

Carrick Castle Boat Club

An Annual General Meeting of the club was held at the Village Hall, Lochgoilhead on Saturday 10th April 2010 at 18.00 hrs.

The meeting was attended by: Forrester Cockburn, Alison Cockburn, Roddy Davies, John Donovan, Liz Evans (Chair), Jim Graham (Mooring Officer), Anita Graham, Kevin Henville, Douglas Locke (Secretary & Treasurer), Kieron Mawer, Bill Miller, Tom Murray, Rod Phillips and Robert White (Vice Chair).

1) Welcome:

Liz opened the meeting by thanking all for attending.

2) Apologies:

Apologies were received from John & Nicky Abrahams, Euan Avery, Wendy & Steve Gibbs, Mehrdad Malekianpour, Colin Nesbitt, Mick & Angie Watts and Andy Young.

3) Minutes of the last meeting on 17th April 2009

These were approved (Proposed by Forrester Cockburn and seconded by Roddy Davies) and signed by Liz Evans (Chair).

4) Overview of the Carrick Castle Boat Club

Liz gave an overview of the club's activities in 2009 mentioning the club was now 21 years old and thanking past officers (Mooring Officer Licensees) for their work over the years (David Senior 1989 – 1995; Jack Lavender 1995 – 2003; Douglas Locke 2003 – 2009 & Jim Graham 2010 onwards).

She explained that in 2007 there were major changes to the Mooring Licences having to obtain additional Consent from the Scottish Executive for the club's moorings under the Coast Protection Act 1949 (Section 34) Moorings and a new Agreement with The Crown Estate that included new rules, regulations and requirements.

Liz advised the members that Duncan and Nina MacDonald had donated their mooring to the club for upgrading for a second visitor's mooring and that Neil Cunningham had agreed to upgrade that mooring to 15 tonnes capacity from 6 tonnes for a special reduced cost of only £500 and that the club could pay for this in two parts, 50% on completion and 50% next year.

Liz then thanked Claire France for her work (developing and maintaining) the old website over the last six years and appreciated the fact that she was unable to continue due to her own work commitments and the potential of moving out of the area. The old website required technical skills that no one else had to update the website.

Liz then thanked Kenny Loughray of Bramblejam in Spean Bridge for the design and setting up the content management system of the new website that could be updated by anyone with limited computer knowledge and for setting up the base programmes and gallery for Douglas Locke to add all the website text and photographs. Kenny had agreed to do the design, base work and hosting for the first year for £500 and accept 50% payment on completion of the website and the 50% balance next year.

Liz then thanked Douglas for negotiating the above rates with both Neil Cunningham and Kenny Loughray and for spending several days adding all the text and photographs to the new website.

Liz added that the walks shown on the website had been tested, photographed and detailed by Douglas (70 next year...) who had walked the first six and commented against each photograph for visitors to have something to do whilst visiting Carrick Castle.

Liz reported to the members that there were now 36 members in the club.

Liz then thanked Douglas for negotiating with 8 suppliers for discounts ranging from 5% to 20% off chandlery, boat storage and handling, etc. for members using the new Membership Discount Scheme using a member's Membership Card. One member had already saved a lot of money on his first chandlery purchase.

There were two musters in 2009, the first in May was a washout with heavy rain, but still six members rafted up their 3 boats together on a member's mooring and had an 'inside' barbecue that was enjoyed by all. The August muster had boats of all sizes attending and was held on the beach at Swine's Hole with a barbecue. This finished with lending a hand to two members who ran out of fuel on their return journey and so received a tow by a yacht back home.

Three members of the club had an unusual rescue to perform for another club member in December 2009 that involved the tethering to the shore of a Mercedes car that had rolled off the road and was floating away into the sea. The car was safely secured before the Police, Coastguard and MOD Police arrived on the scene.

The club had a dinner earlier in the year to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the club in 1989. This dinner at the Shore House was enjoyed by all.

A dinner to celebrate the 21st Birthday of the club would be following the AGM and had been booked by 15 members to attend at the Shore House, Lochgoilhead at 7.30 pm.

