

Carrick Castle Boat Club

Celebrating this year 31 years of service to its members since 1989

Douglas Locke – Secretary

Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF

Telephone :: 01301 703098 E-mail :: secretary@carrick-castle-boat-club.co.uk

Web site: www.carrick-castle-boat-club.co.uk

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held by e-mail between April & 23rd June 2020 during the Corona Virus Pandemic

- 1) **A Welcome by the Chair.** This was not possible due to self isolation restrictions by the Government.
- 2) **Apologies & Approval of the last Committee Minutes of 16/02/2019.** Approved by e-mail.
- 3) **Chair's report on the past year 2019.** The main celebration for the club this year was reaching its 30th Anniversary since its foundation on 10th February 1989. A dozen members attended a Celebration Dinner at The View Restaurant in Lochgoilhead where those who wished to attend were given a 30th Anniversary Celebration Mug. The rest of the year was fairly average but we held two Beach Clean Days in the spring and autumn at which other local residents attended. The club in support of the Carrick Castle Community Trust had their marquee up at the Carrick Fayre and some local and Lochgoilhead yachts and boats attended a muster by Castle Carrick. During the year the club had an offer of another large 15 T visitors' mooring to be re-sited next to the two existing visitors' moorings at the third of the cost of a new one. This was taken up by the committee and would be fully available for the 2020 season. The committee also agreed to replace the steps down to the beach where the three visitors' moorings are so that a safe landing and access to the road would be available in 2020. This work was delayed by the weather in 2019 but will be completed in 2020 as all materials have been purchased (2020) and volunteers have agreed to carry out the work. The club donated £100 and a member £50 through the club, to the local Cormonachan Community Woodlands and donated £100 to the Carrick Castle Community Trust during the year. All other matters have been covered in the Treasurer, Secretary and Moorings Officer reports. The Covid-19 Pandemic in the spring of 2020 has upset all plans for the immediate future and we hope that all will stay safe during these very difficult times.
- 4) **Secretary's Report, including update on web site and Facebook.** This was a fairly average year with the main problem being of having to support the Treasurer in writing to very slow payers for their membership subscriptions and Crown Estate Scotland (CES) mooring fees through to February 2020 and then

trying to obtain the club's accounts. As a result of this one member was expelled as a member, for two year's running not paying on time. Another member took exception to being chased up and so his membership was terminated. In both cases, these ex-members now have to pay the Crown Estate Scotland direct for their mooring fees at £80 instead of £40 and have had to apply for a licence direct from Crown Estate Scotland. The club agreed with CES that they may keep the allocated mooring positions in the club's licensed area and may not move them. They have also lost the club's group mooring servicing opportunities and discounts from chandlers and suppliers. The club's website and Facebook pages have been maintained and many news items have been added regularly.

5) Treasurer's Report including the draft accounts for 2019.

Report created in absentia following resignation of the club's treasurer on 16th June 2020. The Secretary and Moorings Officer carried out a review of the 2019 summary accounts provided by the treasurer and were unable to fully reconcile these accounts. The result takes into account all available data available as at 23rd June 2020. The accounts do now balance after adjustments made agreeing with the £2,977.97 bank balance at 31st December 2019.

6) Mooring Officer's Report including an update on usage of and payment for the three Visitors' Moorings for 2019 and 3 VM buoys update.

A quiet year on the use of member's moorings overall. We needed to replace a large number of tags for reasons that are unclear. On a survey of the moorings, a large proportion were found to have no tags at all, surprising in that on our previous survey we had replaced Crown Estate tags and Private Mooring tags for our members (FOC) using the same stainless steel ties as normally provided by the Crown Estate. New green Crown Estate tags for the next five years have now been provided as routine replacement from the Crown Estate for 2020 these will be fitted this season to all members' moorings with the first batch of tags being added by the contractor to each mooring serviced. We will then follow up on the balance of tags. A few moorings have changed hands this year which can be good when fallow moorings come back into use as a result. The Association has also benefitted from the advantageous offer of a large mooring that has now been relocated as a third Visitors Mooring (VM3) which may help in 2020 to recover the deficit on the 16 non-paying visitors in 2019.

A draft copy of the Visitors Moorings record for 2019 was shown to the committee in pdf form.

7) Update on current members mooring positions and servicing to be undertaken in 2020.

Servicing commenced early in March with one and a half days spent at Carrick Castle. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the contractor has only been able to carry on and complete the servicing of the

moorings from 23rd June 2020. Details showing the 2020 servicing schedule were given to the committee.

