

SCRA AGM 2017 Minutes

Loch Tummel Sailing Club

28th October 2017

Attendees

Rowporty, Royal West, St Ayles (Anstruther), Avoch, Deveron, Glasgow, Eskmuthe, Boatie Blest, Renegade, Wormit, Carrick, Troon, St. Andrews, Pittenweem, Isle of Seil Girvan, FOCCR, Kinghorn, Dunbar, Cumbrae, Eastern ARC, North Berwick, Nith, Crail, Bunnillidh, Stranraer, Cullen Sea School, Portsoy, Findhorn, Catterline, Queensferry, Broughty Ferry, Newhaven, Burghead, Ullapool

Apologies

Loch Broom SC
Blakeney
Langstone Cutters

Minutes of the 2016 AGM

The Minutes from the 2016 AGM have been published and available for scrutiny.
The Minutes were adopted by consensus.

Matters Arising from 2016 Minutes

Nil noted

Treasurer's Report

Accounts published and available on-line at the SCRA website as at 30th September 2017
60 Member Clubs for 2016-2017

Fees to be set at £60 per club and £40 where the club has fewer than 20 members –
Approved

Convener's Report

One of the highlights of the year has been the entries to the Cruising Log Award and all five entries are highly commended. A number of different media were used and we were unable to separate the joint winners – An Eathar and Queensferry QQQs. Representatives were presented with the award which would be shared.

What Do the SCRA Do?

We are the Class Association Worldwide, set the Rules and encourage use of St Ayles Skiffs and are guardians of the integrity and joy of the class.

We promote Coastal rowing throughout Scotland and at this stage we must mention the Shetland Yoal Association

We are an association of member clubs and we rely on the co-operation and enthusiasm of the Clubs.

It is fantastic news that we have 60 member clubs, at the first regatta there were 6 clubs.

So we welcome new people and clubs and there seems to be no stopping the growth of the association. There are clubs being formed and in various stages of building including Nairn , Lossiemouth, Aberfeldy and Stranraer and Elie are due to receive a skiff. Call upon members to welcome these new clubs ad their members.

This year, outwith the actual rowing, we have been engaged on 2 major tasks – the oar review and the location of Skiffieworlds 2019.

We have maintained and developed contacts with the following outside bodies:-
Convener and Secretary both attend the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism. This is an excellent forum for coastal communications

The Secretary attends meetings of the Forth Ports Small harbours Group and all Clubs are urged to contact similar harbour groups within their regions.

Clydeport – contact and liaison with regards to organising the Castle to Crane 2017

Scottish Rowing – we have lodged a request with Scottish rowing that they amend their Rules of Racing SR 8.3 – last heard they were not willing to change this rule but were in discussion with British Rowing on the topic.

However it has proved difficult to meet with Scottish Rowing and they are not actually willing to meet to manage any changes,

Local Events – this is the most important aspect of what we do and is a means of making full use of the boats. However we are keen to ensure that SCRA does not affect negatively on local events and as a result will continue to plan event like Castle to Crane avoiding the main summer season.

We have now seen occasional where there two regattas on on the same day.

Other Innovations

This past year saw the start of a Youth Series of Regattas split into a Northern and Southern Circuit and this has extended the opportunities for Youth Rowers as previously there was usually only one or two events suitable at some regattas. We hoped to get 6 races/events for Junior Crews and would be delighted to welcome clubs willing to organise these 6 regattas.

It is hoped that a similar series will be in place for the coming year.

International events – some clubs were able to travel to Holland and enjoy the most generous and hospitable hosts at Woudrichem – for some it is easier driving to Woudrichem than Loch Tummel.

The Dutch are going through a funding process and it is hoped that 21 villages will each have a skiff in the near future. It is good to see another country developing.

Castle to Crane – was a lot of work for a lot of people and the huge efforts put in by Royal West, Glasgow and SCRA Committee must be acknowledged and many thanks go to Ben at g Galgael.

This was followed by more racing on the Sunday - a great event and it was good to see Welsh Longboats, Cornish Pilot Gigs and Irish Curraghs.

75 boats took part – the same as entered the first Great River Race (Thames) it was a lot of hard work including for those taking part and IF there is a 2018 event then hopefully we see the same boats but with different crews to “enjoy” the experience.

Training

3 SCRA Cox Training Events

Umpire Training – course took place here yesterday – we hope everyone enjoyed – we strive to improve umpiring regattas – good for those trained to officiate at other clubs regattas.

We are looking for input from the Clubs on how we might continue to develop training to clubs and we have discussed in committee the possibility of having some sort of Club Development Day on Spring 2018 – please submit any topics to the SCRA Secretary.

Issue Safety Notices

Thanks to those who took the trouble to fill in Incident reports and submit them – useful to share the learnings with others.

The Committee discuss each incident and where appropriate issue Safety Notices.

We are not here to apportion blame but to learn from any incident and distribute that learning,

In closing – do consider how many ways we can use these boats – the Cruising Log is a fine example – it is not just a racing boat – and it is good that we can share knowledge.

Election of Officers and Committee

A nomination has been for Shona Muirhead to join the committee and to publicly thank Richard Wemyss who is standing down.

The current committee are willing to stay on and this was affirmed by the assembled members.

Rowing The Waves – an update on this project was given to members prior to the AGM by Professor Nina Laurie and Jen Remnant.

Printed copies were made available.

Skiffeworlds 2019

Skiffeworlds 2019 are going to be held in 1 of 3 places and we are engaged on an ongoing process at the 3 different venues and any one of these will we are sure will do an excellent world championships.

Delegations making visits starting in November – we hope to make a choice around Christmas and we hope to make an announcement shortly thereafter.

Oars Group Report

This report and its findings were published online in advance of the AGM.

At the AGM of 2016, a vote tasked the committee to investigate Oars and Oarlocks with a view to adopted a standard design and a Survey on Survey Monkey was carried out which is resulted in the majority in favour of wooden oars and the main advantages of wooden oars are that they are cheap, simple and easy to make.

The Oars Group measured a lot of oars and assessed them to a number of criteria. The option of shaped blades was tried out but it was discovered that flat blades are as good for our type of rowing.

Two good designs were found for oar shafts and oar locks (details of these published in the report), and resulted in finding a design for a better balanced oar.

In conclusion it was decided that No change was required to be made to the Rules as they stand and although removable plastic pins proved effective for long term wear – timber pins continue to be required for racing

Topher Dawson (Treasurer) who led the Oar Group thanked all who had contributed and it was great to work with such a committed group of people.

The Convener passed on the assembled groups thanks for all the work done in examining this issue.

Any Other Business

Racing Incidents

A link has been placed on the SCRA Website to recently published Safety Notices which contains advice on a compendium of incidents and request that Club Representatives share these with their club.

The meeting closed with thanks at 18:27hrs