

Scottish Rowing
AGM – 10th of October 2021
 Zoom – 1.30pm

Welcome

Martin Claxton (MC) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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Accreditation

- 18 Clubs represented at the meeting/22 individual votes
- Two Proxy votes from one club received.

Club	Name	Name
Aberdeen Boat Club	Dan Davidson	
Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association		
Aberdeen University Boat Club	Emily Carruthers	
Castle Semple Rowing Club	Eleanor Inglis	Colin Young
Clyde Amateur Rowing Club	Grant Ross	
Clydesdale Amateur Rowing Club	Ken Diamond	
Deeside Scullers Club	Ronald Wallace	
Dundee University Boat Club	Henri Greenbaum	
Edinburgh University Boat Club	Euan Dickerson	
George Heriots School RC		
George Watson's College Rowing Club		
Glasgow Rowing Club	Ann Black	
Glasgow Schools Rowing Club SCIO		
Glasgow University Boat Club	Charlotte Avery	
Heart of Scotland Boat Club		
Heriot Watt University Boat Club		
Inverness Rowing Club	Robert Gordon	
Loch Lomond Rowing Club	Andrew Mortimer	Nicholas Ryal
Nithsdale Amateur Rowing Club		
Robert Gordon University Boat Club	Sarah Cameron	
St Andrew Boat Club	Neil MacFarlane	Lindsay Flockhart
Stirling Rowing Club	Graeme Duff	
Stirling University Boat Club		
Strathclyde Park Rowing Club	Laura Graham	Allie Ord

	Strathclyde University Boat Club	Dan Lowry	
	Tay Rowing Club	Chris Smith	
	The Glasgow Academy		
	University of St Andrews Boat Club		
	BOARD		
	Board	Martin Claxton	
	Board	Caroline Parker	
	Board	Dorothy Roberts	
	Board	Alistair Neill	
	Board	Matthew Taylor	
	OBSERVERS		
	Amanda Cobb – Scottish Rowing COO	Lee Boucher – Scottish Rowing Head of Performance Pathway	Carol Ann Ellis – Scottish Rowing Administrator & Minute Taker
	Ben Thomas – Mi-Voice (voting system)	Andrew Laird – Strathclyde University Boat Club	
2	<u>Notice of Meeting</u>		
	It was agreed by Members represented that the Notice of Meeting was in order.		
3	<u>Apologies</u>		
	Apologies were received from:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Morrison – Honorary Vice President • Charlotte MacBeath – sportscotland Partnership Manager • Ken McCracken – JRD Partnership • Mike Morrice – Ex Scottish Rowing President • Sam Winton – Scottish Rowing Board Member • Dame Katherine Grainger – Honorary President 		
4	<u>Approval of Previous Minutes (Appendix 1)</u>		
	Papers previously circulated.		
	Minutes approved.		
5	<u>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</u>		
	No matters arising from previous minutes.		
6	<u>President's Report</u>		
	It was at the AGM in October 2009 that I was duly elected as a Board member and at that time Scottish Rowing was only just over 6 months old having made the transition from being the Scottish Amateur Rowing Association in Spring that year. There was a lot of work still to do in terms of building Scottish Rowing into a fit for purpose governing body. It needed a viable structure with governance arrangements that were robust,		

adequate and appropriate for a body that not only needed to meet the needs of its members but also was accountable for the public money being invested in the sport.

Over the last 12 years Scottish Rowing has by necessity evolved significantly from its proud amateur roots. With a strong core of a staff team led by Amanda Cobb since the inception of her post of Chief Operating Officer and with the support of a wide range of volunteers I am in no doubt that, as the governing body for the sport of rowing in Scotland, that body as a whole is now in rude health and very much pulling its weight.

We may be small in size compared to our colleagues south of the border but this year there was a record 8 Scottish athletes in the Team GB Olympic squad. This is testament to the fact that Scotland has the capability to deliver increasingly successful performance programmes. I will not dwell on the overall performance of the GB squad which is the subject of much ongoing scrutiny but just to place that performance in context; from the 10 GB crews at this year's Olympics, 8 qualified for medal finals with 6 fourth place finishes in addition to the 2 medal boats. So it was fine margins, the oft quoted "inches", between podium success and going home empty handed. But it was excellent to see Angus Groom and Harry Leask gaining silver with their first ever GB Olympic medals in the mens' quad.

Sport governance requires that Board members stand down after 12 years and so, quite rightly, it is time for me to do so. In doing so I'd like to extend my thanks to various people.

