

Carrick Castle Boat Club

An Annual General Meeting of the club was held at the Village Hall, Lochgoilhead on Friday 12th April 2013 at 18.00 hrs.

The meeting was attended by: Forrester & Alison Cockburn, Roddy & Sheila Davies, Liz Evans (Chair), Jim Graham (Moorings Officer), Douglas Locke (Secretary & Treasurer), Graham Mathie, Bill Miller, Tom Murray, Steven McNab, Ian & Dorothy Nicholson, Mick & Angie Watts, Robert White (Non-Resident Representative) and guests – Chris McIauty & Mary Slavin– 18 people.

1) Welcome:

Liz opened the meeting by thanking all for attending.

2) Apologies:

Apologies were received from John & Nicky Abrahams, Euan Avery (Vice-Chair), Gordon Adam, Christopher Atkinson, Ron Cuffling, John Donovan, Anita Graham, Kevin Henville, Dave Matthews, Jim McKenna, Keith & Cath Oliver, Andrew Turner, John Wotherspoon and Andy Young.

3) Minutes of the last meeting on 20th April 2012

These were approved (Proposed by Jim Graham and seconded by Bill Miller) and signed by Liz Evans (Chair).

4) Overview of the Carrick Castle Boat Club

Liz gave an overview of the club's activities in 2012 mentioning the club has 34 members in 2013 compared to 33 in 2012, up by one.

In 2012, there were 40 moorings registered with The Crown Estate in Carrick Castle including the club's 2 visitor's moorings. In 2013, the number remains the same at 40 from the 50 mooring positions allocated to the club by The Crown Estate. There are therefore 10 unallocated positions available.

There was the usual summer muster in 2012 on 12th August in Swine's Hole. 11 members attended with 6 yachts, boats and dinghies. The weather was sunny and everyone enjoyed the barbecue on the beach.

The web site is regularly updated with interesting and relevant information on both local and boating topics.

The club has paid £200.00 to purchase a third of the Carrick Castle notice board for boat club use where information is regularly updated.

The committee agreed to donate £100.00 towards the purchase of a second kit bag for the Lochgoil First Responders, so each village could have its own equipment.

5) Group moorings inspections

Moorings inspections

Neil Cunningham serviced the club members' moorings between Monday 9th and 11th April 2012. Thirty moorings were serviced in 2012 which was 77% of all the 39 moorings currently laid at that date. One mooring was still to be upgraded.

All members' moorings were re-tagged with new Crown Estate tags and members were advised of their new tag numbers. In addition, a new type of private mooring tag was sourced by the club and fitted to all members' moorings free of charge. A sample of both this and the new Visitor's mooring tag were available at the AGM.

Estimated weights are now available for all members' moorings and these will be reviewed again this year. Members were asked to check these on the list provided. Maximum weights are required to be shown on all moorings according to the Crown Estate's mooring regulations. Members were asked to check the club's list and amend at their discretion.

We have a one new member's mooring scheduled to be laid and this should be done when Neil Cunningham arrives in the Loch for the servicing work during w/c 14th April 2013.

The Crown Estate have advised that one mooring is to be removed during this year's servicing work due to non-payment of Crown Estate fees.

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.

For the 2013 season, we have 40 mooring positions occupied from the 50 authorised, of which 27 are scheduled to be serviced of which one is new equipment this year and one is to be removed for non-payment of Crown Estate fees.

Roddy Davies asked Jim Graham about the question of liability regarding moorings. Jim answered the question saying that Neil Cunningham, the club's mooring contractor, had liability insurance with regard to the laying and servicing of the moorings. How the mooring was used was the responsibility of the mooring's owner.

Bill Miller said that he did not see the club's combination lock on the slipway gate. Jim said he would investigate and confirmed the number for the 2013 season to the membership.

6) Visitors moorings & usage

The Visitor's Moorings usage in 2012 recorded 56 visiting craft (40 in 2011), of which 54 paid (36 in 2011) the £10 mooring fee so only 2 did not pay in 2012 (4 did not in 2011). Those that did not pay are documented on the 'Name and Shame' page on the Visitor's Mooring page of the club's web site.

Wi-Fi continues to be available to the visitor's mooring area allowing online payment via PayPal.

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 (43 x £0.54 = £23.22 - Note some payments are made in cash when no commission is payable);

Cash payment via the 'CCBC' box at the notice board were 6; 4 payments by cheque and one by BACS plus a payment received from the previous year (2011);

WiFi charge at £0.46 per visit (56 x £0.46 = £25.76);

The gross earnings from the two visitor's moorings were £540.00 and after payment of PayPal and WiFi charges produced a net total of £500.68. From this amount, Crown Estate mooring fees, servicing charges, contingency allowances and replacement tags have to be deducted. The remaining surplus is then split between the club and the CCAA.

Contingency fund for five year replacement of riser chain, multiplait riser and shackles at £120 each pa (Contingency fund stands at 480.00 at the end of 2012), The contingency fund has to be spread over a five year period so each mooring can have tackle replaced as necessary.

We were fortunate this year that Neil Cunningham did not charge the club for servicing the two visitor's moorings.

The CCAA, now defunct, received a payment of £41.61 for 2012 (£19.92 for 2011) against last year's surplus over these annual costs, which is 25% of any surplus based on the total earnings of the two visitor's moorings following the helpful initial establishment grant that was given to the club for the first visitor's mooring.

