



Wigtown Bay Coastal Rowing Club

SC049939

Trustees' Annual Report

01/04/2025-31/03/2026



Charity contact information



Wigtown Bay Coastal Rowing Club SC049939

Also known as Wigtown Bay Coastal Rowing Club

or simply Wigtown Bay CRC

C/O Cairnsmore, Rosie's Brae,

Isle of Whithorn

Newton Stewart

Dumfries and Galloway

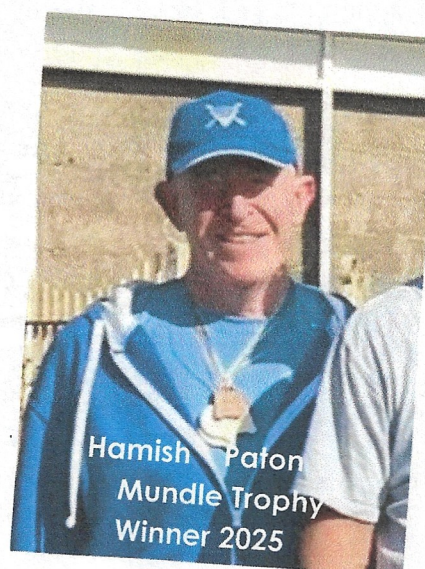
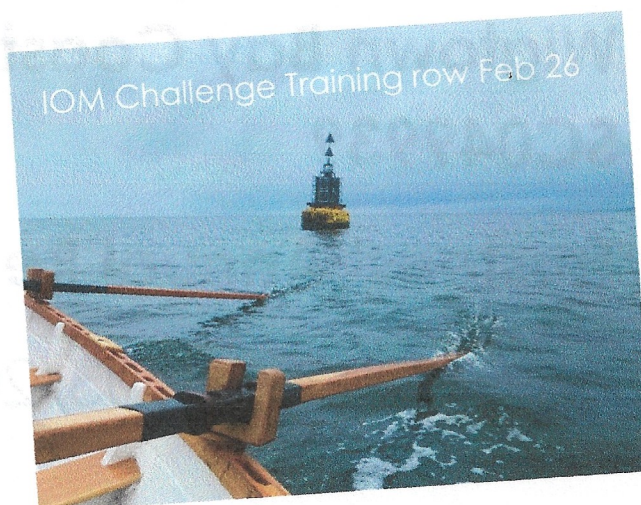
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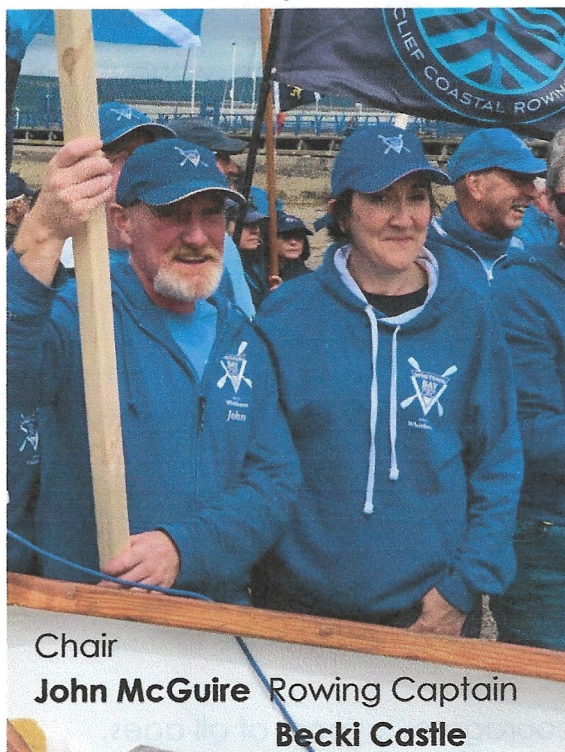
wigtownbaycoastalrowing@gmail.com

wigtownbaycoastalrowing.org

 Wigtown Bay Coastal Rowing Club



Board of Charity Trustees



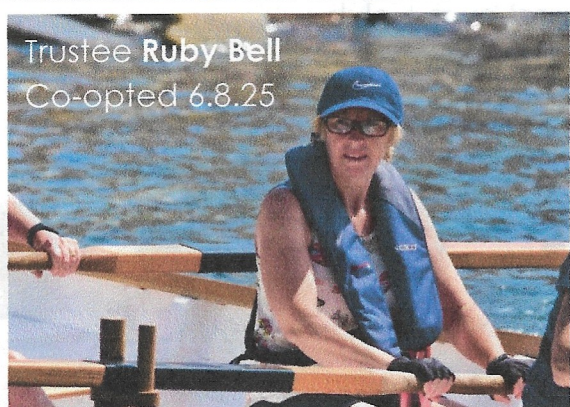
Chair
John McGuire Rowing Captain
Becki Castle



