



Cromarty Community Rowing Club

C.C.R.C. Newsletter

Issue No

2

Date:

18/05/2018

Regatta will soon be upon us

It's getting exciting!!

We are getting very close to the regatta on the 16th and 17th of June. The first race each day is at 10.30.

As you know it's the inaugural Black Isle Regatta and is jointly organised by Avoch CRC and Cromarty CRC.

It's a really big event with 16 Skiffs coming from all over Scotland which means between 300 and 400 rowers alone, not counting families, hangers on etc, competing in 18 separate races – quite a spectacle. It's also the second biggest Skiff regatta in the UK this year, only Ullapool is bigger.

It's especially fitting as it's the Year of Youth that it also includes a round of the SCRA Youth Series so we'll have Under 17 and Under 19 crews competing as well.

We've done really well for sponsorship and trophy donations with around £900 raised so far and counting and a couple of very special trophies being made locally by Johnny Kerfoot and Winston from the Mains as perpetual trophies for the best Adult and best Youth clubs.

We will also have a drone filming events courtesy of Caintech Ltd.

In addition to all the racing there will be food all day on both days and a number of other things to do – the Cromarty Harbour Trust will be running a rowing machine challenge and Cromarty Gala will be running a bottle stall.

On Saturday evening we'll be having a beach party at the Links with food and sounds by our very own DJ Hogg!

Needless to say we'll need loads of help over the weekend, we've already had many offers but the more the better so if you can help get in contact with Bruce or Drew or just message the Facebook Page.

On the logistics side we're getting in portaloos to cater for the extra numbers, there will be camping on the Links with boats and trailers also parked on the Links. If the weather is good we'll be using the Victoria Park for car parking and implementing a traffic management plan to ensure Cromarty doesn't get snarled up with such an influx of bodies.

See you all there!!

Bruce Morrison

Volunteers required on regatta day

The club would be grateful for assistance from any members not involved in rowing, coxing or running the event.

If you can offer a little of your time during the day to help to run the stalls, catering, traffic control, signage and many of the other jobs necessary to make the event a success.

Then please contact one of the committee members and offer your help

Flat White Challenge was a success

Those who took part in the row to Foulis Point and return on 29th April agreed that it was an excellent event.

There were some little problems experienced, the worst being when two of the boats found themselves in the strongest part of the tide off Invergordon.

With “wind against tide” the seas were particularly disturbed and turbulent, which made it a little “challenging” for the cox’s and crews involved.

Some of the younger rowers and cox’s were in quite a vulnerable position with the conditions.

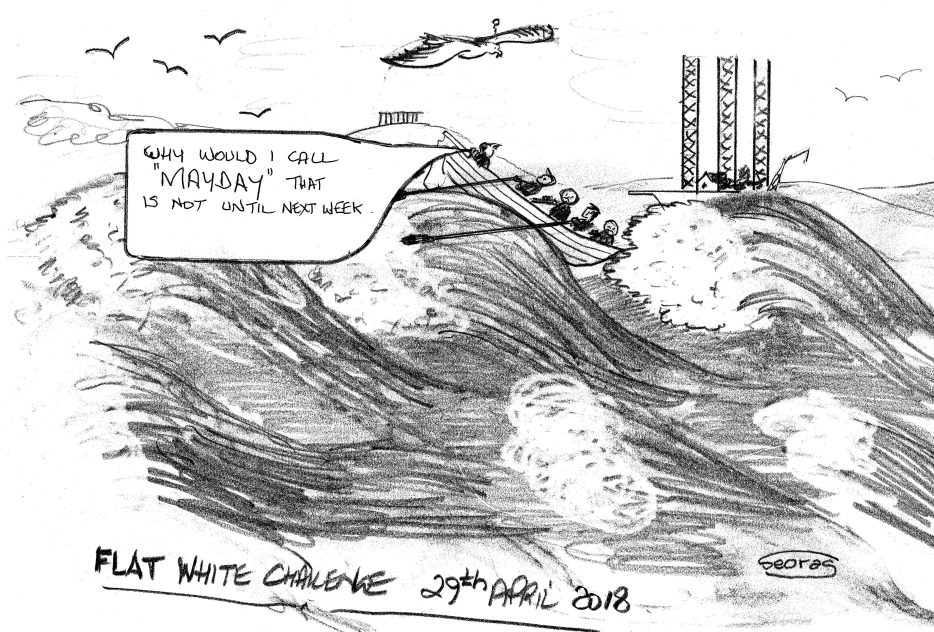
Although all the boats had been given a passage plan to follow, it was felt that possible problems

with the tide should have been covered more comprehensively by *George* when he gave his briefing on the passage plan in the morning.

