting. Also the temperature will need to be warm enough for the paint to cure properly.

Selkie is 22 feet long. George MacKenzie and Allan Coutts both offered to check the lengths they have available for internal boat storage. Louise Wilson mentioned there is a barn at Clachan Farm, but did not know whom to approach. Nick Hunter has a barn available and has previously offered it for use. It was agreed to see if George or Allan could accommodate Selkie for winter repairs, and then approach Nick if needed.

A work party will need to be organised for repair work when Selkie is in 'dry dock'.

10. Any Other Business

Nick Bowles apologised for the website fall-overs. This is in part due to spam problems with a forum and spam sign ups. A delete and reset up would need to be undertaken to remove the spam.

Sue Fenton said she was not worried how the site looked, just that it continued to work.

George Houston asked if the 'log in' button be at the top of the page not at the bottom. Nick said he could do this.

Mary Norris said to use e-mail when the 'log in' on the website failed to work.

Sue Fenton said that set times for rowing, in theory, is a good idea, but that rowing can be weather dependant, and a having a set time then can be disadvantageous.

Mary Norris thanked Sue Fenton and Louise Wilson for all their continued hard work.

11. The meeting closed at 7:30pm

Helen Glennie
Minutes Secretary
6th December 2016