

Scottish Rowing  
**AGM – 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2018**  
 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/17 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	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
Castle Semple Rowing Club	Rachel Robertson	Mel Brander
Clyde Amateur Rowing Club	Sharon Coats	Caitie Gordon-Philips
Clydesdale Amateur Rowing Club	Stella Hawthorne	
Deeside Scullers Club		
Dundee University Boat Club	Rosie Bowick	Hannah Campbell
Eden Boat Club		
Edinburgh University Boat Club	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing Club		
George Heriots School RC		
George Watson's College Rowing Club	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
Glasgow Rowing Club		
Glasgow Schools Rowing Club	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
Glasgow University Boat Club	Conor Steeds	
Heriot Watt University Boat Club		
Inverness Rowing Club	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
Loch Lomond Rowing Club		
Nithsdale Amateur Rowing Club	Alison Dunse	Emma Stanforth
North British Rowing Club		
Robert Gordon University Boat Club		
Scottish Schools Rowing Council		

	St Andrew Boat Club	Lindsay Flockhart	
	St Andrews University Boat Club		
	Stirling Rowing Club	Graeme Duff	David Sannachan
	Stirling University Boat Club		
	Strathclyde Park Rowing Club	Gillian Connall	Laura Graham
	Strathclyde University Boat Club	Ben Cooper	Lewis Semple
	Tay Rowing Club	Apologies Received	Apologies Received
	<b>BOARD</b>		
	Board	Martin Claxton	
	Board	Caroline Parker	
	Board	Alistair Neill	
	Board	John Gill	
	Board	Dorothy Roberts	
	<b>OBSERVERS</b>		
	Amanda Cobb –Scottish Rowing COO	Craig Twaddle – Strathclyde Park RC	Sam Arcibald – Heriot Watt University BC
	Lee Boucher – Scottish Rowing Head of Performance Pathway	Tom Young – Strathclyde Park RC	Ann Black – Glasgow RC
	Carol Ann Ellis – Minute Taker	Ailie Ord – Strathclyde Park RC	
	Ken McCracken – JRD Accountants	Keziah Mercer – Heriot Watt University 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>		
	MC 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>• Brian Snowden – Honorary Vice President</li> <li>• George Hunter – Honorary Vice President</li> <li>• Elizabeth Mitchell – Director of Sport Governance</li> <li>• Lindsey Vyse – DROC Chair</li> <li>• Albyn School Boat Club</li> <li>• Glasgow Schools Rowing Club</li> <li>• Aberdeen Schools Rowing Association</li> <li>• Tay Rowing Club</li> <li>• Inverness Rowing Club</li> <li>• George Watson’s College Rowing Club</li> <li>• Edinburgh University Boat Club</li> </ul>		

4	<p><b><u>Approval of Previous Minutes (Appendix 1)</u></b></p> <p>Papers previously circulated.</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>In 2017 we launched our current Strategic Plan which will continue to take forward the development of rowing in Scotland. A key element of that plan was that it would drive the establishment and enhancement of a support structure and resources, accessible to all forms of the sport. I am pleased to say that a year down the line we are well on the way to delivering against our strategic intent. I shall not dwell on the details here as they are covered in our Chief Operating Officer's report but from aspects including club workshops through to the junior development programme, the Board has been extremely encouraged by the scope of the elements that have been put in place and by the engagement with and of our Clubs.</p> <p>During the year the Board has welcomed a new independent member Elizabeth Mitchell. As a senior partner within a well-known law firm Elizabeth brings a wealth of relevant expertise to assist with our governance needs. The Board does still have a vacancy for a Finance Director and if there is anyone who wishes to help contribute to Scottish Rowing as a Board member in that capacity then do please get in touch. On the theme of volunteers, I wish to recognise Lindsey Vyse for offering her services and taking on the daunting role of Chair of the DROC, an unenviable task which this year included dealing with dogs urinating on lampposts and lightning strikes taking out timing systems!</p> <p>One aspect I will cover in a little more detail is the Scottish Rowing Centre. As many of you will know this facility was established as the National Rowing Academy in 2002. A major source of funding for the activities to be undertaken within the centre was the income generated by charging for public access to the gym facilities and in the early years of the centre's existence there were typically around 400 paying gym members. Regrettably though in recent years we have seen that membership tail off significantly, primarily due to competition from modern commercially run 24/7 operations. This loss of revenue has meant that the centre has struggled to break even as maintenance and operating costs have increased and despite trying to attract more group usage of the facility. Earlier this year North Lanarkshire Council informed us that they would be ceasing to fund the staff member who manned the desk and looked after the domestics of the centre and with this news the decision was taken to close the centre to the public and look at how best to operate it for the benefit of Scottish Rowing members in the future. It also very regrettably meant that we had to lose John Blair after 15 year's service.</p> <p>The centre will reopen under a new operating model and with a soon to be refurbished training tank, new equipment and an emphasis on coach led sessions our intent is that this fantastic facility becomes a more focused and rower orientated training centre to complement the world class facility that is the water course. And with regard to that</p>

facility we are acutely aware of the water access charge situation and are continuing to work closely with NLC and **sportscotland** to achieve a solution that is financially acceptable to all parties.

