

Teign Scullers All Members Meeting (AGM)

19:00, 9 November 2022 at Hearn Field Pavilion

MINUTES

Attendees (26)

Adam Livett, Alex Lonsdale, Ali Upton, Amanda Leach, Andy Darkin, Carole Atkinson, Harriet Langworthy, Lou Down, Lucy Bufton, Marjorie Roome, Mark Eastman, Mark Kodolanyi, Mel Dyke, Rachel Cook, Robbie Robinson, Roger Haines, Sally Livett, Simon Lobb, Wendy Blackburn, Zane Steers, Gordon Yeates, Alan Gillespie, Sarah Luxton, Mark Layton, Su Fischer, Ruth Rachel Palmer.

1. Apologies (4)

Alex Pugh, Mike Cullen, Brian Malone, Ruth Mitchell-Duthie, Steve Lee. Mike Cullen wrote to express his thanks to all members of the club who have continued to help him continue to row and cox despite his disability.

2. The Minutes of the last All Members Meeting (29 Nov 2021) were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Carole Atkinson reported on the request to Mark Kodolanyi to set up a WhatsApp group for those interested in last minute outings. Apparently a similarly purposed WhatsApp group already existed, so this was not pursued.

4. Managing the club

Most of the existing office holders and those with previously existing roles were re-appointed apart from Carole Atkinson's, who was standing down. Carole was thanked for her sterling service as our Captain over the last three years.

Wendy Blackburn has taken over as Captain, Alex Lonsdale is to take on Publicity (including our internal Newsletter). Carole volunteered to continue as WEARA Rep, but for one year at most. Lou Down and Lucy Bufton have taken on the role of Social Organisers, jointly. Robbie Robinson, with our President Alan Gillespie, will help put together our Funding bid to National Lottery and look at ways of finding matched funding. Rachel Palmer will lead the team who will be running of our 2023 Coastal Regatta.

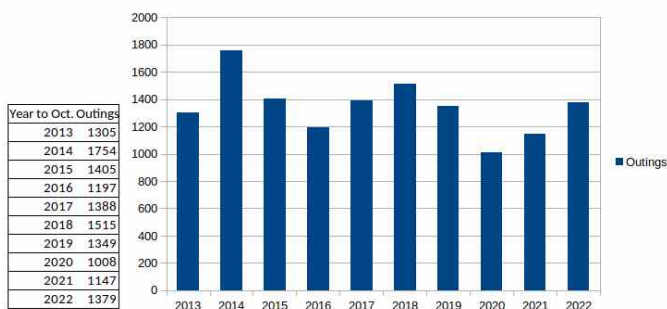
Chair	(officer)	Zane Steers
Secretary	(officer)	Marjorie Roome
Club Captain	(officer)	Wendy Blackburn
Head Coach	(officer)	Mark Eastman
Safety	(officer)	Marjorie Roome
Juniors	(officer)	Sally Livett (non-executive role)
WEARA Representative		Carole Atkinson
Coastal League Representative		Rachel Palmer
Teign Coastal Regatta Team Lead		Rachel Palmer
Publicity/PR		Alex Lonsdale
Social Organisers		Lou Down and Lucy Bufton
Funding Organiser		Robbie Robinson

5. Chair's Review of Last Year (given by Zane Steers)

This past year seems to have own by in a blur which suggests it was very busy, I can't believe we're round to my favourite time of year already where I have to compose this report!

As usual we had a steady stream of trial rowers and we've even managed to persuade a few of them to join the club.

Number of members involved in outing and boat bookings over the last year, at 1379, have recovered to what we were achieving before the pandemic.



Two of our coastal quads had a minor refit including new seats and foot straps which are greatly appreciated by the rowers. We've repeatedly tried to use a cox box so that I can make it to the end of a coxing session without losing my voice. But the

corrosive effects of sea water have been thwarting our efforts. So we tried a blue tooth version and found that while it worked well on land but as soon as we got on the water it packed up!

We've had a rather unfortunate season of breaking oars, I think the count is up to 8 now. However Roger Haines has risen to the challenge of repairing our equipment and we now have two fixed oars to trial.

