



## Captain's Report Oct 2018

It has been a very busy year for the club, we have gone further afield than ever before with many social, expedition and competitive events taking place.

New members and renewed enthusiasm have been the ethos of the Club this year and it has truly showed. We have gone from strength to strength. Attendance at training has been continual throughout the year. It has been good to see everyone giving time to enjoy our sport and enhance their skills. Winning medals and participation in general within the skiffie community has been enjoyed by all of us.

We have taken ourselves out of our "comfort zone" – pushed our limits, whilst respecting safety on the water. VHF licences have been awarded to 8 of our members, higher than at any time within the Club. This just goes to show the enthusiasm, interest and levels that can be achieved by all.

We have enjoyed 500 social rows this year to date, vs 463 social rows last year. Thanks indeed to all our Skippers who give their time so others can get out on the water, safely.

Training has been continuous throughout the year - thanks to Sharon's efforts and everyone attending Regattas truly getting into the spirit of training to bring home gold, silver & bronze medals

Young Academy of Rowers: Peter Locke has really taken this forward by forming and encouraging our young people. Louise has been instrumental in the training of our Youth teams. As an experienced coxswain, she has achieved great success resulting in medals for our youths – well done all. This is the 'Year of the Youth' so good that we have our young people introduced to Coastal Rowing in 2018.

Remember folks, our youths are the future of the Club, so we need more of them!

## Equipment, Boat Shed, Maintenance & Oars!

### Maintenance & Lifejackets

Mark Meredith and his "team" took advantage of a timely weather window and turned Ferry Maid & Ferry Lass by attending to maintenance quickly, so that everyone can benefit, whilst we have had some sunny days for the drying process. Thanks to everyone who gave their time. Rota systems were organised by Mark who welcomed the help offered by our Rowers. Boat maintenance is necessary for the continuance of our Club, plus a great skill to be encouraged and enjoyed. Peter Locke plus willing helpers are also helping to assist with making our shed watertight and air tight. Thank you to all

### Oars

We have had mixed and varied feedback regarding the new oars made this year. Overall it was felt that they perform well in benign conditions, but for racing it was felt that the Clenshaw oars proved best. We are now looking to source wood and get another set of Clenshaw style oars made, as well as new rudders as our boats need and will continue to

need, upgrading.

## Rowing & Training Sessions – on the water & in the classroom

Sharon has done an excellent job of arranging training over the winter period and throughout the year. The results have shown at Regattas where we are winning medals and lots of them! Well done everyone for your commitment to training, which has really paid off. Sharon continues to use doodle polls which engages everyone to log their interest in sessions and in turn, allows her to form interested crews, week on week.

## Competitive Events

A huge **Thank You to all our Towers** – we can't take part without you!...

### **Portobello Youth — 7<sup>th</sup> April**

5 clubs we had 4 rowers at their first regatta – Oisín, Patrick, Lois & Diarmuid.  
Medals — Gold in first race- Mx under 17. Silver in Male under 17

### **Port Seton – 28<sup>th</sup> April**

We had limited numbers ,7 rowers. Pursuit Races

### **Broughty Ferry Youth — 19<sup>th</sup> May**

5 clubs. We had 4 rowers. Lois,Oisín,Bruce,Patrick  
Silver won - Mx under 17

### **Queensferry — 26<sup>th</sup> May**

11 clubs +Queensferry — 2k Course. 21 rowers  
Arran + Portsoy ,for the first time.

Medals — bronze Ladies 60+ & bronze Mixed Novice

**DATE FOR 2019 CONFIRMED – SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE**

### **Broughty Ferry — 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

9 clubs 2.5 k Course. 15 rowers

Medals —bronze 60+ Mx & bronze 60 + Men

Rory — 1<sup>st</sup> Race Coxing.

### **Arran 16<sup>th</sup> June**

11clubs. 2k course 13 rowers

Medals — Silver – Novice

6/11 overall placing

### **Portobello 23rd June**

11 clubs . We had 16 crew ,4 new members . 2k Course.

4/11 overall placing.

### **Ullapool 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> July**

27 clubs !! 14 crew 2k Course.

Medals – 60+ Women — Bronze

A great course for gaining experience in race Coxing skills (as stated by Ullapool CRC).

It was 2 days of extreme heat!

### **Largs 14<sup>th</sup> July**

11 clubs 16 crew Sprints 500 m.

4 finals —

Medals— Women's Open – silver, Women's 50+ - bronze ,Mx Decades – bronze Challenge Race— Lesley won Gold ,Racing in Prestwick Boat.

Louise 2<sup>nd</sup> Coxing Queensferry boat. Rory 3<sup>rd</sup> in Troon boat.

4/11 overall placing.

### **Sheildaig 11<sup>th</sup> August**

11 clubs 14 rowers, 5 races around the island.

