

Scottish Rowing
AGM – 13th of October 2019
 The Watersports Centre, 366 Hamilton Road, Motherwell

Welcome

Martin Claxton (MC) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1

Accreditation

Martin Claxton (MC) confirmed the following:

- 10 Clubs represented/18 individual votes
- No Proxy votes received

Club	Name	Name
Aberdeen Boat Club		
Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
Aberdeen University Boat Club		
Albyn School BC		
Castle Semple Rowing Club	Melanie Brander	Keith Robertson
Clyde Amateur Rowing Club	Sharon Coats	Grant Ross
Clydesdale Amateur Rowing Club	Stella Hawthorne	
Deeside Scullers Club		
Dundee University Boat Club		
Eden Boat Club		
Edinburgh University Boat Club	Dan Baillache	Ben Dickens
Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing Club		
George Heriots School RC		
George Watson's College Rowing Club		
Glasgow Rowing Club	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
Glasgow Schools Rowing Club	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
Glasgow University Boat Club		
Heriot Watt University Boat Club	Sam Archibald	Stuart Masson
Inverness Rowing Club	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
Loch Lomond Rowing Club	David Arnold	Jim Paton
Nithsdale Amateur Rowing Club	Alison Dunse	Liz Ashburn
Robert Gordon University Boat Club		
St Andrew Boat Club	Lindsay Flockhart	
St Andrews University Boat Club	Apologies Received	Apologies Received

	Stirling Rowing Club	Graeme Duff	Natalie Firth
	Stirling University Boat Club		
	Strathclyde Park Rowing Club	Ailie Ord	Laura Graham
	Strathclyde University Boat Club		
	Tay Rowing Club		
	The Glasgow Academy	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
	BOARD		
	Board	Martin Claxton	
	Board	Caroline Parker	
	Board	Alistair Neill	
	OBSERVERS		
	Amanda Cobb – Scottish Rowing COO	Caroline Parker – Scottish Rowing Board & Castle Semple RC	Kathryn Canniford – Dundee University BC
	Lee Boucher – Scottish Rowing Head of Performance Pathway	Alistair Neill – Scottish Rowing Board & Strathclyde Park RC	Colin Young – Castle Semple RC
	Adam Hardy – Scottish Rowing Competitions and Events Manager (East)	Fiona Rennie – Scottish Rowing Competition Strategy Group	Craig Twaddle – Strathclyde Park RC
	Jo Pinder – Scottish Rowing Member Services	Ken McCracken – JRD Accountants	Bob Neill – Scottish Schools RC
	Carol Ann Ellis – Scottish Rowing Administrator & Minute Taker	Elizabeth Briggs – Dundee University BC	
2	<u>Notice of Meeting</u>		
	It was agreed by Members represented that the Notice of Meeting was in order.		
3	<u>Apologies</u>		
	MC confirmed apologies were received from:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dame Katherine Grainger – Honorary President • Mike Morrice – Honorary Vice President • Peter Morrison – Honorary Vice President • Brian Snowden – Honorary Vice President • Dorothy Roberts – Director of Performance • Elizabeth Mitchell – Director of Sport Governance • Kevin Ferguson – sportscotland Partnership Manager • Neil MacFarlane – SR Race Control Commission • The Glasgow Academy Rowing Club • Glasgow Schools Rowing Council • University of St Andrews Boat Club • Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association • Inverness Rowing Club • Glasgow Rowing Club 		

