

Scottish Rowing  
**AGM – 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2016**  
 The Watersports Centre, 366 Hamilton Road, Motherwell

**Welcome**

Mike Morrice (MMo) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

MMo informed the meeting that Gordon Day, Scottish Rowing's International Team Manager, passed away earlier this year and expressed his condolences.

MMo advised that Euan Faulds, Director of Corporate Governance, left his post and all governance matters are currently being managed collectively by the Board, SR staff and an external legal advisor. Barbara Millns (Tay RC) expressed an interest in the role.

MMo informed the meeting that Ailie Ord has stepped down as Chair of the Domestic Regatta Organising Committee after 12 years, and thanked her for her support and hard work over this time. AN has agreed to cover this role on an interim basis until a replacement is found.

The success of Project Rio was commended by Michael Foran (Clydesdale ARC) who congratulated SR on their achievement, expressing thanks to Jonathan Cheyne (RDM West) for his support to the club.

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**Accreditation**

Martin Claxton (MC) confirmed the following:

- 12 Clubs represented
- 18 fully completed Proxy vote received

| Club                                | Name               | Name               |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Aberdeen Boat Club                  | Jim Steel          |                    |
| Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association |                    |                    |
| Aberdeen University Boat Club       |                    |                    |
| Albyn School BC                     | Apologies Received | Apologies Received |
| Castle Semple Rowing Club           | Oliver White       | Caroline Parker    |
| Clyde Amateur Rowing Club           |                    |                    |
| Clydesdale Amateur Rowing Club      | Andrew McConnell   | Michael Foran      |
| Deeside Scullers Club               | Apologies Received | Apologies Received |
| Eden Boat Club                      | Apologies Received | Apologies Received |
| Edinburgh University Boat Club      |                    |                    |
| Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing Club | Claire Tochel      | Apologies Received |
| George Heriots School RC            |                    |                    |
| George Watson's College Rowing Club | Apologies Received | Apologies Received |

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|          | Glasgow Rowing Club   | Liam McLaughlin                               | Apologies Received                             |
|          | Glasgow Schools Rowing Club   |   |  |
|          | Glasgow University Boat Club  | Stuart Mitchell                               | Jacob Darrall                                  |
|          | Heriot Watt University Boat Club  | Apologies Received                            | Apologies Received                             |
|          | Inverness Rowing Club   | Apologies Received                            | Apologies Received                             |
|          | Loch Lomond Rowing Club   |   |  |
|          | Nithsdale Amateur Rowing Club   | Melanie Platten                               | Apologies Received                             |
|          | North British Rowing Club   | Graham Butler                                 |  |
|          | Robert Gordon University Boat Club  |   |  |
|          | Scottish Schools Rowing Council   | Bob Neill                                     |  |
|          | St Andrew Boat Club   |   |  |
|          | St Andrews University Boat Club   |   |  |
|          | Stirling Rowing Club  | Apologies Received                            | Apologies Received                             |
|          | Stirling University Boat Club   | Elijah Mtonga                                 | Seonaid Philp                                  |
|          | Strathclyde Park Rowing Club  | Gillian Connal                                | Ailie Ord                                      |
|          | Strathclyde University Boat Club  |   |  |
|          | Tay Rowing Club   | Stewart Fleming                               | Barbara Millns                                 |
|          | <b>BOARD</b>  |   |  |
|          | Board   | Mike Morrice                                  |  |
|          | Board   | Martin Claxton                                |  |
|          | Board   | Alistair Neill                                |  |
|          | Board   | Caroline Parker                               |  |
|          | Board   | Dorothy Roberts                               |  |
|          | <b>OBSERVERS</b>  |   |  |
|          | Amanda Cobb –Scottish Rowing COO  | Colin Williamson –<br>Edinburgh University BC | Ben Parsonage –<br>Strathclyde University BC   |
|          | Carol Ann Ellis == Minute Taker   | Ian White – St Andrew<br>Boat Club            | Luckas Melichar –<br>Strathclyde University BC |
|          | Erin Wyness – Robert Gordon University<br>BC  |   |  |
| <b>2</b> | <b><u>Notice of Meeting</u></b>   |   |  |
|          | It was agreed by Members represented that the Notice of Meeting was in order.   |   |  |
| <b>3</b> | <b><u>Apologies</u></b>   |   |  |
|          | MMo confirmed apologies were received from:   |   |  |
|          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katherine Grainger – Honorary President</li> <li>• Peter Morrison – Honorary Vice President</li> <li>• Ronnie Goldie – Honorary Vice President</li> <li>• Brian Snowden – Honorary Vice President</li> </ul> |   |  |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Gill – Director of Coaching</li> <li>• J.R.D Limited - Accountants</li> <li>• Albyn School's Boat Club</li> <li>• Stirling Rowing Club</li> <li>• Inverness Rowing Club</li> <li>• Deeside Scullers Club</li> <li>• Eden Boat Club</li> <li>• George Watson's Boat Club</li> <li>• Heriot Watt University Boat Club</li> </ul>  |
| 4 | <p><b><u>Approval of Previous Minutes</u></b></p> <p>Papers previously circulated. Graham Butler confirmed that the Minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Minutes approved.</p>  |
| 5 | <p><b><u>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</u></b></p> <p>No matters arising.</p>   |
| 6 | <p><b><u>President's Report</u></b></p> <p>This has been a year of incredible achievement for Scottish athletes. There have been so many firsts and moments of history that it is impossible to include them all here. However there are some significant highlights including Heather Stanning successfully defending her Olympic title, Katherine Grainger becoming Team GB's most decorated female Olympian as a result of her silver medal and Polly Swann and Karen Bennett being part of the first women's eight to win an Olympic medal (silver).</p> <p>Closer to home Gavin Horsburgh stepped on from his junior success last year to be part of the winning lightweight quad at the U23 World Rowing Championships. Gavin was one of 27 athletes who represented GB at all levels in 2015-16.</p> <p>Another significant first was Edinburgh University Boat Club's historic win in the Prince Albert Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta this summer. This is the first time a Scottish University club has won at Henley and congratulations are due to the crew and coach Colin Williamson.</p> <p>Congratulations also to all the athletes for their fantastic performance during the year but also to the coaches and volunteers who support them. Particular mention is due to Lee Boucher whose work as Director of Performance Operations has helped put in place the University partnerships that are contributing to this success. The partnerships with the University of Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow are bringing significant investment into the sport which is helping produce the results we have started to see over the last two years.</p> <p>Our development staff have been working hard to help build participation in rowing. Project Rio, an initiative aimed at preparing and supporting clubs to be ready for the post Rio bounce was a first for Scottish Rowing. Supported by Awards for All, the project ran from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 through to September. The Schools Indoor League was rolled out fully this year and over 1300 secondary school pupils took part. The</p> |

