

Convener's Report 2014

Welcome to this AGM and thanks for coming. Our year has been dominated by one event which was 18 months in the preparation and involved the whole village, the World Championship.

An enormous amount of fundraising took place, which though hard work was also great fun at least looking back, and brought our club into contact with many in the village who don't row. Our catering is rightly famed even if some of our male models don't really like fashion shows.

The appearance of Princess Anne was very welcome although it did complicate matters, and when her visit went off without a hitch and in gorgeous weather we all heaved a sigh of relief and gratitude.

It was fantastic to welcome all the foreign crews here and I truly think their great commitment of time and money and effort was rewarded by a brilliant experience in Ullapool. All the crews who came were blown away by Ullapool, the weather, the welcome, and the skiff atmosphere. Many said they would be back and that can only be a good thing for the village.

Lots of locals said how much they had enjoyed the event and how it had brought the village alive. We were lucky with the weather to put it mildly but we also made our own luck. Loch Broom Sailing Club were brilliant with the start and turn lines, with the race registration and the sprint races. So was everyone who helped, too many to mention but collectively we did a great job.

It is an intimidating act to follow for whoever takes it on!

We look forward this year to another regatta over two days in the same format and at the same time of year, which may well attract similar numbers of boats as the Worlds. Many boats are being built this winter, locally Lochinver, Gairloch, Loch Ewe, and in the north Burghead, Findhorn, Avoch, Fortrose, maybe Cromarty, Portsoy's second boat, Findochty, Banff. More can be found on the SCRA website on the Club finder tab.

I hope this season we can attend all the local regattas and Portsoy, plus an expedition to Shawbost in Lewis where they are trying to start a club.

This July three gigs are coming to our regatta and they are planning to do some cruising around the coast. I think this would be a great thing to do, to do some cruising in company with them, and I have not lost the ambition to row the Minch in case you were wondering.

We plan to paint the boats in March in the Mill St workshop and when we have a schedule I will send it out for volunteers.

Thanks you all for your great efforts over this year which have put Ullapool and our Skiff club on the rowing map, and let's look forward to an active season where we get to new parts of the world.