Tiller snapped affecting our results!!

### **Stranraer 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> July**

2019 Championship Course

14 clubs 10 rowers including Oisin aged 14 racing in Men's Open !

With limited numbers ,we borrowed rowers. Oisin's Dad Paul filled in also!

Alistair — 1<sup>st</sup> race Coxing !

### **North Berwick 25<sup>th</sup> August**

13 clubs. 21 rowers with 4 new rowers + several Novice.

2.9 k around the Island

Difficult weather conditions for first two races, hence they were shortened.

### **Castle to Crane 15<sup>th</sup> September**

75 entrants. 13 mls / 21 k race Dumbarton Castle to Finnieston Crane

12 rowers. 2 crews - 2 boats entered

50+ Ferry Maid — finish time 2.17.21

Open – finish time 2.15.41

Each beating last year's time of 2.19.08

## **Other Events 2017-2018**

### **October 2017**

28<sup>th</sup> — Freshwater Sprints Regional Event. SE were winners!!

### **November 2017**

4<sup>th</sup> — Cox Course

11<sup>th</sup> — Skipper Course — Maria,Rory,Anne P

### **December 2017**

1<sup>st</sup> — Club Xmas Dinner — Hawes Inn

8<sup>th</sup>/ 9<sup>th</sup> — Woudrichem Charity 45ml relay Row. 6 members took part.

### **January 2018**

1<sup>st</sup> — Loony Dook - both boats were present on the water.

27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> — VHF Course

## **February**

17<sup>th</sup>/ 18<sup>th</sup> — VHF Course

## **March**

24<sup>th</sup> — Skippers Course

31<sup>st</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> — SCRA Development Weekend. 3 took part

## **April**

7<sup>th</sup> — Tay Row - Perth to Wormit in company with several clubs

+ Youth Regatta – Portobello

15<sup>th</sup> — Club Alloa to Stirling Row & return - 2 crews and transporters took part.

25<sup>th</sup> — Broughty Ferry visitor rowers.

27<sup>th</sup> — Fundraising Quiz night at Q Bowling Club. – successful – monies raised in excess of £500

28<sup>th</sup> — Port Seton Regatta

## **May**

12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> — Port Edgar Open Weekend. QRC took part in Watersports.

19<sup>th</sup> — Broughty Ferry Youth Regatta

20<sup>th</sup> — Flying Scotsman

26<sup>th</sup> – Queensferry Regatta

## **June**

2<sup>nd</sup> — Broughty Ferry Regatta

10<sup>th</sup> — Inchcolm Row in company with 11 skiffs . Both boats . Kinghorn organised.

16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> — Arran Regatta

23<sup>rd</sup> — Portobello Regatta

26<sup>th</sup> — 5 Rower visitors, university reunion. Generous donation of £200 given to club funds

30<sup>th</sup> — Alan Meldrum Community Rowing Challenge — Winners — divers! 6 teams!

## **July**

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> — Ullapool Regatta

9<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> — Ferry Maid on west coast expedition

14<sup>th</sup> — Largs Regatta

19<sup>th</sup> — Dunbar Rower visitors

## **August**

11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> — Sheildaig Regatta

+ Ferry Fair.

18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> – Stranraer Regatta

25<sup>th</sup> — North Berwick Regatta

## **September**

3<sup>rd</sup> – American Whaleboat Rower visitors.

6<sup>th</sup> — Limekilns Row - 2 boats

9<sup>th</sup> — Tweed Row, in company with 15 clubs

15<sup>th</sup> — Castle to Crane 21 k race

17<sup>th</sup> — Loch Tay Row

22<sup>nd</sup> — N v S annual challenge- N winners!

23<sup>rd</sup> — Club Social Row to Barnboughe beach, 3 clubs joined us for picnic.

## **October**

6<sup>th</sup> — Parliament Rower visitors – 2 boats.

27<sup>th</sup> — Freshwater Sprints defending the SE title.

2019 Regatta – updates:

We have our confirmed date for our own Regatta 1st June 2019  
Crail ,Portsoy,Eskmuthe are already on our accepted list.

All clubs are getting their dates in early, to be able to work around The Worlds.  
Some are 'invite' only, some are 'restricted numbers' ,Ullapool is a NE event only.  
Portsoy for the first time ever, are having a 'Without the boat festival Regatta' 31st  
August/ 1st September.

We have a 'note of interest' in with Sheildaig and Portsoy.

NB: All Clubs are looking to submit their Regatta dates early to work around The  
Worlds. We will need to closely monitor SCRA website and submit notes of interest  
to attend swiftly, otherwise we may miss out.

