

# **Carrick Castle Boat Club**

**An Annual General Meeting of the club was held at the Village Hall, Lochgoilhead on Wednesday 22nd May 2019 at 18.30 hrs.**

**The meeting was attended by:** Jai Cowper-Smith (Chair), Jim Graham (Mooring Officer) & Anita Graham, Douglas Locke (Secretary), Bill Miller, Graham Mathie and Keith Oliver – 7 people.

## **1) Welcome & Apologies:**

The Chair, Jai Cowper-Smith (JC-S) welcomed everyone to the meeting saying the attendance was very low but there was a quorum of six members from a membership of 35. Apologies were only received from Vonna Cowper-Smith (Treasurer) and John Wotherspoon.

## **2) Minutes of the last AGM on 16th May 2018**

These were approved and proposed by Bill Miller and seconded by Graham Mathie and signed by the Chair.

## **3) Chair's Report**

The Chair, JC-S said the club had celebrated the club's 30th Anniversary with a dinner that a dozen members attended in February 2019. During the last year a life ring had been installed on the shore in the middle of the village; a megaphone had been purchased to allow contact to any vessel that was considered misusing any of the mooring buoys; the steps by the life ring were still to be replaced for safe access between the beach and the road above where visitors tenders and their crew using visitors moorings buoys went ashore. Dave Matthews and some local members agreed to volunteer to do the work in the near future; JC-S also said that it was a shame that the club could not accept the free pontoons being given away by the Loch Goil Cruiser Hire because of the additional costs, planning permission, documentation, regulations and ongoing Crown Estate fees and costs involved with a 20 year agreement with annual fees in the hundreds of pounds annually. He then asked the Secretary, (DL) to review the last year in his report.

## **4) Secretary's Report**

2018 has been a better year weather-wise which would be noted in the Mooring Officer's Report. The membership of the club remains at 35 members having lost one and gained one member. About a dozen members and villagers turned up for the May Beach Clean in 2018 and again in 2019 and on each occasion 7 bags of rubbish were collected in about 3/4 hour each time. The club's website is currently up to date and our Facebook is also updated with news that has 33 followers. A reminder that members should look at the club's website news page at least once a month as there are news items that could affect your boating activities mainly from the RYA. The club celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a dinner for members in February this year. Those that attended were given a souvenir CCBC mug. Now that the work of the club is shared between the Chair, Treasurer, Mooring Officer and the Secretary, the Secretary's work load has been very much easier to deal with. DL has done this job now since taking over from Jack Lavender in 2003, so has been on the committee now for 16 years and feels that another member should take over the work of the Secretary. The club now has job descriptions for its officers so if you wish to view these they are now on the website's Contacts page as links. About nine members did not pay their membership

subscriptions and Crown Estate mooring fees on time (3rd December 2018) and they had to be chased by the Secretary on behalf of the Treasurer. This was the first time in fifteen years that the club was unable to pay the Crown Estate on time (1st January annually). All had to have paragraph 8 of the club's Constitution invoked and pay an extra 25% on the invoice issued on 3rd November 2018 for the 2019 year (January to December). Eventually all the member's subscriptions and mooring fees were paid by mid-February when we were able to pay Crown Estate Scotland. At the last committee meeting it was agreed that next year's subscriptions and mooring fees would have to be paid on time by 3rd December annually and if not, the relevant wording of paragraph 8 of the Constitution would be enforced to the letter and the non-paying member's mooring allocation will be withdrawn by the club.

*"The subscription will become payable with the annual mooring fees as set by the Crown Estate, at a date decided by the Annual General Meeting. Any amounts outstanding after this date will be subject to a late payment fee of 25% of the total annual subscription and fee. If payment has not been received by the end of the financial year – 31st December, then that membership will be deemed to have expired and any mooring allocations to that member withdrawn. Any existing mooring equipment left at the allocated location will be deemed as an illegal mooring by the Crown Estate and if not removed by the owner, it will be removed by the authorised mooring contractor of the Crown Estate and/or club and the cost will be charged to the owner. Mooring removal charges that are unpaid after 30 days will forfeit the mooring in settlement of the costs."*

DL advised that the Crown Estate review on its mooring fee charges is due on 1st January 2020 and so will possibly increase above £40 pa, the rate that has been in force for several years now. Crown Estate Scotland has taken over from The Crown Estate (UK) this year.