strong uptake was reflected in a doubling of the entry for the Scottish Schools Indoor Rowing Championships in December.

Sophie Warburton, our Regional Development Manager left us during the year and has been replaced on an interim basis by Stevie Baxter. We are lucky to have our development staff and I encourage you to make use of their expertise.

Plans for the European Championships are progressing well. I am delighted to say that Neil McFarlane has been appointed as the Race Director and the wider event team will shortly be in place.

There have been a number of changes on the Board the year. Alistair Neill joined the Board as Director of Development and I am pleased to welcome back Dorothy Roberts back to Scottish Rowing as Director of Performance. Finally, Kirstene Feenan was appointed as Commercial Director after an open recruitment process and is bringing much needed marketing expertise to the Board. Unfortunately Euan Faulds had to step down from the Board due to an overseas move.

The new team has been looking ahead to 2017 and beyond to shape the direction for Scottish Rowing for the next four years. Between the roadshows and the online questionnaire, we got some excellent feedback from members on the high level themes presented.

As always, I would like to thank the team of volunteers who give generously of their time, energy and skills, as event organisers, team management, coaches, umpires and club administrators, all of whom make a huge contribution to the success of rowing in Scotland.

## **7. Chief Operating Officers Report (as per slides)**

AC presented the report to the meeting.

Key areas of the report were:

### Performance

- 6 Scots raced at Rio in all A finals and 4 medallists
- Record breaking levels of GB representation across all levels
- A strong senior team performance at HIR
- Excellent club performances in domestic competition
- 2013-17 four year targets have been delivered

AC highlighted that there were record levels of athletes competing at the Rio Olympics. She also advised that the four year targets for 2013-17 were exceeded, allowing challenging but achievable targets to be set going forward.

### Coaching & Development

- Club Membership growth up in 2015-16 (as at October 2015)
- Olympic year readiness programme Project Rio ran throughout the year
- 2 new affiliated clubs since 2015 AGM (Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing Club and Alybyn School Boat Club)
- Over 1300 children participated in Schools league and over 500 attended Schools Indoor Championships

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coach licensing and mentoring scheme now being rolled out</li> </ul> <p>AC emphasised the importance of the information clubs provide in their annual return and encouraged them to meet with their RDM to discuss prior to completion.</p> <p>AC thanked all of the clubs that supported Project Rio.</p> <p>AC advised that the coaching course has been delayed by BR however this should hopefully be ready to go ahead in January and RDM's will contact clubs to advise.</p> <p><u>Corporate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained development audit rating</li> <li>• Appointment of Commercial Director</li> <li>• New RDM working in the North</li> <li>• Investment in PR support = increased media coverage</li> <li>• Continued growth in social media audience and engagement</li> <li>• Re-launch of website</li> </ul> <p>AC acknowledged the high quality of work Rob Eyton-Jones has produced and publicised through the press and social media.</p> <p>AC advised that the board and staff are currently working on the SR strategy plan and a draft version would be complete by the end of the year, post <b>sportscotland</b> presentation.</p> |
| 8. | <p><b><u>Proposal of Scottish Rowing Membership fees for year ending March 2018</u></b></p> <p>It was proposed that the Scottish Rowing Membership fees remain unchanged.</p> <p>Barbara Millne (Tay RC) suggested applying a small increase to the fees each year to avoid one large increase in the future. MMo confirmed that this has been discussed by the Board and will be considered for future proposals.</p> <p>Claire Tochel (EACRC) suggested a smaller fee for coastal rowing clubs as, in relation to what they gain from the membership, it is expensive and a lower fee could possibly encourage coastal clubs to affiliate to SR. MMo acknowledged that the fee currently doesn't reflect the benefits accrued by coastal rowing clubs and a review of this is something to consider going forward.</p> <p>Unchanged Fees for 2017/18 approved.</p>  |
| 9. | <p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p><b>9.1 Presentation of Accounts</b></p> <p>Papers previously circulated.</p> <p><b>9.1.1. Account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (Appendix 3)</b></p> <p>Papers previously circulated.</p> <p><b>9.1.2. Supplementary Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (Appendix 4)</b></p>  |

