

Teign Scullers All Members Meeting (AGM)

29 November 2021 at Hearn Field Pavilion

MINUTES

Note: actions in **Bold**.

Attendees:

Andy Darkin, Carole Atkinson, Emma Collyer, Marjorie Roome, Mark Eastman, Mark Kodolanyi, Mel Dyke, Mike Cullen, Ruth Mitchell-Duthie, Sally Livett, Wendy Blackburn, Gordon Yeates, Zane Steers, Allan Gillespie, Adam Livett, Lou Down, Jane Eggleton.

1. Apologies

Steve Lee, Andy Burfitt, Kathy Phillips, Brian Malone.

2. Approval of Minutes of last All Members Meeting (AGM)

Agreed.

3. Any Matters Arising

Discussion of Coxing issues to be added to the Agenda items.

4. Managing the club: appointing Officers and Roles

Current job holders were happy to continue and were re-elected.

Chair	Zane Steers
Secretary	Marjorie Roome
Club Captain	Carole Atkinson
Head Coach	Mark Eastman
Juniors	Sally Livett
WEARA Representative	Carole Atkinson
SWCL Representative(s)	Wendy Blackburn, Patrick Forster
Publicity	Carole Atkinson, Emma Collyer *
Safety	Marjorie Roome

* At the end of the meeting Emma volunteered to produce a newsletter for the scullers group to keep everyone abreast of news.

5. Chair's Review of Last Year

The year was dominated by the effects of the Covid restrictions, however the sections had managed to mitigate the effects as much as possible and, apart from when all rowing was banned, we had largely maintained the numbers going out on outings. This was helped by being able to offer outings on any day when tide, light and weather permitted and by as flexible use of crew groups as RTRC rules allowed.

We acquired a new, light weight, quad (White Lightning) to replace Herring. We also have given away most of our Lasers and Admiral Nelson as surplus to requirements and they have gone to a newly formed club Carrick which can make good use of them. The Eight kept at Archbrook barn was scrapped. If retained Admiral Nelson would have required a lot of work by us to make her useable again.

Despite pandemic restrictions we held two coastal Regattas, both in the Estuary at Hearn Field and these were rated by everyone as very successful (with a good attendance, excellent facilities and substantial monies brought in to the club).

6. Organisation of Outings (both fine and coastal)

Having outings on all possible days of the week has helped to increase attendance, but many members *are* only free to row at Weekends.

We have recently experimented by introducing a regular coastal Sunday 9am at Gales Hill. Regular times are possible because as coastal outings from Teignmouth are not dependent on the tides.

This has proved popular but is often fully booked up and is obviously limited to just 4 rowers and a cox. Our coastal double can also be used, but only by suitable experienced rowers. Supply of coxes remains an issue if we want to take Wave Dancer out for more outings on Sundays.

We have seen a lot of interest in coastal rowing from members with previous experience in Seine or Gigs but organising crews and coxes has proved a problem. Seine/Gig boat rowers have different expectations of having settled crews while our approach has been inclusive (first come, first served) which often means that crews are of mixed experience: good for teaching but less good if trying to build race ready crews. We also don't race regularly as the Seine boaters do though we have made some attempts to build crews, such as with our Fine Boat Masters and with a mostly ex-seine womens coastal crew prior to starting the 'open' Sunday Outings. Availability of coxes has been a continuing issue with heavy demands on just a few willing individuals.

One initiative agreed **was for Mark Kodolanyi to set up a WhatsApp group for those interested in last minute outings**. Note they should still book onto the main scullers site and there should be someone signed off as an advanced sculler as part of the outing. This is intended for advanced/intermediate members only and remember only advanced scullers may row skinny singles.

7. Future events and Competitions

Fun Race Day (27 December)

Sally will be helping to organise a set of Fun Races on the 27th December.

These will be held at Coombe Cellars with a course of roughly 500m racing back from Archbrook.

We will have a safety boat.

The races are open to all rowers with some experience.

The tide will allow a max of three races, which will include a mix of boat types and with crews mixed up to equalise expected performance and provide competitive races.

There will be refreshments afterwards outside the Hut.

Frostbite Challenge

This is a there and back race between Gales Hill and Coombe Cellars. Normally for two crews though whose crew members may vary between dates depending on availability.

Gigs, Seine and Coastal Sculls all participate but with only two, not quite matched, coastal sculls crews will swap boats at Coombe Cellars.

Dates are: 9, 23 Jan, 6 Feb. Reserve dates 20, 29 Feb.

Fine Boat Regattas 2022

13 March (provisional date) , Exeter Head. Postponed from December.

2 April, Dart-Totnes Head.

Dates of other Regattas awaited.

Teign Coastal Regattas, South West Coastal League 2022 + Developments

Dates and venues of the 2022 Regattas have now been fixed:

26 March, Teign Scullers
24 April, Barbarians (Lymington RC)
7 May, Mayflower ORC (Plymouth)
14 May, Torquay RC
21 May, Exmouth RC
[24-26 May BR Offshore Championships, Saundersfoot]
27 August, Dartmouth Royal Regatta
3 September, Teign Scullers
17 September, Torquay RC
2 October, Exmouth RC
[7-9 October, BR Offshore Championships, Saundersfoot]
22 October, Mayflower ORC (Plymouth)

At the SWCL AGM there were decisions made to expand the League and, in 2023, to hold Regattas at some of the new clubs (Barbarians, Carrick, Jurassica) who have joined. Consequently, the founder members (including Teign) will then only hold one Regatta each year to avoid overcrowding the calendar. The South West Coastal League will also be renamed as the Coastal League.

