

Carrick Castle Boat Club

An Annual General Meeting of the club was held at the Village Hall, Lochgoilhead on Friday 22nd April 2016 at 18.30 hrs.

The meeting was attended by: Liz Evans (Chair), Douglas Locke (Secretary & Treasurer), Ian Nicholson (Committee Member) & Dorothy Nicholson, Keith Oliver, Roddy & Sheila Davies, Jai & Vonna Cowper-Smith, Bill Miller, Angie Watt and Jules & Trish Cadie – 13 people.

1) Welcome & Apologies:

Liz opened the meeting by thanking all for attending and saying the club had reached its 27th anniversary since its founding on 10th February 1989.

Apologies were received from Jim Graham (Moorings Officer) & Anita Graham, Euan Avery (Non-Residents Representative), Forrester & Alison Cockburn, Stephen McNab, John Donovan, Mehrdad Malekianpour, John Murphy, Chris & Hilary Atkinson, Phil & Jacq Munro, Andrew Turner, Keiron Mawer, Paul Riley, Rod Phillips, Gordon Adams, Graham Mathie & John Wotherspoon.

2) Minutes of the last meeting on 24th April 2015

These were approved (proposed by Bill Miller and seconded by Liz Evans) and signed by Liz Evans (Chair).

3) Overview of the Carrick Castle Boat Club in 2015

Liz gave an overview of the club's activities in 2015 mentioning the club now has 34 members in 2016, an increase of two since 2015.

Liz Evans gave a report on the past year. She started off by saying that unfortunately Jim Graham had been taken into hospital today and so was unable to attend the meeting and Anita Graham had all the refreshments so Liz and Dorothy came to the rescue producing alternative refreshments at very short notice for the meeting.

Highlights of the year were that the club reached its 27th year since its foundation on 10th February 1989 and members had received during this period a 50% saving on their Crown Estate mooring fees each year. Douglas who has been Administrator and then Secretary & Treasurer since 2003 was thanked by the chair and members for 13 years of doing this work for the club and Jim as Moorings Officer since 2009 was also thanked. The club now has 34 members in 2016, an increase of two over 2015. The waterproof notice board and payment slip holder were added in 2015 and are a great improvement thanks to Jim for finding these items on the Internet. The annual beach clean on 24th May 2015 was attended by six members who collected seven bags of rubbish, there being less to collect than on the previous year when 14 bags were collected. The muster in August was postponed from 9th to 16th due to the weather conditions. Thirteen people attended with three yachts and two day boats and some people walked to Swine's Hole - a great location as accessible for all types of craft - even walking or cycling there too. The construction of the new timber slipway/ramp/pier was almost complete and timber removal operations to remove the timber from Carrick Woods commences in May 2016. The club had to arrange the relocation of four members' moorings, the cost of which the Carrick Estate agreed to pay.

4) Group moorings inspections

As Jim Graham, Moorings Officer, was unavailable to give his update on the moorings serviced in 2015, Liz advised that Neil Cunningham had started work on the 2016 list that had been prepared by Jim on behalf of the members and hopes to complete the servicing and laying of new moorings by mid-May. An update will be given by e-mail once Jim is back home and feeling better.

5) Visitors moorings & usage

The visitor's moorings usage in 2015 recorded 83 visiting craft between the two visitors' moorings that included 11 winter uses by a small local fishing boat. Only six users did not pay in the year.

The gross earnings from the two visitor's moorings were £770.00 and after payment of PayPal and WiFi charges produced a net total of £701.58. From this amount, Crown Estate mooring fees, servicing charges, mooring tackle replacements, insurance, contingency allowances and replacement lettering & tags have to be deducted. The remaining surplus goes into the club's funds. The contingency fund over the last five year period allows for the replacement of moorings & mooring tackle as necessary. A question from the floor when the club charges £10 per night to use the moorings was why the odd pence. This was explained that PayPal charge 54p commission and the club pays 46p per visit for WiFi use. Some people pay cash so will only incur a WiFi debit causing the odd pence amounts in the total. Bill Miller was thanked for recording the photographic use of the visitors' moorings in case of having to chase non-payers that attempted to be chased.

6) Public Liability Insurance

Zurich Insurance covers the £10m public liability insurance through The Highland Council for the visitors' moorings and committee & volunteers. Members were offered site of the policy if they wished to see it. The cost of the insurance annually is £112.79 that is paid for at £9.40 per month by direct debit. This charge comes out of the revenue from the visitors' moorings use.