Papers previously circulated.

### **9.1.3. Scottish Rowing group analysis for period ending March 2016 (Appendix 5)**

Papers previously circulated.

AC presented the accounts to the meeting.

Jim Steel (ABC) raised his concern that the biggest asset appears to be SRC debt. Both MMo and AC confirmed that, due to historical activity there are two companies each with separate accounts however, the consolidated document provided clearly shows that the asset and liability balances net off on consolidation. MMo confirmed that the accountant has been consulted and there are no concerns regarding this.

MMo advised that the performance funding is extremely high and the development funding will be stronger going forward due to the recruitment of three RDMs. Growth funding is dependent on club memberships but achievable.

Ben Parsonage (Strathclyde University BC) advised that, although SUBC are keen to grow their membership numbers and have been approached by individuals interested in joining their club, they do not have the resources to cope with the additional numbers. AC encouraged clubs to feedback to their RDMs to discuss future goals and allow them to provide support and investigate funding options.

Michael Foran (Clydesdale ARC) commented that he has found the West RDM to be an excellent resource and would encourage others to connect with their RDM.

### **9.1.4. Proposal of Accountant**

Papers previously circulated.

All in agreement for JRD to continue as the SR accountant.

## **10. Nominations for Board Members**

### **10.1 – Director of Performance – Dorothy Roberts**

Approved.

### **10.2. – Director of Coaching – John Gill**

Approved.

### **10.3. – Director without portfolio – Caroline Parker**

Approved.

MMo thanked the Board members for their continued support and commitment to SR.

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| 11 | <p><b><u>Strategic Plan</u></b></p> <p>AC presented the report to the meeting.</p> <p>MMo advised that the strategic plan was presented to clubs at three separate roadshows prior to a survey being circulated to all members for feedback. Points raised were collated.</p> <p>AC advised that the four key areas which SR plan to support and empower are growth, performance, culture and corporate.</p> <p><u>Growth</u></p> <p>AC advised that the majority of feedback relating to growth focused on coaching. She confirmed that there would be more focus on the development side of this area.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the low number of coaches available to clubs and it was suggested that, rather than relying on volunteers, clubs employ coaches. A coaching pathway would assist with this process and allow clubs and members the opportunity to grow and continue to be involved in the sport.</p> <p>Erin Wyness (RGUBC) suggested that clubs fundraise to cover coaching course fees which would encourage more people to progress in this area.</p> <p><u>Performance</u></p> <p>Allowing athletes access to GB programmes and ensuring that University clubs are not exclusive to this opportunity.</p> <p><u>Culture</u></p> <p>The main focus is to improve communication between SR and its members to encourage communication and allow them to work together and have shared values.</p> <p><u>Corporate</u></p> <p>The need to ensure that SR is a strong organisation with the necessary processes and policies in place and the ability to deliver the targets set in the 4 years plan.</p> <p>The requirement to source additional funding was also highlighted and the option for SR to change to a charitable status should be a consideration.</p> |
| 12 | <p><b><u>Competition Review</u></b></p> <p>Papers previously circulated.</p> <p>DR presented to the meeting and advised the 3 key areas raised in the review were:</p> <p><u>Calendar</u></p> <p>The next race calendar will be structured to reflect the rowing year rather than the calendar year. This will hopefully allow maximum participation and improve training plans for athletes.</p> <p><u>Scottish Championships</u></p>   |

The review of the Scottish Championship structure and timetable to modify the type of event to make it less competitive and reduce the pressure on club resources. The aim is to produce a more efficient, streamlined event.

Summer Sprint Regattas

DR advised that she would be reaching out to clubs for expressions of interest in summer sprint regattas with the aim to pilot them across 2017 and create a relaxed, fun themed event with club interaction. This will also allow athletes the opportunity to participate in an event during months where it wouldn't normally be available to them.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to the sport as a whole.

A.O.C.B.

No other business raised for discussion.

Date of next meeting

The provisional date of the next AGM is 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and clubs will be consulted if this date is required to be amended.