I mentioned volunteers. Virtually everything that takes place in rowing is enabled by volunteers. Coaches, boat fixers, club committees, trailer drivers, umpires, race marshals, regatta organisers, caterers, entry secretaries – and the rest. To all of you may I express my sincere gratitude for all that you do and have done that supports everyone from the hesitant beginner to the high performance GB athlete in waiting.

I also wish to thank Amanda and her team. When I look back at the wide range of initiatives and projects that the staff have not only identified but also enabled there is no doubt that without their imagination, sense of purpose and drive we would not have extended the reach and accessibility of rowing to the extent that we can now see. Amanda has led them with aplomb, decisiveness and professionalism throughout.

In the background and not necessarily evident to some members is the team at **sportscotland** and in particular my thanks go to the partnership managers who have played a key role in working with the Board and with Amanda to help us deliver the right outcomes for the sport.

Another volunteer group is the Board itself. It has been a delight to have the wide-ranging breadth of views and opinions presented by the current board membership. I would like to thank Elizabeth Mitchell for her engagement and the challenges she has set and wish her well as she too stands down from the Board.

I'll finish on this note. Last year I mentioned the opportunities that could be seized as we emerge from the pandemic and how we could shape the new normal. The importance of sport and recreation in supporting both physical and mental health has become much more widely recognised and rowing absolutely has a role to play in that. As the IOC looks to extending the reach of sport to wider sectors of the global population and with traditional Olympic sports being challenged to diversify, rowing

again has a role to play but it has to do it differently. Flat water 2K racing in fine boats may in the future no longer be the pinnacle of our sport as coastal and sprint race formats become more widely adopted.

I would encourage you all to take a fresh look at what rowing represents and how it is delivered. Whilst the human race is instinctively competitive, we also seem to have this innate attraction to water whether it to be on it, in it or indeed under it. The common thread is enjoyment so my challenge to you all be it at an individual, club or governing body level is to look to see what can be done to continue to make rowing an enjoyable and fun sport that is as accessible to as many people as possible.

7. Chief Operating Officers Report

What a year of contrasts 2020-21 has been. It is easy to look back on the last year and see only what we have missed out on as a sport, but there has also been much to celebrate.

It has been a long 18 months since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic for clubs and rowers but the resilience of clubs and the volunteers who run them has been amazing. The task of dealing with the changing restrictions and associated guidance has been immense, and club committees have stepped up to the challenge with diligence, common sense and seemingly endless reserves of energy. Particular thanks are due to those individuals who stepped up and took on the role of COVID officer for their club. While I know there have been frustrations along the way, we have worked hard to produce clear guidance and to ensure rowing was able to restart safely.

The impact on clubs cannot be understated. Rowing was limited to single sculling for a long period over the winter and travel restrictions meant some clubs were not able to get on the water even when rowing was permitted. The strain on the volunteers who run clubs also cannot be underestimated and it is clear that the last few months have taken their toll.

The impact on Scottish Rowing has also been significant. Scottish Rowing memberships fell to under 400 at the low point towards the end of the long winter of restrictions. However, as competition returned in the summer and clubs were able to get back on the water in crew boats (and even think about introducing new people to the sport), membership numbers have started to recover.

There have been some positives to come out of the pandemic too. We have worked more closely with colleagues from British and Welsh Rowing and that collaboration is continuing. More importantly, the move onto online communications platforms has improved our connectedness as a community and this is to be celebrated and built on.

During the long periods of restrictions, a range of activities and support such as the Winter Webinar series and the Winter League, was offered to clubs and members – even when we couldn't get on the water. Our aspiring athletes were supported through the winter by the work done by Lee Boucher to secure performance exemptions for training during lockdowns and the Scottish Rowing Centre was made available to a number of athletes on the GB pathway. As life started to open up, our attention turned to preparing for the return to rowing and a team of volunteers and staff drew up plans

for the restart of competition and a new suite of Learn To Row resources was produced and circulated to clubs.

For those athletes at the elite end of the sport, the delayed Tokyo Olympic Games brought a record number of Scottish selections and a silver medal for Harry Leask and Angus Groom in the men's quad.

All of this shows that there is much to be proud of as a sport, however, we need to be careful, as we focus on rebuilding and recovery, that we do not create new barriers and inequalities. While the use of technology removes the barriers of geography, not everyone has access to or is comfortable using it. Remote training, if not thoughtfully structured, can favour those with space and fitness equipment and many people, who were not comfortable single sculling in fine boats found themselves excluded from the sport for the want of more accessible equipment.

This year was an unexpected 5th year in our strategic cycle. We are currently in the process of looking ahead and developing our strategic plan for the next 3 years to March 2025 and there are three main themes emerging.