2018 saw a significant number of Scots representing Great Britain from Junior, U23 and at Senior level with no less than 8 athletes competing at the recent World Championships in Plovdiv. Highlights of this included Alan Sinclair in the men's 8 gaining a Bronze medal and Harry Leask only narrowly missing the medals despite a stratospheric rating of 48 in the final meters of the single sculls. Although the overall medal tally was below Team GB's expectations there remain high hopes for Tokyo 2020.

On the world stage there continue to be interesting developments and the future of para and lightweight rowing at international levels is the subject of ongoing discussion by FISA. A deadline has been set of late 2020 for FISA to complete its review of these aspects with a decision expected in December of that year on athlete quotas and the events programme for Paris 2024 and beyond. There is no doubt that we can expect a significant emphasis on greater inclusivity, cost reduction and making the sport more tele-visually attractive. We are seeing our sport broaden its horizons with enhanced emphasis on coastal and indoor rowing bringing in a wider range of competitions. 2000m straight line racing is by no means at an end but the likes of sprint races, round the buoy courses and other variations will be growing in popularity.

Closer to home I am pleased to announce that Scotland is now one of the founder members of the newly established Commonwealth Rowing Association ("CRA"). The CRA has been set up in order to, amongst other objectives, support and help deliver a Commonwealth Rowing Championships and to promote rowing as a core sport in the Commonwealth Games. The CRA will be seeking recognition by FISA as a member grouping later this year.

The European Championships came to Glasgow this year in a novel format combining several sports under the one umbrella including rowing. Umbrellas were not necessary as the weather held fair for what turned out to be a very successful regatta, applauded by all involved and I would like to thank all those from our rowing family who volunteered their services to help make it happen. Though the least said about trees and grandstands, the better.

In sum I believe that clubs and athletes whether recreational or performance, junior, senior or masters have had the opportunity to gain tangible benefit from the work that has been carried out in the last year and in that context I would like to recognise the significant efforts made by our small but dedicated team of employees, led by Amanda Cobb. From the Board's perspective we will continue to ensure that Scotland's rowing interests are supported and that in these volatile times we provide an environment that meets the needs of clubs and members no matter what their type or level of participation.

**7. Chief Operating Officers Report**

AC presented the report to the meeting.

Key areas of the report were:

## Performance

- 17 Scots on GB teams
- EUBC contributed most athletes on U23 team with Josh Armstrong winning Gold in the 4x
- Commonwealth Beach Sprints
  - Topped the medal table with medals in all 6 events – including 4 Gold
- Junior Development Programme
  - Training camps and racing opportunities
  - Launched again this year
- HIR continues to be a valuable pathway event
  - Missed out on Senior Men's trophy in a tie break
  - Team included 3 members who started rowing this year
  - Notable performances from Jack Burns and Tom Duke

AC advised the meeting that Lee Boucher intends to develop and expand the Junior Development Programme and encouraged anyone who would be interested in offering support to the programme to contact LB.

## Competition and Events

- Competition Strategy Group formed to lead on shaping the future of competition
- Adam Hardy now has operational responsibility for competition and events
- A number of priorities identified including:
  - making Scottish Rowing Championships a more aspirational event for all levels of athlete
  - improving our use of technology to manage events
  - developing new competition opportunities for beginners and recreational rowers

AC informed the meeting that the Competition Strategy Group was formed to look at competition as a whole and the need for a review in this area has also been highlighted the SR Strategic Plan 2017 – 21.

## Coaching & Development

- Membership slightly down post Rio bounce
- Restructure of development team to align with strategic priorities – pathway
- Schools league becoming established with growth in both schools and individuals participating
- Regional group now established in the North and starting to form in the East
- Significant increase in the number of education and development opportunities on offer:
  - Changing the Future Conference
  - Extensive programme of workshops offered

AC encouraged the clubs to get involved in the regional groups and use as an opportunity to feedback to SR.

