

## Convener's report for 2016

Welcome everyone to our AGM where we look back at 2016 and forward to the new season.

Last year in February we were gearing up for the Worlds with fitness sessions in the leisure centre and Nigel May's dance class. After painting the boats in March and April we really started the season in May with quite a lot of youth rowing and taking Ulla to Tanera for the school S! camping trip.

Our regatta at the end of May was well attended with 16 boats and had good weather, so the skiff community continue to think of Ullapool as a sunny place!

In June Ulla went for a trip to Scoraig when we rowed round Calliach Head, and in July we took out two boat loads of Mexican Girl Guides. We also attended a small regatta in Strangford, Northern Ireland.

August saw us at Shildaig where violent winds collapsed our gazebo but did not eclipse our great victory. Ulla went to Fort William to show a possible skiff club there what skiff rowing is like. In September we went to the North Berwick Regatta, taking part in a multi boat pile-up, in October it was the Avoch Regatta again in lovely conditions, and the SCRA Loch Tummel freshwater sprints in a glassy calm.

We have continued to row in this mild winter and I have been working with an international group of oar experts to develop a standard oar for the class. I intend to make a set for the club when we settle on a design from the 7 prototypes already made, and we will trial them this season along with other pioneer clubs. In November at the SCRA AGM there will be a vote on whether to adopt them. If the vote goes against the standard design we will need to replace the spoon blades with flat ones.

Looking forward, we have a bit of boat maintenance in March, Portsoy Youth Regatta on 1st April, the Coigach regatta on 20th May, and the Netherlands Regatta the following weekend in Woudrichem which is going to be great. In July we have our own regatta on the 8th and 9th with 10 clubs already signed up, and Cromarty are holding theirs on the 22nd. Shildaig is on the 12th of August and In September there is the Big Clyde Row from Dumbarton to the Finnieston Crane. The Avoch Youth regatta is on the 21st of October and the official season ends at Loch Tummel with the freshwater sprints on the 28th.

I am delighted to say that we have a volunteer, Jonathan Reid, who I think will make a splendid Convener, so this is my last report. I thank you all for your support and look forward to many years of successful and enjoyable rowing for the club.