Once again our coastal crews put in a very good showing at the Coastal Rowing League. Our womens quad and double won the league, they also collected a third and fourth in the singles.

The men's quad came second in league with the B crew coming joint 8th. Our mixed crews coming 4th and 9th.

We also had the Nationals and World Championships at Saundersfoot in Wales where our womens crew attended both and performed creditably.

Brian Cort had a very successful outing at the World Rowing Indoor Championships, winning his 2000m race in the 85-89 Men's Heavyweight category. Marjorie Roome also did well winning the British Rowing Indoor Championships in the 70-74 Women's heavyweight category and coming 2nd in the Worlds.

This year we were able to run our junior sessions again, ably organised by Sally and well attended with some budding rowers. Unfortunately we didn't run our spring regatta due to a lack of organisers, thankfully our ladies A crew stepped up and fantastically ran the autumn regatta, receiving lots of positive feedback from the attending clubs. Once again we were on the river from Hearn Field, which is a great place to run a regatta although I think we are hoping to get it out to sea next year.

6. Organisation of Outings (both fine and coastal)

6.1 Care and crewing of our coastals (Andy Darkin)

Andy Darkin had written to the committee about rowers awareness of construction issues with our coastal boats.

At present we keep two of our coastal quads, Flo and Wave Dancer and our coastal double in the restricted space we have at Gales Hill. In addition we keep Endymion at Coombe Cellars.

Most advertised outings are done in Wave Dancer, though when an outing is popular we either also use Flo and/or the double. Flo is our fastest boat, with competition standard oars and has generally been kept back for racing and race crew training.

One concern expressed was that due to their light 3mm plywood construction both Flo and Endymion are more fragile than the GRP hulled Wave Dancer – it's far too easy to put a foot through them getting in and out and they are all easy to damage through contact with the shore or other obstacles. All our boats are lighter, faster but much less robust than the seine and gig boats that our more recent recruits from RTRC are used too. The same is true of our fine boats at Coombe Cellars.

New members need to be pre-warned of the need for care in boarding and handling and those in charge of outings, where they want to use two boats need to only crew Flo with more experienced rowers. Although all boats have some means to bail water still gets into the hulls and crews need to remember to check the hatches and sponge out any entrapped water to avoid damage, particularly to the wooden boats.

We need to provide some guidance on these issues to those joining us e.g. by including information about this in the Induction Programme Guide and by instruction from outing leaders.

We should also circulate Andy Darkin's brief to members and put it on the website.

6.2 Booking Process Improvements (Marjorie Roome)

There has been some confusion amongst members about what happens when our coastal boats are oversubscribed and one or more have to be 'bumped' off the outing. There have also been issues because outing leaders have not always been aware of late changes (booking and cancellations).

Although we have a general policy of favouring those who have booked first it has not been at all clear to members after they have booked who booked first as those booked are shown in alphabetic order.

It transpires that outing leaders can see another listing where chronological order is used although some outing leaders didn't know that either!

We will change the general booking sheet so that those booked first are also shown first.

We will also change the notification system, when there are late booking changes on the website, so that all regular outing leaders are emailed automatically about the change.

7. Future events and Competitions

Dates for your diaries:

7.1 Fun Race Day (30 Dec 2022)

We have previously organised a Fun Race Day over the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

These are un-serious intra-club races using quads and doubles and (almost) randomly assigned crews.

Sally Livett offered to take on organising this and we are planning to run this on the morning of 30 December, weather permitting. There will be mulled wine, coffee, Christmas nibbles after.

7.2 Frostbite Challenge (Jan-Feb 2023)

Again a seasonal favourite, run in January-February. This is a club-wide challenge though there are separate races in each section. RTRC to be asked to fix dates. There are normally three race days and perhaps of couple of reserve dates.

Scullers have previously run this with two coastal boats racing each other from Gales Hill to Coombe Cellars and back, swapping crews at Coombe Cellars to even up the differences between the boats.