4	<p><u>Approval of Previous Minutes (Appendix 1)</u> Papers previously circulated.</p> <p>Minutes approved.</p>
5	<p><u>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</u></p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
6	<p><u>President's Report</u></p> <p>I would like to start by recognising the many successes that Scottish rowers have achieved at World Championship level during the 2018-19 season. With six Scottish rowers in Olympic class boats at the World Championships in Linz, Austria they all delivered sterling performances that contributed to GB qualifying 10 out of 14 boats for next year's Olympics in Tokyo. Scottish U23s competing at Sarasota's World Championships delivered four Gold medals with outstanding performances that contributed to GB topping the table with a total of 6 Gold and 4 Silver medals. Highlights of these performances included Josh Armstrong becoming a three-times World Champion in the men's quad and Lucy Glover winning her fourth World medal claiming Gold in the women's quad. And our Juniors too have distinguished themselves with a total of eleven athletes representing GB in various competitions with medals being gained at the World Junior Championships, the Coupe de Jeunesse and at the GB/France match for Ju16s.</p> <p>And such a summary would not be complete without mention of the Scotland Rowing Team's historic performance here at the Park in this year's HIR. A great event that drew many positive comments from members of all the visiting countries and who sang the praises of the venue and in particular the local volunteers who were without exception applauded for their friendliness and helpful attitudes. And not forgetting the outcome, with three of the four team trophies being captured by Scotland, 16 individual race wins and the junior men triumphant in winning the team trophy for the first time in over a decade!</p> <p>None of this would be possible without the growing band of coaches, volunteers and support staff who, to put it simply, make it happen!</p> <p>Last year I reported on the changes taking place within the Scottish Rowing Centre. I hope that most if not all of you have seen the significant improvement that has been delivered in the quality and range of training equipment now available for all clubs to use. The transition to coach led activities has seen a few minor hiccups but in the main we are seeing a steady increase in utilisation and the loss of the permanent manning by North Lanarkshire Council has not caused too much of a headache. The disappointing aspect has been the fact that the rowing tank still remains out of commission due to a combination of operational and financial issues but once these are overcome then we will bring it back into service as soon as is reasonably practicable.</p> <p>My thanks go to the members of the re-branded SR Regatta Organising Committee who this year have brought us new events and new formats which have been part of a long overdue re-invigoration of the competition calendar. The Park itself has benefited from the legacy of the European Championships and this together with a different timing system has enabled us to deliver a better quality of SR run events. Alongside this though we continue to work closely with North Lanarkshire Council to try and offset</p>

the restrictions they are having to impose with their ever more demanding budget and we hope to have an answer soon to the issue of limited winter opening hours.

At a club level membership figures show a disappointing decline with overall a 2.5% drop for this year. Whilst 17 clubs have reported membership growth, 10 have declined and 2 remained static. The reasons are many and varied but accuracy of reporting has been an issue however one that hopefully has now been addressed. I would ask that clubs continue to make full use of the on line membership system which not only is a very useful tool for your own administration but also will become more significant with the intended roll out of an improved race entry system that will integrate with membership. It is important for us as a sport that in these days of diminishing budgets we can continue to demonstrate to SportScotland that rowing is still a vital and attractive activity.

I am most grateful for the continued support provided by my fellow Board members and we recently welcomed a new member Mr Mark Barry. Mark brings a wealth of experience in corporate finance and re-structuring and has filled the long vacant gap of Finance Director. As you will see from the AGM papers we also want to introduce a minor amendment to the board structure to help ensure that we are aware of and therefore able to address issues affecting all participant groups within our membership and the proposed amendment to our Articles will provide for this.

On the world stage FISA (the World Federation and international governing body for rowing) has been under growing pressure to look at alternatives to the traditional 2K fine boat racing and FISA's Olympic strategy now embraces coastal rowing. In addition, Indoor rowing has a very diverse population which extends far beyond our traditional on-water rowers. Indoor Competitions exist in many countries and, as the governing body for rowing, it was essential that FISA manage and control the World Championship titles. Until 2021, these Championships will be combined with existing competitions and will be run in partnership with Concept2 and it will be interesting to see how this aspect of our sport develops thereafter. Last year I mentioned that SR had become a member of the newly formed Commonwealth Rowing Association and since then FISA has now recognised the CRA as a member grouping and Scotland is represented on the CRA committee by our own Dot Roberts.

Many of you will be aware that a different form of coastal rowing in Scotland has flourished significantly in the past few years, not in the least due to the phenomenal success of the St Ayles skiffs and the establishment of many new coastal rowing clubs not only around Scotland but internationally as well. This is fixed seat rowing in classes of boat that are different in construction and crew numbers to the FISA recognised sliding seat coastal boats which form the basis of World Rowing coastal competitions such as that which took place on the Gold Coast and the recent beach sprint races. SR has been in dialogue with the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association (the Class Association for the St Ayles skiff) for almost a year now in order to identify how best we can work with each other and also to overcome what has become something of a sticking point regarding the application of the SR Rule of Racing relating to SR members taking part in events not run under SR's auspices.