8) Vessel Owners Agreements for "2015 Onwards" - the current situation. There has been no change to the CES '2015 Onwards' Vessel Owners Agreements. All members have signed agreements that are held under safe conditions by the Secretary.

9) Insurance for the club - an update.

The club's insurance continues as before with Zurich Charities Insurance. This year, Zurich have been pro-active in offering all not-for-profit customers an automatic extension to their policies which in the case of club means that we have a free period for three months prior to the end of this extension, our annual renewal payment of £115.00 has been made.

10) Plans and timetable to complete the steps project approved last year.

This project which was planned to recommence in Spring 2020 is on hold until the Covid-19 Social Distancing directive of the Scottish Government is rescinded. David Mathews, a former member, has volunteered to manage the work and contribute some of the materials. All of the purchased materials are kindly being stored by Jai and Vonna Cowper-Smith at Carrick Farm, although these materials need to be removed to site as soon as possible after the restrictions are lifted (Agreed, chair). One of our newest members, High McLelland, has kindly offered to assist by using his equipment to move the materials to the steps site.

11) Payment of annual Crown Estate Mooring Fees and Members Subscriptions and enforcement of Paragraph 8 of the Constitution to be strictly observed for 2021. Whilst the club has had to enforce Paragraph 8 of the CCBC Constitution this year and remove non paying members, it is felt that this should be enforced earlier next year as we are just volunteers and shouldn't have to continue to write 3 and 4 reminders to get payment in future. The Constitution, particularly Paragraph 8, should be followed by all members if they continue to want to keep an allocation for a private mooring.

Some of the occurrences resulting from friendly reminders this year are totally unacceptable. Although most members have appreciated the reminder, it is not something that any of the Committee should need to spend time on. It was proposed that the Association adopt a 'No reminder' policy with automatic loss of membership and mooring position in the event of non payment by the due date and the normal conditions that would result under current membership terms. This we feel should be accompanied by a return to postal communication for renewals due to multiple problems this year with receipt of our treasurer's e-mails by members. The results of failure of a member to advise a change of home address or e-mail address should be clarified to the membership.

Renewal invoices are sent out on 3rd November annually for payment by 3rd December. This allows for payments to be cleared by the bank and for the treasurer to pay Crown Estate Scotland on time on 1st January of each year. This arrangement is part of the Constitution of the club and signed as agreed by all members.

12) Suggested annual subscription charge for submission at the next AGM for 2021 currently £15.00 pa for 2020. Agreed £15 for 2021 by committee.

13) Annual Beach Clean in Carrick Castle will be on Sunday 3rd May 2020 from 11 - 12 noon. Subject to Corona Virus regulations, this could only go ahead if permitted. Local CCC Trust were notified of the date and time but this event has had to be postponed because of Covid-19 Regulations. Completed, gratefully by Bill Miller during the lockdown.

14) Future meetings: AGM to be held on Friday 20th March 2020 at 18.30 hrs at Cruach House, Carrick Castle with refreshments and a Muster for the summer at Swine's Hole, Carrick Castle? The CCBC AGM under special terms, will have to go ahead at some point once the Committee Meeting has been agreed and minutes sent out in 2020 giving 21 days to the membership for the date of the AGM. The meeting was unable to go ahead as originally planned and will have to be arranged in a different form due to the Covid-19 situation. The meeting over the Internet could be possible via Skype or Zoom, etc. Members will be advised in due course. No muster will be held in 2020.

15) Any other business?

a) The Mooring Officer suggested that we review the utilisation of VM3 (i.e. Number of nights 3 moorings occupied) after the 2020 season and take a decision to either retain it if financially justified or offer it for sale. This will need a full season to take place for a fair decision to be taken.

b) Jai Cowper-Smith, Chair, advised on 10th April 2020 that he will not be standing for re-election to the post at the AGM. See job description link:- <http://www.carrick-castle-boat-club.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CCBC-Chair-Job-Description.pdf>

c) Vonna Cowper-Smith, Treasurer, resigned her post with effect from 16th June 2020 and the position is now vacant. The committee wish to fill this post as soon as possible. See job description link:- <http://www.carrick-castle-boat-club.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/CCBC-Treasurer-Job-Description.pdf>

Current committee members are Jai Cowper-Smith, Chair; Douglas Locke, Secretary; Jim Graham, Moorings Officer & Ian Nicholson.

Treasurer's position vacant. The club would welcome contact from members who could offer their time and commitment for any of the committee positions for 2020/2021.