

Carrick Castle Boat Club

An Annual General Meeting of the club was held at the Village Hall, Lochgoilhead on Friday 20th April 2012 at 18.00 hrs.

The meeting was attended by: Euan Avery (Vice-Chair), Roddy & Sally Davies, Liz Evans (Chair), Jim Graham (Moorings Officer), Anita Graham, Douglas Locke (Secretary & Treasurer), Graham & Shelagh Mathie, Kieron Mawer, Bill Miller, Tom Murray, Ian & Dorothy Nicholson, Mick Watts, Robert White (Non-Resident Representative) and guests - Inspector Chris Burt (MOD Police), Dennis Bolt, Joni Brown, A. Buchanan, J.G. Day, Mr Hughes, Joan Neilson, Derek Prescott, Thomas Shaw, Alison White – 26 people.

1) Welcome:

Liz opened the meeting by thanking all for attending.

2) Apologies:

Apologies were received from John & Nicky Abrahams, Gordon Adam, Christopher Atkinson, Forrester & Alison Cockburn, Ron Cuffling, John Donovan, Claire France, Steve Gibbs, Phillip Gilmer, Gary Gordon, Kevin Henville, Jim McKenna, Mehrdad Malekianpour, Jean Murray, Keith & Cath Oliver, Rod & Tricia Phillips, Andrew Turner, John Wotherspoon and Andy Young.

3) Minutes of the last meeting on 21st April 2011

These were approved (Proposed by Euan Avery and seconded by Kieron Mawer) and signed by Liz Evans (Chair).

4) Overview of the Carrick Castle Boat Club

Liz gave an overview of the club's activities in 2011 mentioning the club had 38 members in 2011 the same as in 2010 and now has 33 members for 2012. The five that had left the club no longer had moorings.

In 2011, there were 43 moorings registered with The Crown Estate in Carrick Castle including the club's 2 visitor's moorings. In 2012, this has reduced to 40 from the 53 moorings allocated to the club by The Crown Estate. There are therefore 13 unallocated positions available.

Liz advised members that the second visitor's mooring was now fully paid as was the cost of the new website as at 1st January 2011. The website provides information for members and visitors and has a 'For Sale and Wanted' page where members can advertise nautical items without charge.

With regard to social events, there had been a Club Dinner after last year's AGM on 21st April 2011 when 10 members attended at the Shorehouse Restaurant, Lochgoilhead.

There was the usual summer muster in 2011 on 14th August in Swine's Hole. 11 members attended with 2 yachts and 5 kayaks and dinghies. The weather was sunny with showers however everyone enjoyed the barbecue on the beach and the kayaking.

5) Group moorings inspections

Moorings inspections

Neil Cunningham serviced the club members' moorings between Monday 9th and 11th April 2012. Thirty one moorings were serviced this year which is 78% of all the 40 moorings currently laid. One mooring is still to be upgraded.

The Crown Estate has commented that the club did a good job in ensuring all the mooring buoys are correctly tagged with Crown Estate tags even though when they inspected the moorings on 11th April 2012, four tags could not be found, three being under the large mooring buoys and one had disappeared. The Crown Estate are issuing the club with new Crown Estate tags that will be put on member's moorings by the committee together with private mooring tags that the club are paying for. The Crown Estate wants all moorings buoys to have the maximum weight shown on them and the name of the normal resident boat that uses each mooring by members. This will also assist the committee identifying mooring ownership. Maximum weights are required to be shown on all moorings according to the Crown Estate's mooring regulations. These weights were requested last year from Neil, but were not available. Estimates have now been drafted.

We have a current enquiry for a further mooring position that may result in a new external member soon.

Members should advise if there have been any changes to the names registered with the club for their boats. Valid Third Party Insurance Certificates must be sent to the club when a boat is put on its mooring as this is a Crown Estate requirement.

6) Visitors moorings & usage

The Visitor's Moorings usage in 2011 recorded 40 visiting craft, of which 36 paid the £10 mooring fee and 4 did not. A detailed list of usage was shown to members at the meeting. Those that did not pay are documented on the 'Name and Shame' page on the Visitor's Mooring page of the club's website.

The visitor's moorings are now publicised in a wide range of media and guides and should continue to earn revenue, hopefully continuing to cover the operating costs and make a profit. Wi-Fi continues to be available to the visitor's mooring area allowing online payment via PayPal.