First, as we work together as a community to rebuild and recover, it is even more important that we understand and remove the barriers to participation in our sport. We have the opportunity to challenge what we do and why - to make sure our sport is open and appealing to a wide range of people. Increasing the reach of the sport is prominently and explicitly featured as one of our themes.

Next it is vital that Scottish Rowing and our community of clubs offer opportunities (or pathways) to keep people involved in the sport at whatever level is right for them. With the pandemic putting the importance of physical activity for both mental and physical wellbeing into sharp focus, we want to ensure rowing is playing its part. There is a need to do more to address the drop off at age 16 and when students graduate, and there is also a need to cater better for those entering the sport later in life. We lose too many people from the sport at these critical points.

Finally, it is member clubs that provide the places and opportunities for people to row and a strong network of healthy and resilient clubs will deliver a strong successful sport. A key to healthy and resilient clubs is good governance. Safety, safeguarding, good coaching and robust planning for the future are all vital components of a well-run club and we want to improve the support we provide to the club volunteers who take on these responsibilities.

This year has seen some changes to the staff team. I am delighted to welcome Kimberly Murray to the team as our new Coaching Futures coach. Kim has already made an impact through her involvement in shaping the recently launched Junior Academy programme.

Unfortunately, Adam Hardy, Competition and Events manager, left us for pastures new at the start of October 2021. I would like to thank Adam for the huge contribution he has made to the ongoing work on competition over the last four years.

Also stepping down is Martin Claxton, Scottish Rowing President. I would like to thank Martin, both personally and on behalf of Scottish Rowing, for his contribution and service to Scottish Rowing during his twelve years on the Board. I have enjoyed

	<p>working with Martin and will miss his calm, logical leadership, clear thinking and insight. Martin will continue to serve as the Home Nations Director on the Board of British Rowing until the end of his term in 2024.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to end my report with a few thanks. First, to our funding partners sportscotland for all their support throughout the pandemic. To the Scottish Rowing staff team for their continued enthusiasm and desire to make things happen despite all the many cancellations, last minute changes and setbacks as a result of COVID- 19. Thanks also to the Scottish Rowing Directors for their time, support and input this year and in particular to the strategic planning process. However, the biggest thanks as always go to all the volunteers throughout the sport who have worked so hard to deliver activities in difficult circumstances this year.</p>
8.	<p><u>Proposal of Scottish Rowing Membership fees for year ending March 2023</u></p> <p>Paper previously circulated.</p> <p>Ann Black, Glasgow RC, suggested waving the race licence for 3 months to reflect the fact that participants are not competing at the same regularity. AC advised that this has been considered and highlighted that a membership doesn't need to be taken out until someone is ready to compete and that there is also a non-competitive licence available at a lower fee. AC confirmed that this will be kept under review and reconsidered if circumstances change.</p> <p>Approved.</p>
9.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>AC presented slides to the meeting on the accounts which have previously been approved by the Board.</p> <p>9.1. Presentation of Accounts</p> <p>I. Scottish Rowing Report of Directors for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Appendix 2)</p> <p>Paper previously circulated</p> <p>II. Scottish Rowing Supplementary Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021 (Appendix 3)</p> <p>Paper previously circulated</p> <p>Robert Gordon (Inverness RC) enquired how much of the previous year's profit was due to COVID grants and if there would be any further funding received by SR. AC advised that roughly 50% of the profit was from grant funds and that there were no ongoing grants currently available.</p> <p><u>9.2. Proposal of Accountant</u></p> <p>It was proposed that SR continue with JRD Partnership for the preparation of its accounts.</p>

	JRD approved to continue as the Scottish Rowing accountant.
10.	<p><u>Election of Board Members</u></p> <p>Paper previously circulated.</p> <p><u>President – Caroline Parker</u></p> <p>Proposed by Castle Semple Rowing Club</p> <p>Approved.</p>
11.	<p><u>Other Competent Business</u></p> <p>Date of AGM 2021 The provisional date of the next AGM is 9th October 2022 and clubs will be consulted if this date is required to be amended.</p> <p>Areas to highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MC advised the meeting that Neil MacIver has been appointed as the new Finance Director. • Strategic Plan<ul style="list-style-type: none">- AC thanked everyone who took part in the Strategic Plan consultations.- Ron Wallace, Aberdeen BC, queried what the driving force was behind the coastal sculling taster sessions and MC advised it was FISA. Robert Gordon, Inverness RC, raised concerns over the safety implications to run such events and highlighted that this would be a prohibitor for some clubs. AC advised that it is very early days and a lot of work needs to be done over the next 12 months to build staff knowledge and skills with the aim to have people who know enough in a few years to offer support and guidance to clubs.