

Nairn Costal Rowing Club AGM 2021

22 March 2021

Virtual/Zoom

Attendees: Berny Welsh; Bob Ferenth, Sally Ward, Bill Wright, Martin Lugg, Neil Munro, Kay Young, Jimmy Young, John Farquhar, Robbie Gordon, Mairi Ryan, Kate Ashton, Kay MacDonald, Stella Mathieson, Gail Duff, Sandy Kirkwood.

Chairs report (Berny)

This reviewed the year and looked ahead. Covid restrictions meant that rowing was only permitted for six of the last twelve months, however a considerable amount of rowing was done in this time. This is evidenced by the figures from the rowing records, which show a significant increase in the number of boats going out each month compared to last year. After finding ourselves homeless for some weeks over the Summer the Kayak Club generously allowed us to house the boats in their compound again. The coming year will be an exciting one as we have raised enough money to fund the building of a boat shed and meeting room at the harbour; this has been very much due to the hard work and perseverance of Bob in making and chasing grant applications and the huge amount of ground work done by Bill over the last two years.

Once Covid restrictions ease and we are able to row again, it will be important to ensure that rowing aimed at competition (regattas, racing, training) and non-competitive rowing (whether short rows dolphin spotting or adventurous journeys locally or further afield) are both facilitated equally by the club. We hope that some regattas will be take place this Summer, and in 2022 the Club plans to attend the World Skiff championships in the Netherlands. Supporting and developing the growing group of coxes is also a priority for us. A presence at the harbour should help us bring in new members; we need to think about how to attract younger rowers to the sport.

Financial Report (Ian Addison)

Ian took us through the club accounts from the last 12 months, a copy of which had previously been sent to club members to look at.

Membership fees

Membership fees were discussed by the meeting, particularly in the context of the restrictions on rowing last year due to Covid which are currently still in place. It was agreed to keep individual membership to £40 annually. Given the importance of attracting young rowers, under 26 years olds will have a reduced fee of £20 and non-rowing members £10. Membership fees for this year are now due.

Boat House Build Update. (Bob Ferenth)

The Davison Trust have just committed over £28.000 to the club. This, together with other grants, allows the build to go ahead. Planning permission has been approved by Highland Council and after a meeting of the Trustees on 17th March it was agreed to go ahead with a steel structure built by Grampian Steel Structures. A Building Warrant is still required which will take approximately two months but should not present a problem. The lease of the land should take place shortly. It is

anticipated ground works should start in June with a completion approximately a month later. The dimensions of the Boat House will be 10 by 5 metres and will be built on two levels and include a Club meeting room, dimensions 5 by 4 metres.

The Boat House will allow us to get both boat under cover side by side and allow boat maintenance to be carried out.

Planning permission specifies that the building should be painted blue which will match the colours of the nearby Sundancer Restaurant.

The annual rental cost for the site will be £180.00 which will be a reduction from that we are currently paying the Kayak Club.

Overall, if everything goes to plan and there are no unforeseen expenses, the Building should be completed within the money the club now has available.

Election of Office Bearers

Trustees : The following trustees were re-elected.

Berny Welsh
Neil Munro
Ian Addison
Bob Ferenth
Greg Sparrow
Robbie Gordon
Bill Wright
Sally Ward

Valerie Wareham was appointed as a Trustee
Matt Hilton was stood down as a Trustee.

Club Chair	Berny Welsh.....Re elected
Club Secretary	Neil Munro.....Re elected
Treasurer	Ian Addison.....Re elected
Membership Secretary	Ian standing downPosition Vacant.
Bosun	Bob Ferenth / Robbie GordonRe Elected.
Trainer	Bob Gordon.....Re Elected
Rowing Chair	Gail Duff standing down.....Position will be re evaluated
Safety Officers	Martin Lugg / Greg Sparrow re elected. Sally Ward elected.
Website/ Social Med	Sally Wardre elected to website Kay MacDonald.....elected to social media; Elaine McPhail standing down
Club Welfare Officer	Kay Young.....re elected
Social Team	Mari Ryan/Cleo Welsh re elected/ Kay MacDonald elected

Regatta Co-Ordinators.: John Farquar.....Re-Elected
Stella Mathieson ...Elected
Gail Duff.....Elected

Bosun's Report.

Work has continued on making offset footrests on both boats.
Dulsie to be painted in shed in Sailing Club in the coming weeks.

AOCB Meeting structure: while Covid restrictions continue and unable to go rowing, Sally will continue to arrange alternate week Monday evening catch up meetings on Zoom. Once a rowing date is set and approaches the weekly Virtual Coxes meeting on a Monday will be restarted; these were found to be a good way of organising rows, agreeing coxes and sharing information last year.

Berny hopes to have a business/committee meeting with the office bearers on a regular basis (possibly every month) where progress on the different areas of work can be reviewed/discussed. It may take some time to work out what form of meeting best serves the Club at this stage

The meeting finished at 2020 hours