7.3 Teign Coastal Regatta (13 May 2023)

Teign will be running one regatta in 2023 as part of the Coastal League series. We have now fixed a date of 13 May. The team, led by Rachel Palmer, who so ably took over running our 2022 Regatta have also volunteered to reprise that in 2023. At this time they haven't decided whether to run the Regatta from Coombe Cellars in the estuary or from Gales Hill at sea.

7.4 Round the Islands Race (15 Jul 2023)

We will also be repeating our long-distance Round the Islands Race (Teignmouth to the Orestone then round Thatcher Rock and the Leadstone and back) and seeking participation from all our sections (Gigs, Coastals and Seine boats) as well as other clubs. We have moved the date into the summer in the hope of easier waters. The race is open to coastal singles and doubles as well as quads and we use a staggered start handicap so that each type of boat will come together by the finish.

7.5 Coastal League Participation (Spring-Autumn 2023)

We will try and maintain our winning streak in the Coastal League. As well as our first crews it would be great if we can race a second boat in away as well as home competition. There are lots of different categories.

7.6 British and World Beach Sprint Championships (28-30 July 2023 and 30 Sep-8 Oct 2023)

The 2023 British Beach Spring Championships will be held in Exmouth. We expect to make a strong entry.

The 2023 World Beach Sprint Championships are proposed for Sabaudia in Italy.

7.7 Possible Teign Fine Boat Regatta 2024

The idea of us running a Fine Boat Regatta at Hearn Field was suggested. Carole Atkinson (our WEARA Rep.), having talked to WEARA was of the view that it would be difficult to get it accepted into the WEARA/BR points based race schedule. Something less formal and predominantly intra-club (a sort of summer Fun Race day) could however be considered.

8. Training and Recruitment (Rachel Cook)

Rachel Cook has been organising a programme to attract new members and a follow-on skills development programme for those who want to continue.

8.1 Teign Scullers Open Morning (26 Nov 2022)

We are running an Open Morning on Saturday 26 November. This will involve participants getting out to try out sculling in quads and doubles with qualified coaches as well as coaching on use the row erg, conversation with club members and consumption of bacon roils, pastries and hot drinks at the Sailing Club clubhouse. We are currently expecting about 20.

8.2 Follow-up Programme

Rachel has also organised a follow up programme so that those interested can progress:

1. Trial Outings: As per normal those interested will be able to then do three trial outings with the club. Free to RTRC Members.
2. Rowing Development Course: a paid course The Club is organising a rowing development course in early 2023. It will take place on Saturday and Sunday afternoons over two weekends. The sessions will be coached by Lorna Tinkler, former member of GB Olympic rowing squad and world medal winner.
3. Get rowing fit: for those that want to improve their fitness and get 'rowing fit' we are organising a RTRC 'boot camp' every Thursday evening, 7.30pm to 8.30pm. These sessions will be free of charge to RTRC members and run by Shari Smith, qualified fitness coach.

9. Lottery Funding bid (Alan Gillespie and Robbie Robinson)

Alan and Robbie have been working on a Lottery Funding bid for the Scullers (RTRC section take turns to make bids and this year it's our turn).

Alan thinks we can build on our women's team successes in the Coastal League and National and World Championships. It would be good if we could also build on our successes in diversity and support for those with disabilities.

We will also do better if we can find ways to find match funding, either by fundraising or getting sponsorship, or both.

This would also allow us to be more ambitious in the what equipment we would like to fund.

10. Award of President's Cup

Zane presented the President's cup to Carole Atkinson.

11. AOB

11.1 The RTRC End of Season Social Bash will be held 19:00 Friday, 18 November at the Rugby Club.

11.2 The RTRC AGM will be held at 20:00 on Thursday, 1 December at the Rugby Club. All members welcome to attend.

11.3 The Club needs to make a decision about choosing a club kit supplier. There is something of a pent up demand for new club kit with no recent order placed and in-hand stock depleted.

There was some dissatisfaction expressed with the kit from our current suppliers Zeon (although it does seem to have improved somewhat recently). There is also an issue in that their minimum order is 11, which makes for inflexible ordering. VX3 was suggested as a possible replacement. It's a local firm, quality seems to be good and smaller order sizes are possible.

Marjorie Roome,
Teign Scullers Secretary