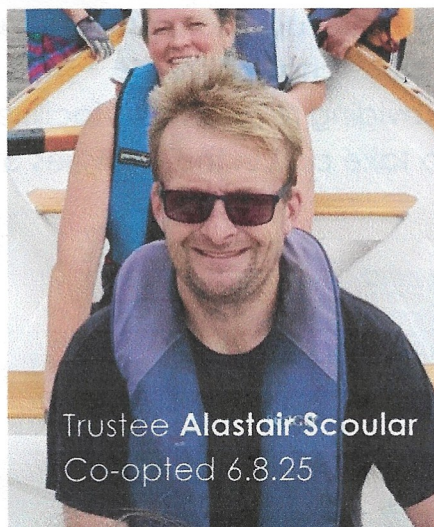
Treasurer
Jannine Kelly



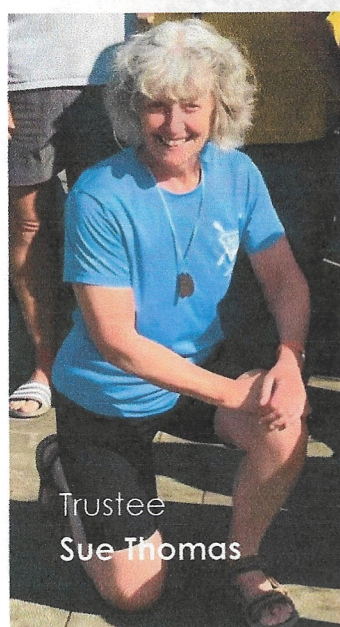
Trustee
Shaun McGuire



Trustee **Ruby Bell**
Co-opted 6.8.25



Trustee **Alastair Scoular**
Co-opted 6.8.25



Trustee
Sue Thomas



Rowing Vice Captain
Simon McClure



Secretary
Vikki Reay-Martin

Objectives and activities

Wigtown Bay Coastal Rowing Club, at the Isle of Whithorn, builds, maintains, and rows coastal rowing boats. Our club is for everyone, without exception. All ages and abilities are welcome to get involved.

Our aim is to promote our coastal rowing heritage in an inclusive and positive way. Everyone can learn new skills, build, and maintain boats, and row, joining in with us to maintain good physical and mental health, to socialise or to support and fundraise.

- Celebrating our heritage, we promote and support the building and use of coastal rowing boats in the Wigtown Bay area, centred on the Isle of Whithorn.
- Encouraging all to participate in sport, we promote coastal rowing as a healthy activity, which can be done safely by people of all ages at a level suited to their competence, experience, and state of fitness. In addition, providing unique opportunities to be close to nature and wildlife.
- Providing recreational facilities, we encourage everyone, of all ages, to take part in the activities offered by the club.



Structure, Governance and Management

Wigtown Bay Coastal Rowing Club is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). We achieved SCIO status on 10th February 2020, having been constituted as a club on 30th April 2019. Our official title is Wigtown Bay Coastal Rowing Club SCIO, we are registered SC049939. A copy of our Constitution is available on request. Please contact our secretary through our website, Facebook page or email.

Members

Our club consists of members and a board of charity trustees. Full membership is open to anyone 16 years and over who has an interest in any aspect of coastal rowing. Junior membership is open to children under 16 years. We decide our membership subscriptions for adult and juniors at our annual general meeting. Our constitution allows us to set those subscriptions at nil. Members have responsibilities that include taking decisions on changes to the constitution of the club, and electing Charity Trustees annually.

Board of Charity Trustees responsibilities

Our Board of Charity Trustees has responsibility to ensure our club complies with our constitution. We must report annually to the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), incorporating accurate, independently examined, accounts.

Our Board also has a duty to maintain a register of members. If a member or Trustee requests a copy of the register, the request, if reasonable, must be met within 28 days. If the request is from a member, the register copy provided will have addresses removed.

Minutes of meetings must be kept by the Board. The minutes should include the names of people present and be signed by the chair of the meeting.

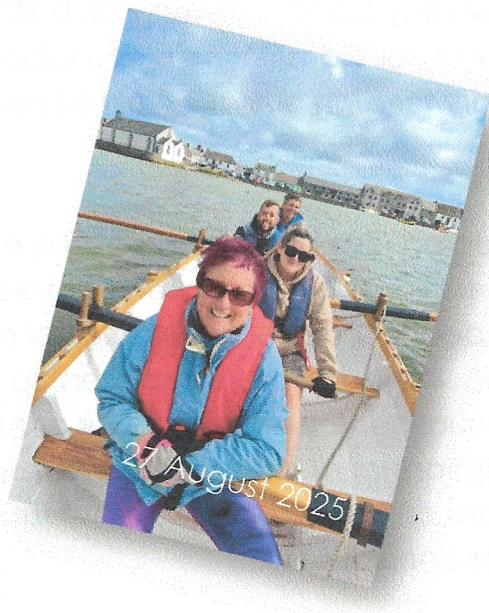
The Board must keep a register of Charity Trustees, and update that register within 28 days of any change. Any person can make a request to have a copy of the register of the board of charity trustees.