## Corporate

- New membership system went live in December
- Membership
  - New subscription offering for non-competitive clubs
  - Recreational membership
  - Clear membership criteria for clubs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Club Support Manager (West) appointed</li> <li>• Achieved compliance with the Wellbeing &amp; Protecting Standards for sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policies backed up with visible change</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continued investment in PR support</li> <li>• Achieved satisfactory (with comments) in <b>sportscotland</b> audit</li> <li>• Working on a set of Corporate Values</li> </ul> <p>AC informed the meeting that the new subscription for non-competitive clubs entitles them to the benefits and support of SR without having to compete.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>The Future of the Scottish Rowing Centre</u></b></p> <p>AC presented slides to the meeting.</p> <p>AC advised that a lot of work has been put in over the past few months to keep the Scottish Rowing Centre operational and thanked SPRC and HWUBC for their patience throughout the disruption caused to their normal activity. She highlighted that there is now the opportunity to turn the Centre into something everyone can be proud of and the plan going forward is for it to become a development hub with both SR led activities and Club led activities.</p> <p>AC confirmed that she would circulate potential pricing to the clubs for feedback and in turn they agreed that they would communicate the types of activity that they would be interested in being held at the Centre. AC encouraged the clubs to contact their RDM with any questions.</p> <p>LB suggested an evening drop in session at the Centre for the clubs and the meeting agreed that this would be beneficial. LB confirmed that he would organise.</p>
9.	<p><b><u>The Values of Scottish Rowing</u></b></p> <p>AC presented slides to the meeting and advised that SR staff and Board are in the process of forming organisation values which can also be pushed out and influence clubs.</p> <p>She advised that the values are work in progress but so far have agreed on the following 4 values and descriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect – We value the rights of everyone and operate with integrity</li> <li>• Drive – We are determined, focused and ambitious</li> <li>• Innovation – We embrace change and new ideas</li> <li>• Collaboration – We work openly [with everyone] – sharing knowledge and experience</li> </ul> <p>The meeting agreed that it was a good starting point. CP highlighted that once the values are complete, the organisation and clubs should be striving to aspire to them and it is key to pin down behaviours and commit to them.</p>
10.	<p><b><u>Proposal of Special Resolutions – Amendments to the Articles of Scottish Rowing</u></b></p> <p><b>10.1. Article 3</b></p> <p>Approved</p>

	<p><b>10.2. Article 13</b></p> <p>Approved</p> <p><b>10.3. Article 13</b></p> <p>Approved</p>
11.	<p><b><u>Proposal of Scottish Rowing Membership fees for year ending March 2019</u></b></p> <p>Paper previously circulated.</p> <p>AC advised the meeting that a subscription option has been introduced to the membership for clubs who wish to access the services of SR but who do not require the full benefits of membership. AC clarified that the subscription membership would be for clubs who do not wish to sign up to the whole package of racing but still want access to staff support and at the same time they will be financially contributing to the sport.</p> <p>AC also highlighted that the proposed reduction of new club members fees in year 1, 2 and 3 is to reflect the challenges that new clubs face and to support them by making the first few years less of a financial burden.</p> <p>Approved.</p>
12.	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p><b>12.1. Presentation of Accounts</b></p> <p><b>a) Accounts for year ended 31 March 2018 (Appendix 2)</b></p> <p>Paper previously circulated</p> <p><b>b) Supplementary Accounts for year ended 31 March 2018 (Appendix 3)</b></p> <p>Paper previously circulated</p> <p><b>c) Scottish Rowing Group Analysis as at March 2018 (Appendix 4)</b></p> <p>Paper previously circulated</p> <p>AC presented the accounts to the meeting and no questions were raised.</p> <p><b><u>12.2. Proposal of Accountant</u></b></p> <p>It was proposed that SR continue 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> <p>MC thanked Ken McCracken for his continued hard work.</p>
13.	<p><b><u>Election of Board Members</u></b></p>

	<p><b><u>13.1 Director (Coaching) – John Gill</u></b>  JG was nominated for the role of Director of Coaching by Loch Lomond Rowing Club which he is a past and current member. MC highlighted that JG currently provides coach education at Marlow Rowing Club and brings a great wealth of experience to the Board.</p> <p>Approved.</p> <p><b><u>13.2. Director (Performance) – Dorothy Roberts</u></b>  DR was nominated for the role of Director of Performance by the Board. MC advised the meeting that DR has carried out a significant amount of work with Lee Boucher in helping to build the SR performance programme and is a very welcome member of the Board.</p> <p>Approved.</p> <p><b><u>13.3 Director ( Without Portfolio) – Alistair Neill</u></b>  AN was nominated for the role of Director Without Portfolio by the Board. MC advised the meeting that AN is a member of Strathclyde Park Rowing Club and great support to Scottish Rowing and brings a much needed club perspective to the Board.</p> <p>Approved.</p>
14.	<p><b><u>Election of Honorary Officers</u></b></p> <p>The Board proposed Mike Morrice as an Honorary Vice-President of Scottish Rowing. MC highlighted to the meeting that Mike Morrice has a long history of supporting Scottish Rowing, overseeing the significant changeover from SARA to SR, and continues to play a major role. This election would be recognition of his input and contribution to SR.</p> <p>Approved.</p>
15.	<p><b><u>Fellowship of Scottish Rowing</u></b></p> <p>The Board proposed the appointment of Dame Katherine Grainger as a Fellow of Scottish Rowing. AN advised the meeting that this appointment would be a recognition of support and commitment KG has given to SR, and continues to do so.</p> <p>Approved.</p>
	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b></p> <p>The provisional date of the next AGM is 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and clubs will be consulted if this date is required to be amended.</p>