7) Update on the website

The secretary explained that the website is updated all the time. It had been pointed out by some members and visitors that the typeface was too small on smartphones and tablets. The committee were aware of this and had asked for quotations to update the website originally set up in 2005 and last upgraded in 2010. Two had been received (£975 + hosting £100 pa & £650 + hosting £60 pa to the same specifications). Vonna Cowper-Smith said she could get the work done for a lot less. Douglas read out the specification and will send it to her to get an equivalent quotation and a decision will be taken at a later date with regard to whether the website is updated or not. The club does have the money to update the website.

8) Members Discount Scheme

Members have advised that the two chandlers offering members a 10% discount on many items on production of club membership cards – GaelForce Marine in Hillington and Duncan Chandlers in Glasgow are well used. Other discounts are available.

9) Muster for 2016

The members were asked if this year they would like to have a 'cruise under sail' or 'motor together' to another local destination but no decision was made. In the event of no alternative arrangement being made the date for the 2016 Muster will be on Sunday 14th August 2016 at Swine's Hole, Carrick Castle at 12 noon. Bring your own barbeque to have on the beach, weather permitting. Members will be informed by e-mail of any update to this.

10) Accounts for 2015

Douglas said that the accounts were given to all members attending the meeting and that they were also published on the club's website on the Minutes page. The club had a credit balance on 31st December 2015 of £2,885.68 (£2,104.31 in 2014). The accounts had been audited by Jim Graham. The current credit balance as at 22nd April 2016 was £3,365.04. Most of the credit referred to money in the contingency fund as the visitors' moorings provide a surplus after all costs.

11) Membership Fees for 2017

The committee recommended that the annual membership be reduced from £20.00 pa in 2016 to £15.00 pa in 2017 and this was approved by the members. Subscriptions and Crown Estate Mooring Fees will be due for payment by 3rd December 2016 one month after receiving the invoice (see Article 8 in the club's Constitution). The club is able to reduce this charge as it managed to get insurance at a substantially lower rate than first quoted in 2014 when subscription rates were increased for 2015.

12) Election of Officers

Following the club's Constitution, all committee members retire annually. It was asked if anyone wished to join the committee. Liz Evans, Chair was retiring at this AGM and she was thanked for 12 years of service as Chair to the club. As there were no other offers to serve on the committee, the existing officers were re-elected by the members attending. Douglas Locke (Secretary & Treasurer); Jim Graham (Moorings Officer); Euan Avery (Non-local Residents Representative) and Ian Nicholson (previously co-opted in 2015). The posts of Chair and Vice-Chair remain vacant. Douglas Locke who tried to retire as Treasurer on 31st December 2015 said he would continue for one more year but would definitely retire as Secretary and Treasurer at the next AGM in 2017 after 14 years of service to the club.

It is therefore essential that members come forward to fill the following posts prior to the next AGM:- Chair (required to attend committee meetings (1 or 2 a year and the AGM); Vice-Chair (required to be able to stand in for the Chair if unavailable); Secretary (to run the day to day business of the club and manage the website) and Treasurer (to look after the finances of the club and collect in subscriptions and Crown Estate mooring fees).

13) Beach clean & other social activities

Following the beach clean in 2015 when 7 bags of rubbish were collected off the beach in Carrick Castle that was half the amount collected in 2014, there will be another one on Sunday 15th May 2015 from 11.00 to 12.00 hrs so please meet up with gloves at the club's notice board by the castle car park - rubbish bags will be provided. Low water will be at 14.19 hrs BST.

14) Any other business

There was no other business.

The AGM part of the meeting ended at 19.00 hrs and after refreshments (sponsored by Stephen McNab with the club's thanks) there was a Presentation with photos and a video was given by Liz Evans & Douglas Locke on 'The Preparation for and the Voyage of yacht Dream Weaver from Carrick Castle to the Med and Back' that was well received by the members attending. A display of charts, almanacs, sailing directions, canal guides and the log book for the voyage were shown together with the parachute sea anchor that was used in the Bay of Biscay.

At the end of the meeting Liz Evans was given a gift of a vehicle black box DVR camera for her car and thanked for her 12 years as Chair of the club.

The meeting ended at 20.45 hrs.