Our Board of Charity Trustees has a duty to act with the care and diligence which it is reasonable to expect when managing the affairs of another.

Our constitution outlines specific responsibilities for Charity Trustees where there is a conflict of interest, breach of duties, and in line with a code of conduct under Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005.

Achievements and performance

This has been a remarkably busy, successful year for our club. We have sixty-eight adult members, with new members joining this year, nine trustees and an additional seven volunteers who regularly support our charity activities.



We organised eighty-three open sessions for leisure rowing at the Isle of Whithorn, and Garlieston, and fifty-five training sessions, launching from the Isle of Whithorn, Stranraer, and Port William. Not all our planned sessions went ahead, due to adverse weather conditions, but on average we had six participants per session, so our skiffs accommodated over 820 rowers throughout the year, excluding all the teams competing in the worlds and regattas. We held nine pre-arranged beach cleans, and ad hoc ones this year. Our session organisers were at their busiest in April to June 2025, and December 2025 to February 2026.

We took part in Isle of Whithorn VE Day 80 celebrations on 8th May 2025, with an oar salute; held our AGM on 5th July and attended Scottish Coastal Rowing Association cox training at Stranraer on 16th and 17th August. We planned a family fun day at Loch Ken at the end of August and then the end of September, but each time the weather was against us, however we held a successful Christmas social on 28th November 2025, and a Race Night on 20th February 2026. We attended the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association AGM and training weekend at the end of October, with Vikki elected as Southwest regional representative alongside Mike Krus of Troon CRC.

Those club members who have a competitive drive had a brilliant year. We attended FOCCRS regatta in May, Prestwick regatta on 16th August, the

Nith Raid on 23rd August, Carrick Exciseman's chase on 6th September, and took part in SkiffieWorlds at Stranraer from 6th to 12th July 2025.

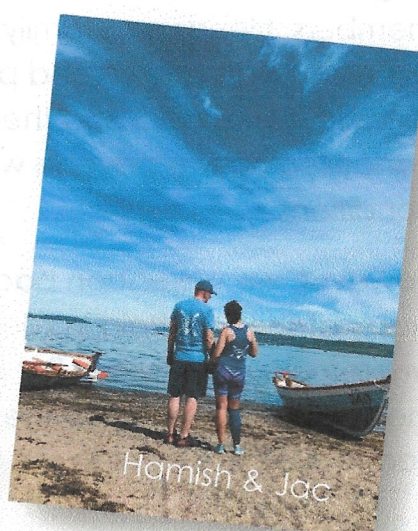
Becki, our club rowing Captain reports "Our main event for 2025 was SkiffieWorlds, held in Stranraer in July and was a fantastic event for both rowing and non-rowing members of the club, along with friends and family. Rowing clubs from all over the world took part in the 2k race sprints which happened alongside many other activities throughout the town over the week.



Our fabulous flag bearer



Our training began in January with John and Becki offering two training sessions per week for the rowers taking part. Weather conditions went from high winds to a heatwave throughout the week and our rowers achieved impressive results with the fastest time from our fabulous 50+ Men's crew of 13.01. We were 45th out of seventy-eight clubs. This is a fantastic result of which we are incredibly proud, with only sixteen rowers taking part in the races with nobody able to race in the under-forty's categories.



Prior to SkiffieWorlds, we received our first invitation to Firth of Clyde CRC in Largs in May 2025. We were delighted with being in first place at half time and coming in overall second place behind frequent winners Troon.

Following the excitement of coastal rowing's largest event, some of our members entered crews into the "5 Miles From Home" Challenge, where despite the conditions dictating that rowing was not possible, they all completed the challenge brilliantly with walking, running or cycling and achieved great results coming in 14th and 4th overall.



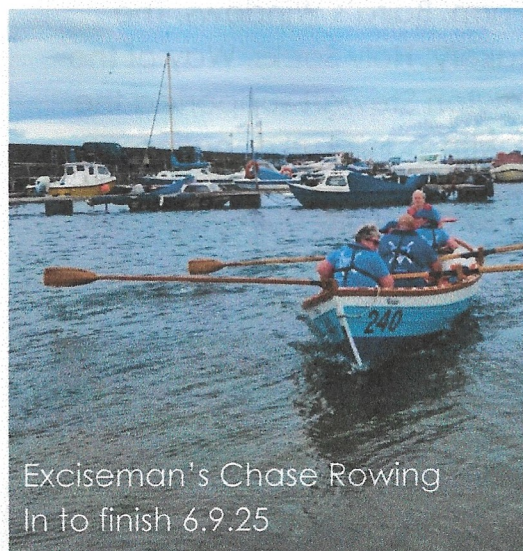
Next was Prestwick Regatta and despite having few rowers available we welcomed members from Stranraer and Portpatrick CRC's and came in second place overall just one point behind winners Troon.