In sum I firmly believe this has been a year of progress in many areas and SR remains in rude health despite the many challenges we face. As ever I am very grateful to Amanda Cobb and her team for the absolutely stalwart work they do in what is a very

demanding and busy environment; a small team but one that punches well above its weight.

Finally, a thank you to you the clubs and your members for contributing to our sport in so many ways. From the significant asset which is the army of volunteers and supporters that help you and help us, through to the athletes of all ages and abilities that gain so much from being involved. Let's continue to make it happen!

7. Chief Operating Officers Report

It doesn't seem like a year has passed since I last wrote my review of the year, as the staff team has been working hard in so many areas. The restructuring of the development team last year has given us an increased focus and I am excited about the progress that has been made.

We have been working for some time to articulate a pathway for rowing in Scotland and this picture is now informing much of the work we are doing around performance development, competition, coaching and club development. Hopefully you will start to see a consistency of language and a clarity in how the work we are doing fit in to this pathway.

There have been some changes within the staff team this year. Stevie Baxter, Workforce Development and North RDM left us in August. Andy Barton has taken over the lead for workforce and we are recruiting to fill the role of Club Support Manager. This appointment will have responsibility for implementing the recently launched Club Support Toolkit.

On the competition side, the Competition Strategy Group ("CSG"), supported by the Scottish Rowing Regatta Organising Committee ("SROC") have completed a review of Scottish Rowing run competitions and rebranded Strathclyde Park Regatta (now the Scottish Rowing Spring Regatta) and introduced some major changes to the Scottish Rowing Championships. The group is now looking at competition more widely, both in terms of the calendar and in how Scottish Rowing manages competition.

We have been working on a new Competition entry system to be launched imminently, which will provide a consistent experience when entering events. The ability to validate eligibility at the point of entry is a priority and our new system will do this.

Lee Boucher, Head of Performance Pathways, has built on the activities launched last year. The recruitment of three volunteer coaches to support the programme has enabled us to deliver more, better quality activities to help our young athletes reach their potential. We were delighted to be able to send a number of juniors to race in the Head of the River Race in March and Henley Women's Regatta in June with some excellent results.

We continue to see the impact of our University performance partnerships with some impressive results in terms of GB selections and U23 medals. However, there are clear signs that the performance development pipeline is strong. In July I had the privilege of watching the Scotland Rowing team's best ever performance in the Home International regatta.

The landscape for Scottish sport continues to evolve. The new **sportscotland** strategy #SportForLife recognises the wider value of sport with a new vision of "An active Scotland

where everyone benefits from sport". This is aligned to the Scottish Government's priorities for sport, one of which is a clear need to address the inequalities in sport. Scottish Rowing has two new projects, both of which are aimed at taking rowing into the community. The first is building on the work already started at Firhill to provide rowing opportunities to the local community while the second is running indoor and on water rowing activities for ASN schools in Lanarkshire. The success of these is dependent on us building strong long-term partnerships with funding bodies, local authority partners, schools, community groups, and other sports clubs.

The work to upgrade the training facilities in the Scottish Rowing Centre was completed early in 2019 and while it has been challenging time for the centre, we are starting to see increased interest from potential users. The Centre now plays an integral part in the Scottish Rowing events at Strathclyde Park, with the whole centre open to volunteers and participants. The ASN schools programme has benefitted from having a base to operate from, and the number of performance development activities run at the centre is increasing. The Scotland Rowing team also saw the benefits of having a high-quality training base in which to prepare for the Home International Regatta this summer. With interest from third party users also on the increase, weekend activity is strong. However, while the Centre is showing that it can be a valuable asset for the sport, it needs to be financially sustainable and the priority for the coming months is to grow the activity during the week.