7) Update on the website

Douglas Locke 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, weather & tides 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 web site 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 further options will be investigated.

9) Muster for 2013

The dates for the 2013 Musters will be on Sunday 9th June 2013 at Stuckbeg Beach, Loch Goil at 12 noon and another on Sunday 11th August 2013 at Ardentinnny Beach, by Shepherd's Point, Loch Long at 12 noon. Both these will have barbecues on the beach.

10) Other social activities

As the Carrick Castle Boat Club will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on 10th February 2014, it is proposed to organise a celebratory dinner on Saturday 15th February 2014. Details to follow.

It was asked if members had any suggestions for a talk for next year's AGM. Douglas Locke said that Euan Avery had previously said that he could ask QinetiQ, the MOD base operator, if someone would be willing to give a talk on their work in Loch Goil. Douglas Locke said he could ask his son Gillan, a Clyde Pilot, if he or another Clydeport member of staff could give a talk of the pilotage area of the Clyde. Members were in favour of this option so this would be followed up for 2014.

11) Accounts

Douglas asked for any questions about the accounts that were given to members for 2012 that left a credit balance on 31st December 2012 of £1,023.32 (£732.18 in 2011). He advised that the current credit balance at the bank as at the date of the AGM was about £1,500.00

Douglas explained the content of the accounts summary and said that the full detailed accounts could be inspected on the table in front of him but could not be published on the web site as they contained the names of the members and payments. The accounts are available on the web site. The accounts had been audited by Jim Graham.

12) Membership Fees

The committee recommends that the annual membership fee remains at £15.00 for 2014. Subscriptions and Crown Estate Mooring Fees will be due for payment by 3rd December 2013 one month after receiving the invoice. Only one e-mail reminder will be sent. Payments after 3rd December will incur a 25% surcharge in accordance with the club's Constitution. If payments are not received by 31st December annually then club membership will cease, as also stated in the club's Constitution. Lapsed members can re-apply to join the club but will be charged the £15.00 joining fee as well as the £15.00 annual subscription fee. We are applying the terms of the Constitution rigidly to improve the efficiency of the administration in the collection of the annual membership fees. Our aim is that everyone must pay by 3rd December to avoid the Christmas mail delays as the club has to have cleared funds to pay the Crown Estate on 1st January annually.

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 by the members attending. Liz Evans (Chair); Euan Avery (Vice-Chair); Douglas Locke (Secretary & Treasurer); Jim Graham (Mooring Officer) and Rob White (Non-local Residences Representative). Douglas Locke pointed out that at the end of this year he will have served on the committee for 10 years and is willing for another to take over the work if anyone would like to.

14) Members Opinions on the following: -

1) Improve the slipway – Douglas Locke & Jim Graham had investigated this and received quotes and asked the Crown Estate if a grant could be obtained for the improvements. The cost of an excavator to improve the surface from two quotations was £250.00 & £300.00 and the cost of 6m³ of concrete was £742.82, totalling therefore around a thousand pounds for the improvement works. Initially, the Crown Estate was willing to consider this however when it was advised that the club did not own the land between the council's road and the Crown Estate's foreshore, no grant could be offered. The land in between is now owned or managed by Tilhill. It also came to light that no licence to have a slipway had ever been applied for that costs £120.00 per annum. Bearing in mind the above, the committee decided that the club could not be involved in trying to improve the slipway.

2) Arrange a beach clean – It was generally agreed by the members that a beach clean is needed as one has not been done for a long time. Liz Evans will therefore try to arrange a

date for a beach clean and it is hoped that as many members as possible will come along on that day to help tidy up the beach along the Carrick Castle shoreline. Tom Murray advised the contact at the Argyll & Bute Council for bags and upload of rubbish is Ailsa Cunningham.

15) Any other business

Forrester Cockburn, on behalf of the members, thanked the committee and particularly Douglas Locke and Jim Graham for all their hard work in running the club's day to day business that was much appreciated. Liz Evans thanked Steven McNab for his donation to the club for the cost of the refreshments.

The AGM part of the meeting ended at 18.40 hrs.

Refreshments

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

The Talk was given by Volunteer Coastguard Tom Murray on the **Role of HM Coastguard** locally. Tom has served with the Coastguard for 35 years and there are four members covering our area. When in need of the Coastguard, a call must be made to '999' and not to an individual you may know. The role of the HM Coastguard is now clearly focussed on search and rescue at sea and on the prevention of maritime incidents through education and the promotion of safety.

Tom talked on the local situation looking after the shoreline and stressed the following points of: Getting Trained; Check Weather & Tides; Wear a Lifejacket; Avoid Alcohol & Keep in Touch. RYA training courses are available locally; weather and tides are available on the club's web site; always wear a lifejacket when in a tender, dinghy, small boat and even on a larger boat; avoid alcohol when in command of a boat as most accidents happen when under the influence of alcohol and keep in touch which means let someone ashore know where you are going and when you will be back.

The new telephone number for HM Coastguard since Clyde Coastguard closed for this area is the Belfast Coastguard – 02891 463933 – This is worth adding to your mobile phone contact list.

The booklet – The History of HM Coastguard – was handed to those members attending the AGM. The Secretary has a number of spare copies available if any other member would like a copy. Just send an A5 SAE envelope to the Secretary who will post out a copy or phone to arrange collection of a copy.

There were a lot of questions and answers given and then Liz Evans thanked Tom Murray for his interesting talk to the members.

The meeting ended at 19.30 hrs