5) Group moorings inspections

Jim Graham gave a report on the group moorings inspection. 28 moorings are to be serviced this year in April which will be more than ever before taking advantage of the group discounted price. Three new moorings are to be laid for members and a 2nd visitor's mooring.

A further two new members will be bringing two or three pre-existing private moorings into the club that will increase the allocation to 53, including these mentioned.

The new tags to attach to pickup buoys reading "Private Mooring - Please use blue visitors mooring or anchor" have been very successful in the past year, with no known occurrences of members' moorings being used and/or damaged by visiting craft. It is noticeable that pick up buoys are picked up and then released when the tag is read. If you lose one of these tags replacements are available at £5.00 each from the club. Jim circulated a leaflet on the current mooring positions to members.

6) Visitors moorings

The Visitor's mooring usage in 2009 recorded 18 visiting craft, of which 14 paid the £10 mooring fee and 4 did not. There was one severe negative reaction to a follow-up request for payment that is documented on the 'Name and Shame' page on the Visitors Mooring page of the club's website.

The visitors' moorings are now publicised in a wide range of media and guides and should continue to earn revenue, hopefully covering the operating costs. Wi-Fi continues to be available to the visitors mooring area allowing online payment.

7) Muster for 2009 & social activities

The date for the 2010 muster will be on August 15th 2010 at Swine's Hole at 12 noon.

8) Update on the website

Douglas explained to the club members that a new website was needed as the original website could not be updated by anyone other than its creator as it required technical knowledge. The new website is based on a content management system that updates in real time and is simple enough for anyone with limited computer skills to update. 6 walks in the local area which can easily be undertaken by visitors to the mooring are shown on the website and a further one (No 7 Carrick Castle to Ardentinn) will be added once it has been

walked and photographed. Tom Murray advised the meeting that the Ardentenny walk was now complete.

Members were reminded that the website is there with information about the club and its moorings, as well as news of the wider sailing community. Latest news will appear on the website regularly for members to look at.

Members were invited to send in any stories or photos of historical or local interest relating to sailing/boating.

9) Members Discount Scheme

The Membership Discount Scheme that has been introduced for members shows the suppliers who are offering discounts of 5% - 20% to members on the new website.

10) Other social activities

No additional social activities, other than the planned muster in August and the 21st anniversary dinner that follows the AGM, were requested. Most members just wanted cheap mooring fees only obtainable through the club.

11) Accounts

Douglas asked for any questions about the accounts that were given to members for 2009 that left a credit balance on 31st December 2009 of £207.30 but there were none requested.

Douglas asked the members to ensure this year that all fees due for the 2011 season are paid for no later than 15th December 2010. Invoices are sent out in mid November each year. Late payment causes increased administration costs and time and the club still has to pay the members' mooring fees to The Crown Estate by the end of the year. A few members had to be chased a few times for payment after the 15th December so a request was made to all members to ensure their payments are made on time please.

12) Membership Fees

The annual membership fee for 2011 will remain as in 2010 at £15.00 p.a.

13) Election of Officers

Following the club's Constitution, all committee members retire annually. It was asked if anyone wished to join the committee but there were no volunteers. All existing officers were re-elected. Liz Evans (Chair); Rob White (Vice-Chair); Douglas Locke (Secretary & Treasurer); Jim Graham (Moorings Officer) and Colin Jones (Non-local residences Representative). The latter two committee members were co-opted on to the committee in 2009.

14) Any other business

John Donovan requested that e-mails sent out to members should be blind. The committee have had problems with setting this up however Rob White will be looking into this matter with a resolution soon.

Kieron Mawer requested that his name and address should not be passed to the Membership Discount Scheme suppliers because of Data Protection and Bill Miller agreed. The committee apologised that this had happened. It had happened as some suppliers would only give discounts by telephone so in those cases a member would be unable to show the supplier their current membership card. In each case where this had happened a strict agreement had been reached with the supplier that the names and addresses were 'Confidential' and that they would not be used for any other purpose.

The next Scottish Boat Jumble will be at Troon Harbour on Sunday 2nd May. There will also be another Boat Jumble at Ardrishaig on 24th April.

The meeting ended at 19.00 hrs.