

Isle of Seil Coastal Rowing Club
Draft Minutes March 8 2024
Seil Island Hall @1930

Present: Trudi, James, Ewan, Ros, Carol, Mary F, Jan, Alice, Gerard, Annie, Alison, Sue, Mary, Laura

Apologies: Claire, Janice, Jean, Julie, Clare, Ann, Lindsey

Convenors Report

This AGM was rescheduled as a funeral party wanted to use the hall on the same day. According to our constitution, at least 21 days notice must be given of the date of the AGM, hence this meeting tonight.

2023 began with a successful club Burns Supper, which gave a chance to review the past ten years of *Selkie* as well as being a good social event to bring the members together on dry land. Thanks to all who piped, played the piano, catered, served, decorated the tables and came along.

The club's AGM in February was attended by Emma of Scottish Charity Air Ambulance, also celebrating its tenth anniversary. A raffle and collection took place after her informative and thought-provoking talk.

The high tide at the Spring equinox floated Selkie out from under the Ostrea, our boathouse; luckily with no damage. Similarly high tides in September meant that we could almost row straight under the Ostrea on returning from our outing, but accessed it from the rear instead!

Boat maintenance took place in Rose's shed - almost rowin, rowout - in April and May, in preparation for the birthday celebrations. Thank you, Rose! Ewan then revarnished the oars in July. Ann kindly replaced our first aid kit. Thanks to all who helped.

Rowing conditions have varied a lot this year, with many outings cancelled because of strong winds, or lack of crews. Some of the best conditions were found in February, and in May, which luckily coincided with the tenth anniversary of Selkie's launch. We circumnavigated Seil in two legs with two crews, joined by skiffs from Appin, Glencoe and Loch Awe. The Puffer provided a picnic on Easdale Island, and we met at the Oyster Bar for a celebration meal in the evening. Ewan and Sue, two of the original crew and builders, rowed around Seil. Fiona made a superb birthday cake for *Selkie* which we shared, and Jan made oyster medals for everyone. Amazingly, the tides and weather cooperated for our anniversary.

A long awaited expedition to Gylen Castle on Kerrera, and the tea room, also took place on a sunny Bank Holiday Monday in June.

There was no grant available for beach cleaning this year. However, we undertook a beach clean as part of the Coronation Big Help Out, and also noted large items on a map for the Scottish Coastal Cleanup crew, whose large boat was able to remove it all later in the summer. Our cleanup of the Ballachuan shore still remains to be undertaken.

The club ran a try-a-row session at the Scarecrow Festival in windy conditions; unfortunately it resulted in very few donations for the hall, but several new rowers were recruited.

5 Miles from Home, the international time trial, was run by Welsh Sea Rowing this year. Unfortunately, the time window coincided for the most part with Storm Agnes, and we were not able to take part, the first time since the inauguration of this virtual global challenge. The only weather window was dedicated to brand-new rowers and a very successful tabletop sale as part of the British Legion Sale.

Our convenor travelled to Achnamara on Loch Sween, to help instruct and cox a new club.

Edith, a Wemyss skiff, owned by the secretary of the SCRA, was borrowed for the winter from the Fort William club, who had been rowing her whilst building their skiff. This is rowed by one or two people, with or without a cox so may help when we can't get a full crew for *Selkie*.

The annual plea for more people willing and able to cox! Our regular cox 'retired' after nine years - our thanks to James for always being relied on to sit in the cold and wet whilst the rest of us get our exercise.

For interest, our facebook page now has 681+ followers.

Treasurer's Report 2022/23

Thanks to Jean Ainsley for scrutinising the finished accounts. The club finished the year £600+ better than the previous year which was due to a £500 grant and three fundraising events; the The Burns Supper cleared £89; £118 from the raffle at the 10th birthday celebrations and £122 from the sales table at the British Legion Sale. Other income was from memberships and donations. The club has 23 members presently, some non-rowing. Our main expenses include boatyard gifts at Christmas, costs of paint, insurance, web page and hosting. Since the accounts were completed, a major overhaul of the road trailer cost £335. The current balance is £1930.10

Following discussion, it was decided not to renew the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association subscription this year. The club membership fee was set at £10 *per annum* once again, and that it would be increased, or fundraising would occur, if required. The fee to Nick for the club webpage and hosting was approved, to preserve valuable heritage photographs of *Selkie's* build.

Events

Various events are planned for 2024, involving trailing to Fort William and Oban, all weather permitting, and added to Spond. Attention was drawn to the showing of *Tarrac* at Seil Community Cinema in April, fixed seat rowing in Ireland.

Election of Officers

Mary N agreed to continue in post as treasurer; she was thanked by the convenor. After ten years as convenor, Sue stood down, having given advanced notice at last year's AGM. There was no great rush to step in; Sue said that the role could be split into various parts and produced a 'job description.'

There being no further competent business, Alice proposed a vote of thanks to Sue, and the SCRA 10th anniversary film, *'More than Just a Boat'* was screened (with adverts!), helped along with wine and nibbles.

Meeting closed 1955.

Minutes taken by James, and interpreted by Sue