## **5) Treasurer's Report & Accounts for 2018**

As the Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting, the Chair asked the Secretary to give an update. The accounts for 2018 were given to members and DL gave a few explanations of the expenditure and asked if any member had any questions. As there were none, the accounts were voted as adopted. DL advised that the Treasurer had checked on the current bank balance as at 22nd May 2019 and the balance was £3,038.63.

## **6) Mooring Officer's Report Group moorings inspections**

Jim Graham (JG), Moorings Officer confirmed that the number of moorings owned by members (37) and the club (2) totalled 39 in 2018 and that 27 had been serviced last year. In 2019 there were 40 moorings including the two club's visitors mooring and 29 were due to be serviced. Four had been serviced so far with the rest expected to be serviced w/c 27th May 2019. JG advised that there was a great shortage of mooring contractors now in the Clyde area and that our current members who have their moorings serviced by Neil Cunningham regularly will continue to have them serviced by him but he has advised that he cannot take on any other members moorings. He is aware that last year's mooring charges have not yet been invoiced however they will be invoiced with this year's servicing charges.

## **7) Visitors moorings & usage**

JG reported the usage of the visitors' mooring in 2018 totalled 102 nights of which one vessel used one whilst broken down for twelve nights and 93 were recorded for the year, up from 58 uses in 2016 and 2017 (92 in 2015) - The reason for this was probably the good weather last year. One visiting yacht left because of 'clinking' halliards on another yacht and anchored in Swine's Hole. JG wished to remind members to secure their halliards well to avoid noise and complaints. Thanks to Bill Miller for recording and photographing all the visiting vessels using the two visitors moorings. There were more than the usual few non-paying vessels last year. The payment box at the notice board is to be replaced with a stronger locked box.

## **8) Public Liability Insurance**

JG explained that the Public Liability Insurance now deals direct with Zurich Charity Insurance covering any risks involved with the visitors' moorings and the committee member's responsibilities, costing £115 pa in 2019. This is a very good deal again.

## **9) Members Discount Scheme**

Members were advised again that two chandlers offer members a 10% discount on many items on production of club membership cards – GaelForce Marine in Hillington and Duncan Chandlers in Glasgow. Other discounts are available. Use your membership cards to obtain the available discounts.

## **10) Muster for 2019**

The Muster for this year will be different as the club is having its marquee at the Carrick Fayre on Sunday 14th July from 1 pm to 4 pm. We hope members will come by boat or car to attend this event. The Lochgoil Watersports Club have also been invited to bring their boats to the Carrick Fayre. Contact JG if you wish to sell any nautical items from the club's stand. There will be other local stands with food and refreshments at the Carrick Fayre.

## **11) Donations**

Since the finances of the club are good and stable, it was decided to give two donations to local Carrick Castle organisations. £100 would be given to the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund' that the Cormonachan Woodlands Association is raising donations for and £100 to the Carrick Castle Community Trust for money towards a local meeting point.

## **12) Membership Fees for 2020**

The committee recommended that the annual membership fee should remain at £15.00 pa for 2020 and this was voted on and approved by the members. *(Subscriptions and Crown Estate Mooring Fees will be due for payment by 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 one month after receiving the invoice (see Article 8 in the club's Constitution).*

## **13) Election of Officers**

Following the club's Constitution, all committee members retire annually. Jai Cowper-Smith agreed to remain as Chair. A vote was taken and Jai and the following officers were re-elected unanimously by the members attending. Douglas Locke (Secretary); Jim Graham (Moorings Officer); Vonna Cowper-Smith (Treasurer). Euan Avery (Non-Residents Representative) was not re-elected as he had moved away from the area and no longer had a mooring in Carrick Castle. JC-S said he would ask Ian Nicholson if he wished to remain a

committee member or not. DL said after 16 years on the committee he felt someone else should take over the position of Secretary next year and that he would guide that person into the position. The job description is shown on the website's Contact page.

#### **14) Defibrillator update for Carrick Castle**

JG said that now there was a defibrillator at the flats entrance by the car park in Carrick Castle, he and others had been trained in its use and there was an on call system in operation. DL pointed out that the club had contributed £100 as a donation a few years ago to this cause.

The AGM part of the meeting ended at 19.40 hrs and was followed by refreshments (sponsored by Stephen McNab and prepared by Anita Graham with the club's thanks).

Jai Cowper-Smith, the club's Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM and the refreshments get together afterwards.

The meeting ended at 20.45 hrs.