At a “Debrief” meeting, which took place on the following Sunday, this problem was debated along with several others and plans for future long rows will have in place updated and improved guidance on many aspects.**

Thank you to all involved in the organisation of this event and to all the crews and cox’s who participated

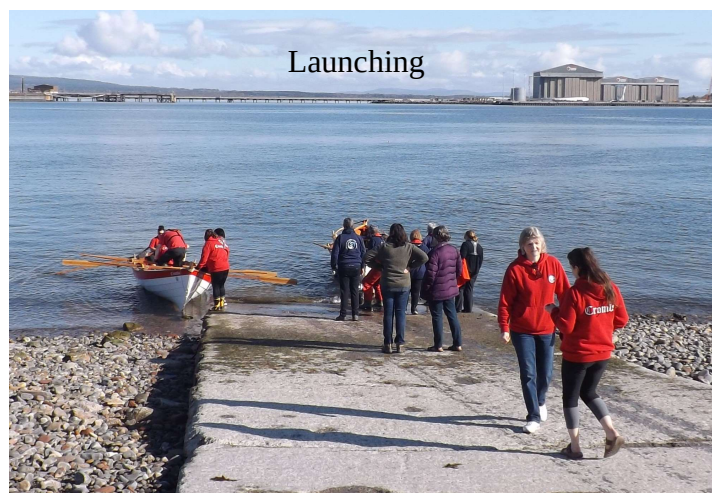
**** A copy of the FWC Debrief notes is included in this newsletter. _
See last page**



The cartoon appearing here is making light of what could have been a very serious situation.

However, it must be stressed that the committee consider the Health and Safety of boat crews of *Paramount Importance* and that the necessary steps have been taken to ensure there is no repeat of this very unfortunate incident

Editor



Launching



Cromba



Getting ready



And they are off!



Safety Boat



Approaching Newhall



Boats at Foulis Point



Heading home

The Club's new boat is at present being built

Most of the membership will probably already know that finance for a second boat for CCRC was given by the family of the late **Iain Robertson**.

It was gifted in his memory.

The family were consulted regarding the name for the new boat and have asked that it be named "Tess", after his own boat (which was short for "Poetess")

The builders have already started the work of building the new boat :

Robert Hogg, Mike Hale and Thomas MacIntosh.

Thanks to the Lochcarron club for the moulds which arrived allowing the building to begin

A Quote from Robert:

"Hi George

the new skiff Tess is going very well. Mike & Thomas have improved the bench to make it easier later in build . We have not put date for completion . We will require some help but we will shout when it is required. Everyone who appears at Newton will be given a task ,we will make sure their time is not wasted.

Cheers Robert"



A brief report on possible new boat shed.

As Cromarty Community Rowing Club continues to grow, members have become more experienced, as enthusiastic as ever and new rowers apply to join weekly. The new boat, Tess, is being built, which leads us to the next stage in the clubs development . At present Cromba is stored beside the University's container with their kind permission. But this is an ad hoc arrangement and when the club has two boats with all the accompanying equipment we should really be looking for a more permanent solution.

To this end the committee has been looking for a suitable site for a permanent boat house. John Nightingale has offered to rent the club, on a peppercorn rent, a possible site in front of the harbour and we have asked Lynne Sproull to measure up the site and do some costings . At present the committee is considering the possibilities of the site and the clubs ability to raise money to build a boathouse that will provide for the club's needs well into the future.

We will keep you posted as soon as we have any news.

Corrie Jeffery

A quick word from your “Safety” man and events organiser

Hi George.

With regards to H+S the coxing course we did was a great success! We are hoping to try and train up as many rowers as possible to be able to cox.

We are also planning on doing some man overboard training with all Black Isle clubs in the coming months, along with possible RNLI training.

We have also started a H + S group with the port authority. This is a marine safety group based in and around the Cromarty Firth. The aim is to ensure an enjoyable and safe environment for all around the firth.

Drew Mann Events Organiser ACRC

New Calendar for Rowers and Cox's

Welcome to our new rowers in the club

As the club continues to grow and more people want to get out on the water rowing and coxing, it has become increasingly more difficult to put the rowing information up on the facebook pages.

A new system has been introduced using google calendar.

There should no longer be rows going up on facebook as all scheduled rows will appear on the calendar

What this does mean now:

If you are marked down for a scheduled row on the calendar and for whatever reason you cannot make it on the day in question it is now YOUR OWN responsibility to find a replacement.