The club has a target of 40 paid visits per annum to cover the cost of operating the two visitor's moorings to also make a profit. The costs are made up as follows –

Crown Estate mooring fees at £40.00 per mooring (x2 = £80.00);
Servicing each mooring at £80.00 per mooring (x2 = £160.00);
PayPal payment commission at £0.54 per transaction (40 x £0.54 = £21.60 - Note some payments are made in cash when no commission is payable);
WiFi charge at £0.46 per visit (40 x £0.46 = £18.40);
Contingency fund for five year replacement of riser chain, multiplait riser and shackles at £150 each (x2 = £300.00),
Pick up strop at £75.00 each (x2 = £150.00) and replacement of information/payment tags at £10.00 each (x4 = £40.00 over five years).

The contingency fund has to be spread over a five year period so each mooring has to save £250.00 (£500.00 for two) for replacements (£100.00 per annum for two moorings). However, as the moorings have to recover these costs from the previous year, for the first five year period, the costs are being spread over four years (£125.00 for the two). The total cost therefore for operating the two visitor's moorings for the next four years is £405.00 per annum based on current costs. The visitor's moorings are based financially on being self funding.

Currently, the contingency fund has a credit balance of £159.75 set aside from profit made in 2010/11. Note – the CCAA received a payment of £19.92 against last year's profit over these annual costs, which is 25% of any profit based on the total earnings of the two visitor's moorings following the helpful grant that was given to the club to establish the first visitor's mooring.

There were a few questions answered by the Moorings Officer and the Secretary. Kieron Mawer asked if the visitor's moorings had to be insured. The Secretary answered that he had had discussions with the Crown Estate, their Marine Officer and Agent for this area, and was told that no visitor's mooring anywhere in Scotland was insured as all were 'at owner's risk'. The onus of using a visitor's mooring was on the skipper of a vessel using a visitor's mooring but visitor's moorings had to be serviced annually and general conditions of use shown on the club's website that clearly state that using a visitor's mooring is at your own risk. This is further stated on the club's tags on each visitor's mooring. These tags were shown to the members and can be seen in a photograph on the Visitor's Mooring page on the club's website.

The next question was raised by Mick Watts regarding the laying of new moorings off The Lodge, Lochgoilhead. As both Officer Officers for both mooring associations were present at the meeting it was stated that the Carrick Castle area only went north to Jenny's Bay and the Lochgoilhead area only went south to Douglas Pier. If Ian Hopkins of The Lodge would like to contact the associations, he would be given the options available. Alison White of the Lochgoilhead mooring association was prepared to request that their area be extended up to Jenny's Bay by the Crown Estate so that The Lodge could benefit from the reduced Crown Estate fees of £40.00 per mooring against £80.00 per mooring if The Lodge dealt privately

with the Crown Estate. The Lodge's visitors by boat could use the Carrick Castle visitor's moorings for the usual £10.00 per night fees and be collected and returned to their boats by The Lodge's own transport as another option.

The new Private Mooring tags that the club had purchased that said "PRIVATE MOORING please use a blue visitors mooring or anchor" are to be put on to every private mooring as no member has objected to this being done. The old Private Mooring tags have worked well over the last three years in keeping off visitors from using private moorings and directing them to the visitor's moorings. The new tags are sturdier than the original one. These have cost the club £4.42 each and there will be no charge to members. Examples of the new tags were shown to members. These can also be viewed with photographs shown on the club's website on the Club Moorings and Visitor's Moorings pages.

7) Update on the website

Douglas explained to the club members that the website has information about the club and its moorings, as well as news of the wider sailing community. It has a lot of information for members in the Latest News section with historical articles on winterising your engine, anchoring and a lot more. Also, for visitors, there is a visitor's moorings page with everything a visitor should know when coming to Carrick Castle, many photographs in the gallery, a 'For Sale & Wanted' page that seems to sell most items fairly quickly. It was suggested to members that they should look at the website at least monthly.

8) Members Discount Scheme

The Membership Discount Scheme that was introduced for members in 2010 shows the suppliers who are offering discounts of 5% - 20% to members on the website. Two chandlers were offering members a 10% discount on many items on production of your club membership card. Members reported that they had saved a lot of money using the scheme. This has not been extended further but will be considered.

9) Muster for 2012

The date for the 2012 Muster will be on August 12th 2012 at Swine's Hole at 12 noon.

10) Other social activities

No additional social activities, other than the planned muster in August were requested. Most members just wanted cheap mooring fees only obtainable through the club. It was also advised that the CCAA will have an event on the Carrick Castle green by the castle on Diamond Jubilee Sunday, 3rd June 2012.

