

Minutes of Port Edgar Yacht Club Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 28 February 2024

Present

Linda Cooper, Anne Hay, David Kitchen, Richard Heaton, Steve Connelly, Martin Crook, Justin Venton, Jim Scott, David Mallin, Charlie Simpson, Terry Kirchin, Margaret Tait, Paul Morgan, Gerry Fitzgerald, Ramsay Leuchars, Gordon Campion, Conall Bryce, Alan Pringle, Maggie Quayle, Sandra Morrison, Cath Coombs, Edith Wild, Craig Shirlaw, Charlton Clark, Dale Sandercock, Ian Hards, Nicola Stock, Judith Bull, Bill Blyth, Neil MacDougall, Allan Stuart, Tim and others – a total of 55 people.

Apologies

Barrie Turnbull, Pete Sykes, Peter Collings, Ian Cameron, Jock Blair.

1 Commodore Linda Cooper called the meeting to order at 7.30pm and it was established that it was quorate.

2 Linda Cooper explained that there was a minor correction to be made to the **minutes from the AGM held in 2023**, in that the **membership numbers** were given as 382 when in fact this was an **estimate of member numbers** (family memberships are estimated as 3 people per membership), the attendees accepted the correction and the minutes.

3 A slide show (full details attached) commenced relating to items 3-10.

3 Port Edgar Yacht Club **Member numbers** has remained stable for the last 2 years at 386 members as of December 2023 plus there are now **6 Affiliated Clubs** – Queensferry Rowing Club, and Edinburgh University Sailing Club, and 4 others have become Affiliated in the past year – Sea Cadets Port Edgar Boat Station, Port Edgar Dragons, Dundee University SC, St Andrews University SC.

Cruising membership as a percentage of the total has increased so that racing memberships are now over 50% and cruising over 40%.

About 10-15% of members who don't renew their membership each year, but that number is replaced over the year by new members.

Q – Why the large churn of members? It's usual with membership of clubs that some people join but don't renew if they realise how little they have used it over the year. Our focus now is to improve the membership experience to encourage retention rather than try to get more new members in.

4 Jim Scott gave a presentation on **Yacht and Dinghy racing events** over the last 12 months, plans for the future season and proposed racing changes with brief information given about guidance on **wind speed limits** for racing particularly for the twilight and night series races, and an explanation of the findings of the **Society Reef Survey** in September 2023.

5 Steve Connelly gave a short description of the **Cruising events** in the last year, and what plans are being made and considered for the next year, including the need to investigate what the larger group of cruisers, including new members, are looking for, and how to ensure that the cruising committee reflects the members, including new members, views and needs.

6 **Club Boats** - Justin Ventors gave a short presentation on the **Club 707s** usage over the past year and the need for new mentors to ensure that the 707s were utilised fully this year. Linda Cooper gave statistics for **Nimrod usage** over the past year and explained the reasons for **sale of Nimrod**, including the need for more mentors, the reasons for the decision to replace Nimrod with a small fin keel with full sail plan, plus the reasoning behind the delay in that replacement.

Then LC gave a short update on the **EuRoBo**, a yacht on loan to the club from a member, and the recent survey on EuRoBo results will be available soon.

There are also 3 loan **Club Dinghies** available for use by members free of charge.

Q - Issues of difficulty booking club boats for hire on the booking site was raised, and indeed has been a problem that the committee was aware of and will be addressed with the new software & booking system – topic to be discussed later in the presentation.

7 The Winter Events were briefly mentioned by LC, and the **Harper Photography Trophy** was presented to Allan Stuart for his winning image of “Breezy Dzero Day in April 1st”.

8 Richard Heaton pointed to the PEYC Club Development posters in the clubhouse as we are coming to the end of the **5-year PEYC Club Development Plan**, and stated that we had achieved the vast majority of the targets set out in 2019. We will be thinking at some point about developing a vision and plan for the next 5 years, but work has been underway already to change the club software & website from our present bespoke arrangement to **Sailing Club Manager**.

9 Martin Crook (Treasurer) gave an overview of **Port Edgar Yacht Club's draft accounts** which will be inspected by Rob Meredith prior to the annual submission, and the need for the club to build up a reasonable contingency fund. The acceptance of accounts was proposed by David Kitchen and seconded by Neil MacDougall.

9 Linda Cooper proposed an increase to all **Subscriptions**. Racing, Cruising, Student, First Year Family rates increasing by £10, Berth Holder increased and merged with Cruiser rates, and Family rates increasing by £20.

Q – Should the 1st year racing membership be removed? Several members responded saying that the reduced fee encouraged new members to join who might otherwise be put off by the large racing fee. It was agreed that the 1st year racing membership rate should remain in place. A vote of acceptance was proposed by Ian Hards and seconded by Justin Venton.

10 **Election and Re-election of the Main Committee officials** - proposed and accepted by the majority present:

Committee standing for re-election – proposed Cath Coombs – seconded Neil MacDougall
Vice Commodore David Kitchen – proposed Richard Heaton – seconded Anne Hay
Cruising Secretary Steve Connelly – proposed Judith Bull – seconded Charlie Clark
Hon Secretary David Mallin – proposed Anne Hay – seconded Richard Heaton.

Anne Hay, outgoing Honorary Secretary, was thanked for her hard work and contribution to the yacht club and committee over the past 2 years and presented with a bottle of Jura. Linda Cooper gave thanks to the volunteers involved in all aspects of the club and who helped the club to thrive.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

AGM 2025 – Wednesday 26th February 7:30pm.