## **Quick facts – statistics 2017-2018**

**Number of rows** — 500 + from last Saturday

**Regattas attended** — 10 + Castle to Crane & Freshwater Sprints

**Interclub Rows** — 4

**Medals won** — 12 sets – including many individuals!

**Personal Achievements** — Lots !!

**Skippers trained** — 5

**Race coxes** — 2

**VHF certificates** —8

**Planned Expeditions** — 5

**Community Events** — 6

**Visitors** — 5 lots

**Fundraising** — 8

**Club Socials** — 3

**Items bought** — Trailer, grab bags, boat cushions, lifebelts, oars, radios

## Fundraising 2017-2018

What a fantastic year this has been for our Club! Superb contribution and ideas for funds have come forth from all.

Our fundraising quiz night proved to be a great success again this year – thank you to Tony B & Martina for organising. Calendars (thanks to Barbara for putting this together – again!), monkey fists, key rings. T-shirts and other quality merchandise continue to bring in additional revenue which all help to keep Club funds healthy.

Our own Regatta catering once again proved a great boost to funds – thanks to all who took part and helped on the day.

Midweek and training rows – the £1 contribution paid by most folks who attend midweek and training rows, has reached approx. £1200 over the year – social rowing is of course free. The £1 contribution is not obligatory – but for those who choose to put that wee extra in the “captain’s hat” what a difference this can make and costs less than a cup of coffee!

## Issues During 2018

We now have PayPal option on our website to assist with prompt payments for subscriptions. Please advise the Treasurer if you choose to pay with PayPal

On a similar financial theme, the committee are still in agreeance of a flat rate of 40p per mile for towing, on the understanding that if this did not cover the tower’s costs it would of course be topped up to ensure that nobody towing was left out of pocket. The agreement fee for all rowers participating in Regattas is £5 per person to go towards towing costs, to be paid in advance or collected on the day.

Requests for crews should always go out via Google group as this is the main vehicle for Club communication. Not via WhatsApp or Messenger. This means that everyone in the Club has the opportunity to find out about midweek and other expedition rows, and can therefore take part.

Anyone taking the boat out should always advise the Group via Google mail and advise the Group of the crew taking part, this is for safety reasons and this step should not be overlooked.

## The Future

Our relationship with Russell Aitken, General Manager (our Landlord) & the marina in general, continues to grow. We have now secured Tenancy of our shed for another 3 years, which means we can make some small but necessary improvements to keep the shed air and water tight.

It is important for the club to maintain relationships with other organisations within the

community. We represented QRC at Ferry Fayre, by parading with Ferry Lass. Good relationships are continuing to grow. The Rotary Club did assist once again at our own Regatta and provided the Race Tent as well as helping to erect it.

The website is to be revamped. Barbara who has done a fantastic job of uploading photos from our 2018 events is looking at a Wordpress option for a website makeover. This will help our current and new members to gain a better understanding of what can be enjoyed at our social and competitive events. Lesley has been instrumental as first point of contact for many new members. This has helped greatly, as any questions can be answered and new members are then encouraged to visit, thanks to Lesley taking time to speak with them personally.

There has been an increased demand for expedition type rowing. All suggestions welcome for 2019 to be put to the Committee for approval in the first instance. Anne F has offered to host an informative evening, offering help and advice on how to put together a passage plan, for those wishing to take part in future expeditions. It should be stressed that all Club members (pending experience) should be made aware of expeditions well in advance, so that they can make arrangements as necessary to take part.

Training will continue over the winter months, and Sharon will be in touch with you to ask for your availability. Remember we need more winning categories plus it is the World Championships being held in Stranraer 2019 so please think about attending our Regattas too – we would like more medals!! For all new members please do ask if you would like further information regarding events and if so, what in particular would help you to attend. We are keen for everyone to join our Regattas at any stage whether novice or intermediate, For those of you who require transport, please let us know and we can make sure that you are all able to attend wherever possible. Car sharing is something we need to look at more for 2019.

Our Maintenance & Incident logs in the shed continue to assist with necessary maintenance and are available for everyone to see and record as needed.

To conclude, this has been a great year for the Club. We will continue to strive to grow our Membership and look forward to everyone's input for future event planning.

I would also like to thank the Committee and Office Bearers for their time and commitment during 2018 and for their support during these past three years of my Captaincy. The Office Bearers in particular have worked very hard for the Club this year and there have been considerable challenges for them personally.

Office Bearers putting themselves forward for decision making (along with Committee input) do many onerous tasks – many of which are not seen or appreciated. They should therefore be respected for their time and commitment (past and future). In otherwards if you choose to elect, then you should respect. If folks are prepared to stand and be counted by putting themselves forward on behalf of the Club, please do take time to consider their input in a respectful way.

The Club Constitution now needs to reflect this and should include a "Respect & Dignity" policy as an addition for 2019. This should be discussed and addressed at the next Committee meeting.