

Chair Report AGM 2026

I can hardly believe it is a year since I took up this post because it seems to have passed so quickly. Part of that I am certain is because we have a committee who work well together and who have a wide range of skills and knowledge, so my first and foremost thanks are to them for their diligence in coping with everything from roller doors, fire alarm test schedules, affiliation documents and encroaching sandbanks at the harbour mouth, our agenda is nothing if not diverse.

Our year started with the challenges of the World Championships and it was a delight to see our club so well represented and to achieve such good results. The flip side of a Worlds year is that there are not so many other regattas to compete in but hopefully this year will offer more chances to compete and to share the social life of our sport with other clubs. Aside from competition we have had several social events and these have been a good chance for us to get together as a club and get to know one another better. We continue to have a good number of people to have a go at coastal rowing so there is a constant influx of new people coming into the club. However as more people want to row, we need more people confident to cox the boat. We have moved forward with that and had another cox's course and opportunities for those who wish to cox to develop their skills, but the committee are ever aware that this is something we need to continue to monitor through the year ahead. One of the particular tasks for this year has been what an affiliation with others watersports in Nairn might look like. We have had many conversations among ourselves and with the sailing club and the kayak club, and it is now at this point that we need to decide whether we wish to take this forward into the coming year.

What of the year ahead - we plan for a Regatta of our own in 2027 and we will start looking at potential dates very soon. We also have a couple of events planned for this summer and you may also have ideas to share. Relationships with others who enjoy being on the sea and changing and developing through affiliation and also an invitation from Inverness Rowing Club to be involved in their Outreach Program. All of this is in early stages but we will keep you informed of progress through the newsletter.

In conclusion, on behalf of all the members of the club, I want to thank the members of the Committee, the Bosuns and all those who look after the boats, boatshed and equipment; all who help with the newsletter and our online presence and publicity. Those who help with coxing and training and those who have helped with social events and health and safety advice; also everyone who co-ordinates and supports the "come and try" sessions which bring new members into the club. Thanks also to the Bowling Club and to the Sailing Club for hosting us for our indoor events. We are all indebted to everyone who helps to me keep the show on the road so we can all enjoy being out on the water - Thank you to you all.