

Lothian Sea Kayak Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Grange Club

Portgower Place, EH4 1HQ
1930, Wednesday 21st March 2018

Committee Members present – David Grieve, Chairman; Chris Morgan, Treasurer; Alan Fraser, Secretary ; Fiona McLay; Lindsay Donald; Mel Luxton; David Simpson; Katerina Stein; David Towsey and Rod Dalitz.
(About 60 members present.)

WELCOME and APOLOGIES

1. **David Grieve** welcomed about 60 members to the 30th AGM. He thanked them for attending and invited members to make more suggestions and get involved in the club. He thanked Richard Taylor for his input into the new website. Alan reported apologies had been received from 18 members.
2. The minutes of the previous AGM (24th March 2017) were approved (Proposer, Ian Paterson, seconder Grahame Wear)

REVIEW OF 2017

Membership

3. **Alan Fraser** reported some churn and some growth in Club Membership. It stood at 242, a net increase of 36. There had been 69 new applicants. The gender balance was now at 38% female, 62% male, against 33% / 67% the previous year. Numbers were up in all age groups. Main reasons for joining, where given, were access to training and trips (about 20% each), boat hire (c.10%) and fishing and storage (about 5% each).

Trips

4. **Fiona McLay** reported lots of evening paddles interspersed with training sessions. Grade A paddles had been scheduled for a number of Sundays, although a few had been cancelled due to bad weather.
5. There had been ad hoc paddles to the usual destinations including South Queensferry , North Berwick, St Abbs, and further afield to the Sugar Boat, Arbroath, Auchmithie, Burnmouth, Berwick, the Farnes, the Cumbraes and the Isle of May. There had been camping trips to Lismore (twice), to the Small Isles (twice), to Aberdeenshire and a hostel weekend at Oban. One trip had been much further afield – to Prince William Sound, Alaska.

Social Events

6. **Mel Luxton** reported on social events. There had been a 30th Anniversary hostel based weekend at Oban. David Grieve had led a training session with

the RNLI and there had been a cake cutting by the two longest serving members of the club. A vote was taken and it was agreed that the St Abbs independent lifeboat should be the beneficiary of the raffle.

Skills Development

7. **David Towsey** and **Katerina Stein** reported on a strong start with around 50 people attending wet sessions led by David Simpson, who also ran “rough stuff” There was a strong demand for more. David Grieve had run 2 star training, and Ken McIlroy had run a coastal navigation and trip planning course. Katerina Stein and Fiona McLay had completed Level 1 training and Dougie Williams and Ian Patterson had updated their coaching qualifications. Ken, Ian & Katerina, along with Richard Hope, Laura Bennitt and Alice MacInnes had all run a range of training blocks.

Safety and Communications

8. **David Simpson** reported people were taking on the key lessons about knowledge/ awareness, skills, equipment and communication. People were pushing themselves more, but there were fewer near misses.
9. There was a strong uptake on training. 40+ had attended wet sessions in June and 30 + had turned out for rough sessions in November/December and in February/March. Pool sessions had been well attended, as had talks. The Doctors Wild’s account of their Canadian trip had attracted 80+ people; 30+ had come to hear Mark Newell of the Isle of May Bird Observatory; and there had been a large turnout for Freya Hoffmeister.
10. We still needed to be better prepared for emergencies. It was important to have ICE information on the boat and the person. Phone numbers should go on paddles and buoyancy aids. ICE details should be collected by trip organisers on the beach.

Pool Sessions, Boat Hire and Storage,

11. **Rod Dalitz** reported that 4 pool sessions had been run in November, and 9 in January – March. One had been cancelled due to heavy snow. 100 places had been taken up, out of 108 available. The same was planned for next year. He thanked all coaches and helpers at the pool and at the containers.
12. All the club boats had been well used – they were recorded as hired out for 86 days – but only 46 days’ payment had been recorded. The 3 Capellas had been hired for 28 days in total, the 2 Etains for 34 days and the Aquanaut for 24 days. The (smaller) Avocet acquired, but not yet hired, might be useful for lighter paddlers. The surf boats had been sold; the double was to be sold.
13. Turning to storage, the Club used 4 containers at Swanston Farm. No 2 was for club hire and pool boats; nos 1, 3 and 7 were for members’ boats. There were now 30 members’ boats in rented storage, out of 48 available spaces. (33 spaces taken was break even.) There were 2 more people interested in storage at present. An infestation problem had been dealt with.

Yahoo Replacement

14 **Chris Morgan** and **Rod Dalitz** had been heavily involved in developing the new website. **Richard Taylor** encouraged members to look into it and populate it with their personal details. They could book and pay for boat hire online and pay for membership online. It was working more smoothly now but he invited comments. **Chris** said all members should now have log in details for the website. Members could decide which elements of their profile to share, including a photo. If people wanted an induction session he could arrange it.

Andy Young asked how quickly a trip could be added to the calendar. Did you have to e mail a Committee member? **Chris** said it could be done very quickly by emailing all members. He was checking whether there was a reminder function and would let people know.

Carol Williams asked about the personal details shared with the SCA, the impact of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and whether all the information collected was necessary. **David Simpson** confirmed that the SCA collected what was required of them by Sportscotland and that SCA was GDPR compliant. **Chris** pointed out the "My Details" page set out what was passed to the SCA. **Richard Taylor** said a few more changes were to come in the website to cover use of cookies etc. GDPR would be more demanding. **Richie Diaper** asked about decommissioning of Yahoo. **Chris** explained it was being done gradually. Nothing would be lost. **Rod** said there was value in keeping Yahoo files (rather than functions) for 6 -12 months. **David Grieve** asked members to report any issues. He asked members to make use of the new site which would be the main place for trip information etc..