11) Accounts

Douglas asked for any questions about the accounts that were given to members for 2011 that left a credit balance on 31st December 2011 of £732.18 but there was only one from Tom Murray asking if the previous year's figures could be shown alongside the current year's figures for comparison. This would be done for 2012 onwards.

Douglas explained the content of the accounts summary and said that the full detailed accounts could be inspected on the wall behind him but could not be published on the website as they contained the names of the members and payments. The accounts are available on the website. The accounts had been audited by Jim Graham. The club's current credit balance as at 18th April 2012 was £828.93.

12) Membership Fees

The annual membership fee for 2013 will remain as in 2012 at £15.00 p.a. to be paid by 15th December 2012.

13) Election of Officers

Following the club's Constitution, all committee members retire annually. It was asked if anyone wished to join the committee. As there were no other offers to serve on the committee all existing officers were re-elected with a unanimous shown of hands by the members attending. Liz Evans (Chair); Euan Avery (Vice-Chair); Douglas Locke (Secretary & Treasurer); Jim Graham (Moorings Officer) and Rob White (Non-local Residences Representative).

14) Any other business

There was no other business.

The AGM part of the meeting ended at 18.35 hrs.

There followed refreshments supplied by the club for members and guests – these included smoked salmon sandwiches, ham sandwiches, ginger cake, fruit cake, shortbread, biscuits, tea, coffee and fresh orange juice. The break lasted about 30 minutes before the talk.

The Talk with projected slides followed by Inspector Chris Burt of the MOD Police giving an insight into the work of the Clyde Marine Unit that is the HQ of the MOD Police in the UK. The other bases are at Portsmouth and Plymouth in England.

The MOD Police have a fleet of high speed motor launches and ribs capable of speeds up to 40 knots. They are concerned with the security in the Dockyard Port of Clyde of Faslane and Coulport in the Clyde and cover Gair Loch to Helensburgh, Loch Long from Blairmore to Glen Mallen and all of Loch Goil. In these areas, there are prohibited and restricted areas and these are shown on the club's website in Local Information. If you are on the water and need to find out if an area is restricted that day you should call up on the VHF Ch 16 or Ch 73.

There are speed restrictions in the Clyde area. Loch Goil has a speed restriction of 12 knots but when passing Coulport it is 7 knots and remains at 12 knots after Coulport to Blairmore. From Blairmore to Cumbrae it is 18 knots. For those going to Gair Loch there are more restrictions as the Rhu Narrows (7 knots) are often closed to all traffic when naval vessels are entering and leaving. The speed limits are shown on the club's web site and the flags or lights advise when closed. (Please note that if you are making a journey up the River Clyde, you will be subject to Clydeport Regulations where speed limits reduce down to 5 knots in several places and you must call up Estuary Control before you can proceed up or down the river. This information is available as a download on the club's web site on the Speed Limits page).

The speed limits in the whole area are enforced. Several members have been stopped by the MOD Police for exceeding the speed limits. Whilst first offences will most likely receive a friendly warning, it should be noted that the fine for exceeding the speed limit is £1,000.00.

Inspector Chris Burt explained that the areas of Gair Loch, Loch Long and Loch Goil come under the jurisdiction of the Queen's Harbour Master (QHM) and the Bye Laws for the area. Whilst the Bye Laws have been in existence for many years, they are currently being rewritten and the club will receive a copy of the new Bye Laws when published. Apparently the current QHM Bye Laws should be available to be seen in local Post Offices.

With regard to passing the MOD base and its off-shore establishments, you should not pass between the 4 yellow buoys but pass outside of these on either side when heading into or away from Lochgoilhead.

The BOATWATCH Scheme was explained to members. This is a free MOD Police service that records details of local boats – Leaflets were handed out; these can also be downloaded on the club's website.

There were many questions answered by Inspector Chris Burt that he answered during the slide show. Members can visit the Queens Harbour Master's website for the Clyde at <http://www.qhm.mod.uk/clyde/> for more information.

Euan Avery, Vice-Chair of the club, thanked Inspector Chris Burt for his very interesting talk and the members and guests applauded him in grateful thanks.

The meeting ended at 20.00 hrs.

If you want to read more on the Regulations, the QHM website shows the Dockyard Port of Clyde Order at <http://www.qhm.mod.uk/clyde/regulations/dpco> and note if you are into water-skiing, jet-skiing or windsurfing you have to get written permission from the QHM

Regulation #10. Water skiing, etc.

Otherwise than in accordance with a written permission granted by the Queen's harbour master, no water-skiing; jet-skiing or windsurfing is permitted within the dockyard port.