I would like to end my report with a few thanks. First, to our funding partners **sportscotland** for their continued support both financial and in terms of knowledge and expertise and to the Scottish Rowing staff for all their hard work, commitment and passion for the sport. Thanks also to the Scottish Rowing Board of Directors, a dedicated group of volunteers whose hard work happens behind the scenes. Finally, it is people who make great clubs and great events and the sport would be nothing without the volunteers in clubs, on event committees, umpires and coaches who give their time throughout the year. Thank you!

8. Proposal of Special Resolutions – Amendments to Articles of Scottish Rowing

Paper previously circulated.

Article 13.1

Approved

Article 13.4

Approved

Article 13.6

Approved

Article 13.11

Approved

Article 13.15

Approved

The proposed changes will be made to the Articles of Association and a Special Resolution submitted to Companies House.

9.	<p><u>Proposal of Scottish Rowing Membership fees for year ending March 2021</u></p> <p>Paper previously circulated.</p> <p>Approved.</p>
10.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>AC presented the accounts to the meeting for information purposes. They have previously been approved by the Board.</p> <p>a. Presentation of Accounts</p> <p>I. Scottish Rowing Report of Directors for the year ended 31 March 2019 (Appendix 2)</p> <p>Paper previously circulated</p> <p>II. Scottish Rowing Supplementary Accounts for year ended 31 March 2019 (Appendix 3)</p> <p>Paper previously circulated</p> <p>III. Scottish Rowing Group Analysis as at 31 March 2019 (Appendix 4)</p> <p>Paper previously circulated</p> <p>AC presented the accounts to the meeting and the following questions were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Paton from Loch Lomond RC queried if the Scottish Rowing Centre property value has been independently assessed more recently. AC advised that the lease is currently still held in the old associations name and she is working on rectifying this. Once the lease has been updated, a re-evaluation will be carried out on the property. • Keith Robertson from Castle Semple RC queried what the 'Other Coaching' referred to on the Supplementary Accounts. AC advised that this relates to the British Rowing UKCC Level 2 Courses that are organised and run through Scottish Rowing. <p><u>b. Proposal of Accountant</u></p> <p>It was proposed that SR continues with JRD Partnership for the preparation of its accounts and those of its subsidiary company.</p> <p>All were in agreement that JRD continue as the Scottish Rowing accountant.</p>
11.	<p><u>Election of Board Members</u></p> <p>Paper previously circulated.</p> <p><u>Director (Sports Development) – Caroline Parker</u></p>

CP was nominated for the role of Director of Sports Development by Castle Semple Rowing Club which she is a current member. MC highlighted that she is also the current chair of the Development Forum.

Approved and MC passed on his congratulation to CP on being re-elected.

12. Other Competent Business

MC advised the meeting that George Parsonage has now retired. He highlighted the tremendous work George, and his family have carried out on the Clyde. MC expressed his congratulations and wished him a healthy and long retirement.

a. President's Award

MC announced to the meeting that the President's Award for 2018 was being presented to Jen Thomson, entries secretary.

Jen Thomson is someone that many people in Scottish Rowing will not have heard of, but if you have ever put in entries to Scottish Championship or the Spring Regatta for your club she will be very well known to you indeed.

Jen joined the Domestic Regatta Organising Committee back in 2006 while at University in Scotland and stepped up to become the Entry Secretary in 2010 being a crucial part of the management of the regattas. She works tirelessly behind the scenes as the Entry Secretary for SR's two on water regattas each year and has done so for the last decade. She single-handedly deals with any problems, queries or issues that arise from entries. From entries opening until the draw team meet to schedule the event, Jen spends hours checking every detail and working with the clubs to ensure that every crew entered has the opportunity to race wherever possible. Jen does this in her spare time and brings all her skills as an Air Traffic Controller to the role as anyone who has experienced her calm and thoughtful approach to problem solving will know.

If that wasn't enough Jen is also a fully qualified SR and BR multi lane umpire and is coming to the end of her training to be a FISA level umpire.

She also does all of this while based on the South Coast of England.

b. Date of AGM 2020

The provisional date of the next AGM is 4th October 2020 and clubs will be consulted if this date is required to be amended.