Possible Teign Fine Boat Regatta 2023

The idea of holding a fine boat Regatta in 2023 has been mooted, partly to replace the second hosted coastal regatta which we will lose with the expansion of the Coastal League.

This could be held at Coombe Cellars/Hearn Field and raced between Archbrook and CC.

Obviously, we would be constrained by tides and the need not to conflict with other established Fine boat regattas.

If we are to progress this idea we will need to start planning in 2022.

8. Equipment Issues

8.1 Care of equipment and reporting of faults

Zane wanted to remind members to be careful how they use equipment: Coombe Lady has been badly damaged by someone putting her incorrectly onto the racks. If you don't know what you are doing then ask. It was suggested that we add racking point markers (such as the one already on Xeno) to make racking safer. Also report any faults promptly to Zane. Email him if he's not around. If you are concerned as to the safety of any equipment there are 'out of use' signs in the Hut.

8.2 Boats, covers, trailers: care of new covers, buying a coastal single scull (for Gales Hill)

We have now got new heavy duty covers (including wooden cover supports that sit on the boats) for the 3 coastal boats. For the boat (Wave Dancer) kept at Gales Hill you will need to allow more time to remove these before outings and to refit them after. We intend to replace the current rope ties with bungees to make securing the covers easier.

It has been suggested (and the idea was generally welcomed at the meeting) that we acquire a single coastal scull for Gales Hill to allow advanced scullers to practice. It was agreed that if we got a boat it should be a Swift, not a Lite Boat.

8.3 Oars: collars & oarlocks, new oars for 2nd coastal racing boat.

Many of our collars and oarlock are worn, which makes squaring imprecise and makes learning good technique difficult for novices. **Zane plans to replace worn items we have with new collars and oarlocks.**

It was suggested that we acquire a set of good, matched oars for our second coastal boat. This would make it much more competitive and encourage effective crew work. **Andy to provide some costs.**

8.4 Location/storage issues: Gales Hill, Coombe Cellars, Back of Railway Station

We have had to remove the boats and oars we stored at Archbrook Barn as the owner wants to redevelop. This has meant we have had to store more boats at CC, albeit we have now disposed of most of the Lasers and Admiral Nelson.

Space at Gales Hill is very limited. Although we have plans for a covered structure, in addition to the container (which we also have to clad) we (and the Gig section) won't be able to store many boats there.

We are in the process of getting a lease on the hard-standing area behind the Railway Station. We already have permissions to temporarily store boats there and some have been moved there already. There are plans for a covered building on the site that will allow better protection of boats and space to do under-cover repairs.

9. Publicity and knowledge sharing: asking for help from the members to collate and circulate a monthly newsletter, sharing Committee minutes.

Emma offered to produce a monthly or quarterly newsletter and her offer was gladly accepted.

Marjorie is going to make Committee and Members Meetings Minutes available to all members within a couple of weeks of the meeting, to make our decision making more transparent to members.

WEARA seem to have tampered with the club's webpage on the WEARA site. It is inappropriately filled with RTRC information, not info about the sculling section. **Marjorie and Carole will try and get this corrected.**

10. Coxing

The discussion about the coxing problem (lack of coxes) was continued.

We need to encourage more members to cox. Carole has made a start on this with our fine boat quads, where an experienced fine boat cox is present and without forcing. All of us should be capable of fine boat coxing on the river although we should allow that not everyone will want to.

How we qualify coxes for coastal is more complicated as are the demands of navigating out of the estuary and at sea and dealing with the effect of wind, weather and tide as well as gentle coaching of crews. At present in the sculling section we have a practical training scheme that means a trainee cox must make 10 supervised outings (an existing experienced cox sitting in) and that they keep a log of what they did that is then signed off.

However over the last 3 years we have only started to train one cox (Marjorie) and she still has 2 of her 10 outing to do to complete her training.

We have now acquired several experienced Gig and Seine boat coxes. We ought to be able to qualify these to cox coastal boats with much less training, as mostly all they need is familiarisation with the steering and speed of our boats.

Most of our first coastal crews can also coastal cox, however at present they are usually only called on to cox each other.

The Committee to explore means of qualifying more coxes and encourage more of those qualified to cox to cox.

11. Award of President's Cup

The decision as to this year's winner has had to be deferred.

12. AOB – Learn to Row

RTRC have decided to stop Novice Nights in their existing form as they feel that it was not an effective way of recruiting members. Plans to introduce Learn to Row courses (including for Sculling) are to be prepared.

There was some discussion of how to do this (Practice, Classroom, appropriate trainers, length of course, resources required, price to novices) .The Committee will progress this.

13. Presentation to Club President, Alan Gillespie

After the meeting o a presentation was held to award Life Member to our President Alan Gillespie.

Marjorie Roome,
Teign Scullers Secretary