

Isle of Seil Coastal Rowing Club Convenor's Report 2022

It was good to start the year with our AGM at a Burns Supper in The Oyster Bar. The year was characterised by very strong winds, which put pay to a lot of rowing throughout the year. Outings were put up for calmer days on an ad hoc basis, but many were cancelled because of a lack of rowers. However, we did manage to entertain some rowers from other clubs.

A crew took part in the international 5 Miles from Home Challenge In April, rowing to Degnish Point and back, one of the few 50+ female teams. We beat our time from last year, and didn't come last (!). Also in April, a crew rowed *Selkie* from Linnhe Marine in company with the Appin Community Skiff Project's *Nellie G* to the launch of the Glencoe skiff, *Corrag*. A tough row taking four hours to the Holly Tree pontoons, where we enjoyed a meal together and a bed for the night. The next day we rowed from Kentallen to Glencoe, under the Ballachullish Bridge, and took folk out for try-a-rows.

Selkie was moved to her bespoke 'boathouse' - between the twin hulls of the salvaged ferry *Ostrea* in the boatyard. A tight squeeze, but negates the use of the cover, and a long haul up the yard.

April was a busy month, with Sue umpiring at the Loch Awe Adventure for 12 skiffs from all over Scotland.

The gunwhales were painted with hard-wearing Toplac, to spruce up the skiff for a wedding, in which *Selkie* was to be used to transport the bride to the reception. Unfortunately, in the event it was way too windy and crew was stood down.

The club had a litter pick by skiff, on the east shore of Balvicar Bay, with a good haul of rubbish. The heavy mussel farm ropes were collected later by the Fentons in their wee dinghy. The club was awarded £100 by the GRAB Trust (Staycation Litter Grants) for this effort, so a win-win all round.

The Scottish Coastal Rowing Association's tenth anniversary film was shown on the new community cinema equipment during the Scarecrow Festival in July. *Selkie* migrated to the Hall pond and offered try-a-rows to try and generate some new members. Ten boat loads, including seasoned hands. The skiff was kept down at the hall for a couple of weeks, and it was good to launch from Ellenabeich for a change of scene. The row back to base through the Cuan took place on a perfect summer evening - a very rare occurrence this year.

Thanks to James for towing the skiff, to Claire for coxing when the Fentons were away in the Arctic, Mary for taking control of Spond in our absence, and the accounts, and to Jean for scrutinising them. It would be great to get more folk willing to cox.

Let us hope for some better weather for our tenth anniversary year in 2023, and some more keen rowers. Ideas please for celebrations in May!

Sue Fenton
November 2022