Wanda will only get involved if you are completely stuck finding a replacement. Anyone wishing to put together a row, check the calendar, choose a slot and let us know.

Row hard or row home

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=cromartyrowingclub@gmail.com&ctz=Europe/London&pli=1>



Cromarty Community Rowing Club

Tides & Currents

**For those who missed the last talk, which will now be repeated
and will be a PowerPoint presentation**

**Sunday 20th May 2018
Slaughterhouse coffee shop
2.00pm – 3.30pm**

Topics:

- 1. The influences of the Sun, Moon and rotation of the Earth has on oceans.**
- 2. The Tides and tidal streams we experience here in the British Isles**
- 3. The influence weather patterns and winds can have on tidal predictions**
- 4. Tides and eddies within Cromarty Firth**

Free admission.

This is open to anyone interested in hearing the lecture, please let me know if you intend to attend this event. If numbers subscribing to the event are greater than anticipated the venue may have to be changed.

e mail your interest to: george.selvester@gmail.com

The Flat White Challenge

Social row from Cromarty to Foulis, Sunday 29th April 2018

Debrief and Learnings

Overall a successful event with five boats taking part (Cromarty, Sutor Skiffies, Chanonry, Avoch x 2)

Weather was close to perfect with less than 10kt of Easterly/NE wind, and a 4m high tide at 13:30 allowing rowing with the tide in both directions, up firth on the flood and return down the firth on the ebb.

Despite this, the conditions encountered on the return leg presented some challenges - although the wind was light, it was against a strong outgoing tide creating a high and steep chop in parts of the Firth.

At least two boats felt that the conditions encountered on the return leg were difficult to manage and presented some very real potential safety issues.

Although there was no blame apportioned, all agreed that there were a number of relatively minor issues (in normal circumstances) which contributed – the learnings from this are summarised following:

Radio Usage

- Channel selection was not ideal, being one of the main CFPA communication channels rather than a dedicated channel for the event. The use of this channel (channel 6) had been instructed by the CFPA therefore should be discussed with them prior to next event, although there are limited options for intership communications.

***Note:** Inter-ship channels are for communications between ship stations. Inter-ship communications should be limited to Channels 6, 8, 72 and 77. Masters are urged to ensure that all ship-to-ship communications in the waters of the United Kingdom are confined to these channels*

- There were not enough people on each boat that were confident and proficient in radio use
- Although there had been a radio check at the start, this was not repeated for the return leg. Also, it was felt that more frequent radio checks during the row would encourage the coxes/boats to interact more, and ensure that communications from the safety boat were being received
- The safety boat should carry a spare radio (for radio failure in any boat)
- Each boat should have a handheld GPS on board with the passage plan loaded

Passage Plan

- More emphasis should have been given to the passage plan
- explanation of, and confirm understanding from all boats, both at the beginning but also reiterate (or make any adjustments) before return leg

Safety Boat

- More emphasis on the need for all boats to stay together (some confusion over this as briefing had not been clear on what was to happen when one boat stopped for crew change)
- Two safety boats must be sought for long rows, ideally one to lead the group and assess conditions in front of the row.

- If there is an incident which the safety boat is responding to then there is no safety boat cover for others while the incident is dealt with - in some cases this may involve a significant amount of time
- Each boat must have at least two on board (who are safety competent), also carrying a second radio
- Chanonry have good documentation available for review on their website
<https://www.chanonry.org.uk/hs-management.html>

General

- Briefing for return leg at Storehouse end was inadequate (many rowers had not been present at the start to hear initial briefing)
- Group must row together, generally closer than during the FWC, and pace to the slowest boat
- When conditions require reassessment of course or pace during a row, the group should (re)tighten and listen for revised safety boat instructions
- Each boat must ensure that there are two experienced and strong rowers, plus an experienced and confident cox
- Those with first aid certification should be identified prior to the event, and communicated during the briefing

Other Comments

- All felt that it was a good-sized event, and that invitations should not extend beyond Black Isle due to limitations on safety boat, also potential need to cancel at short notice etc
- The non-competitive social nature is popular with all clubs keen to repeat or continue with other rows
- The FWC should be repeated next year (same direction, perhaps not as high a tide is needed as water depth was more than adequate?)
- In the meantime, planning is underway for potential next events:
 - Beaulieu River to Fortrose – Chanonry investigating and will advise
 - Black Isle circumnavigation (Cromarty Bridge to RNLI Kessock Bridge?)

Note from the editor:

Articles for inclusion to the newsletter are welcome from any and all members.

If you wish to contribute to a future edition of this illustrious publication, please do not hesitate to contact me

George Selvester