Financial Statement

15 **Chris Morgan** presented the summary accounts, copies of which had been tabled and were on both Yahoo and the new website. Income for 2017 totalled £17,983.16. Expenditure was £14,722.38. Club reserves stood at £14,226.72, but he pointed out there had been substantial income in year from first Aid course where the associated expenditure had fallen in the previous year. It was necessary to retain reserves to meet any liabilities

16 **Alice McInnes** asked if the club could use some of its reserves to provide financial assistance for individuals' training. **Chris** said that 4 members had received grants towards coaching costs in the last year and suggested we could look at scope for doing more. It might be possible to run Level1 or Level 2 courses of our own. **David Grieve** confirmed that the club offered members financial support of up to £100 towards the costs of training where there was a clear payback to the club.

PLANS FOR 2018

Subscriptions 2018

17. **Chris** announced that as the finances were healthy, the Committee proposed once more that subscriptions remain at £10 per year in 2018. The members agreed.

Trip Schedule 2018

- 18 **Fiona McLay** said the aim would be for 1 evening paddle a week during summer (weather permitting). Grade A paddles would be scheduled for the first Sunday of each month. She encouraged those wanting to lead/organise paddles for the first time to consider doing it on Grade A paddles. We were also looking for organisers/leaders for Grade B & C paddles. The Committee was always ready to find experienced support for those new to leading/organising. Most evening trips were in the calendar already.
- 19 **David Simpson** suggested there could be rough stuff sessions once a month, with regular B&C paddles as well.
- 20 **David Grieve** asked members to use the new website to send suggestions to the Committee.

Social Events 2018

21 . **Mel Luxton** announced the annual barbecue and A grade paddle would take place at Seacliff on Sunday 5th August. A hostel based weekend at Ratagan was planned for 5-7th October – booking would open in May.

Brian Horne (judge with Mel of Best Trip Report) explained it had been a difficult task. They had created categories. Winners were –

Best Day Out, , - **Richard Leeson & Segar Rogers**, light hearted account of Grade A Paddle

Training – David Towsey, 4 Star Training, North Berwick

Unexpected/Human Interest – David Simpson, St Abbs Head, recovery of body

Poetic Licence – Ian Patterson – account in verse of tree mallow cutting, which had attracted most responses from members.

Skills Development 2018

22. **David Towsey** said he would let members know when a plan was in place, but was ready to respond to demand. **David Grieve** pointed out there were plenty of people in the club able to deliver 2 & 3 Star training in house. Members should say what they wanted. **Carol Williams** said the First Aid course organised by the club had been very good and worth doing again. The advanced course was also very good. **David Simpson** suggested that First Aid and wet sessions should be laid on every year.

Development Plan

23. **David Grieve** referred to the SCA focus on well run clubs. **Lindsay Donald** was conducting a survey to establish what the club did well and not so well. Members' views were wanted. **Alice McInnes** suggested setting up a sub Committee. **Lindsay** and **Fiona McLay** agreed. Members were encouraged to submit views.

Updating of LSKC Constitution

24. **Alan Fraser** explained that the SCA offered support on corporate governance issues. They had suggested three changes to the constitution which made explicit some existing aspects of it –

An explicit non discrimination clause which set out a full list of the grounds where discrimination was forbidden;

A detailed provision for dealing with exclusion from membership and a right of appeal; and

an explicit provision confirming that LSKC was a not for profit body.

An updated draft of the constitution had been circulated. Members were invited to approve the changes. Those present agreed.

Election of Committee for 2018

25. **Alan Fraser** pointed out the constitution allowed for up to 10 Committee Members. There were 10 serving Committee members (**David Grieve, Chris Morgan, Alan Fraser, Fiona McLay, Lindsay Donald, Mel Luxton, David Towsey, Rod Dalitz, David Simpson and Katerina Stein**). **Chris Morgan** was standing down; the others were willing to be reappointed if required.

Alan reported that the following nominations had been received:

David Grieve (as Chair) -nominated by MA Harper , seconded by Chris Morgan

Louise Hammersley – nominated by Chris Morgan, seconded by Alan Fraser

David Simpson – nominated by MA Harper

Mel Luxton – nominated by MA Harper

The entire present Committee – nominated by Graeme Seggie & Dougie Williams.

As no other nominations had been received and there were 10 nominations for 10 posts, Alan invited the members to approve the appointments en bloc.

The meeting agreed unanimously that the above members be appointed/reappointed to the Committee and that David Grieve be reappointed Chair.

Fiona Maguire proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Morgan for his service as Treasurer, which was unanimously supported. There was a vote of thanks to the Committee.

David Grieve thanked Chris for his work on the Committee as Treasurer and on the website, where he would continue to offer support.

[Very sadly, Louise died in an accident a short time after. Chris Morgan remained as Treasurer]

Any Other Business

26. There being no further business, the Chair concluded the formal part of the meeting.

END OF FORMAL PROCEEDINGS

Plans for rest of evening –

David Simpson introduced **David Towsey's** account of last year's LSKC expedition to Alaska

SUPPER

ALAN FRASER

Secretary, LSKC