

Convenor's Report

Jonathan Reid

Since last year's AGM in February the club continues to develop and grow.

At our last AGM we managed to lower the average age of the committee by welcoming Will Godding as Secretary, and Seth King as a committee member – thanks to them both for stepping up.

By way of notice I will have completed 3 years as Convenor by our next AGM, and will then be stepping down, so please think about offering your services in this or indeed any other capacity: mentoring help will happily be provided by our committee members. I'm keen to continue lowering the average age of the committee, and particularly its conveners!

We attended the following regattas: Lochboisdale's inaugural event in May, Black Isle (Cromarty & Avoch), Isle Martin exhibition regatta, Shieldaig, and of course Stranraer – their first regatta before hosting the Worlds in July this year.

We also attended several youth regattas but for the life of me I can't remember which ones! Tom?

Further, we had crews in the Castle to Crane race on the Clyde, and just recently Topher and Jan have returned from skiff rowing in Tasmania, continuing their evangelical promotion of the sport worldwide.

Our own regatta was a great success and the biggest one we've held since the 2013 Worlds, with 29 clubs in all, and for the first time running youth races on the Friday evening, effectively running a 2½-day regatta with over 280 entries in 26 races over 16 lanes.

Also, we finally had our very own gazebo, complete with logo (designed by our own ??) AND a new crew uniform strip, so we no longer appear as poor cousins, untented and in motley when we appear at other regattas.

However with the 2019 Worlds in Stranraer taking place in July this year – clashing with our usual slot - we've decided to run a smaller regatta this year with 15 invited local clubs from around the North West of Scotland over Friday evening and Saturday 24th and 25th May of that bank holiday weekend.

We will be attending the Worlds in Stranraer in July, and noting the ability of older members to continue rowing well after they ought to know better, the SCRA has introduced a new class for racing: 280+ Mixed crews, though we still hope they'll introduce a 70+ category in the future.

5 members of the club (Kathryn Bennet, John Grant, Gary Lewis, Anthony O'Flaherty and Lorraine Thompson) have taken up a huge challenge of rowing from Stornoway to Ullapool in one of our skiffs to raise money for MS Scotland. They're training hard for the 50-mile row.

That event will take place in August of this year weather and crew fitness permitting. We wish them all the best for the venture and the club will be providing support all the way.

UCRC 2019 AGM – 12/03/19

Over the last year, the club owes a debt of gratitude to all those who have continued to help with fund-raising, organising, fetching and carrying, towing, training and maintenance as well as a whole host of other activities, all crucial to the club's viability and progress.

So on behalf of the club, I extend gratitude and admiration to the following:

Topher Dawson for keeping the boats in excellent shape;

Sheila Slaughter for great venison burgers and fantastic catering organisation generally;

Will Godding and Tom Grant for driving the youth crews and Winter League events and running great gym sessions for those mad enough to attend;

Sue Agnew who is stepping down after 9 years' service as both a committee member and for most of those years, Treasurer;

Anne Smith for running our lottery;

Committee members for continuing to help manage and steer the club onwards.

I must mention the huge improvement to our Wee Pier, thanks to Kevin Peach and the Ullapool Harbour Board, who finally wrenched the wee pier from the Highland Council and have had it rebuilt to a very high standard allowing us as a club to park, launch and recover our skiffs much more easily, safely and to the increased enjoyment of all.

And finally I must thank all you members for turning out to help whenever you can. The club cannot operate successfully without your constant efforts at times of need. Please continue to respond when the call goes out!

It is those efforts by all concerned here that make Ullapool's own rowing regatta and the club itself highly regarded, respected and enjoyed in Scotland.

Thanks to all

JR