Sadly, our Social Row planned for August at Loch Ken, where club members, friends and family were to join us for water sports and picnics, was initially rescheduled and then cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

However, we were soon back on the water at the Nith Raid in Glencaple where our crew were in first place until they ran out of water on the river and had to walk the boat to the finish line.



September saw us travelling to Carrick CRC at Maiden's Harbour for their annual Exciseman's Chase. This event is always fun and set in a beautiful location rowing from Maiden's Harbour around to Culzean Castle and Gashouse Bay. We achieved 3rd Place.



Exciseman's Chase Rowing
In to finish 6.9.25



Exciseman's chase crew
6.9.25

Unfortunately, the Castle to Crane event did not take place in 2025 and our crew members decided not to take part in Monster the Loch again.

In January 2026, training started for our Isle of Man double marathon rowing challenge. A fundraising event where one crew would row from the Isle of Whithorn to Ramsey's south shore, swap, and another crew row back, a total of 54 miles. We held two training sessions per week in various locations around the area, in challenging conditions."



We identified two potential dates within this fiscal year for the Isle of Man Challenge, but the weather prevented safe launch. The crews continued to train throughout the final month of this year, and we shall report in full on the terrific success of this challenge in our annual report for YE27.

Local businesses Whisky-Soaked Oak, Balnab Farm, Baird's Windows, The Hive, West Coast Sea Products Ltd, Simpsons Bakery, Holy Socks, Way of the Wild, Peter Foulds Opticians, and Sainsburys Newton Stewart supported the event, and Becki's GoFundMe page was alive with individual donations.

This challenge, John's dream, was organised and driven by our Chair, John, and Rowing Captain, Becki, as has all the competitive rowing, the Christmas social, and large social rowing event in this fiscal year. Becki hopes that the success of this challenge and other rowing successes this year will set the tone for more events for the year ahead.



Our Chair about to be dunked at the World

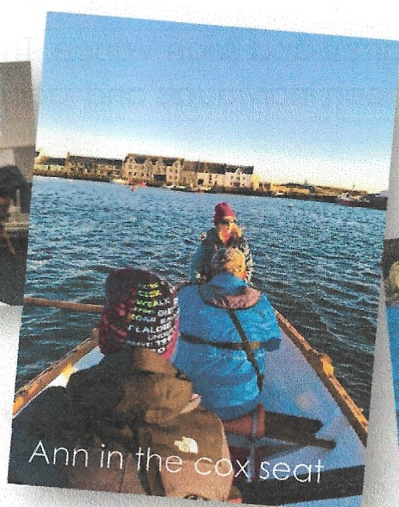


Fellow trustees and club members have supported John and Becki. Gibby Kelly provided superb support in accommodating Ninian at Stranraer and towing the skiff to launch locations around Loch Ryan leading up to the Worlds, and in support of the Isle of Man Challenge. Ann McClure created an excellent marketing and communications strategy for the Isle of Man Challenge and Tracy Cessford brought our club to life on Tik Tok for the first time. Simon provided much needed post Worlds performance data in his role as Vice Rowing Captain. Club members also functioned as ambassadors for our club; in September Steve Munroe rowed for Royal Gourock at Garelochhead. We hope, one year, to be able to launch at Port William Carnival week. Again, on 9th August, the weather was against us.

Our club continues to rely on volunteers. One of our stalwart session organisers, Hamish Paton, stepped back from coxing this year. John presented him with the Mundle Trophy for Endeavour at our Christmas social, acknowledging all his hard work for the club.



John's classroom session



Ann in the cox seat



Caroline in the cox seat

We recognise the value of all the amazing work our volunteers do for us. Our regular session organisers were prioritised to attend SCRA Cox training at Stranraer in August, organised by Vikki and Rhona Brown of Stranraer CRC. Vikki, Pete, Allison, Caroline, Liz, Simon, and Ann attended. Simon has since joined Vikki, Pete and John as a regular session organiser, and Ann is coxing regularly with Simon. Sue and Dru continue to help organise sessions, and Dru, Liz, Caroline, and Allison cox in support of the session organisers. John delivered training on skiff safety and man overboard for those taking part in the Isle of Man Challenge. Vikki now delivers SCRA Cox training. We want to be able to continue to offer development opportunities like this to our club members. Becki, Simon, and Gibby, continue to tow the skiffs for the club, which means we can launch from various locations, and attend regattas.



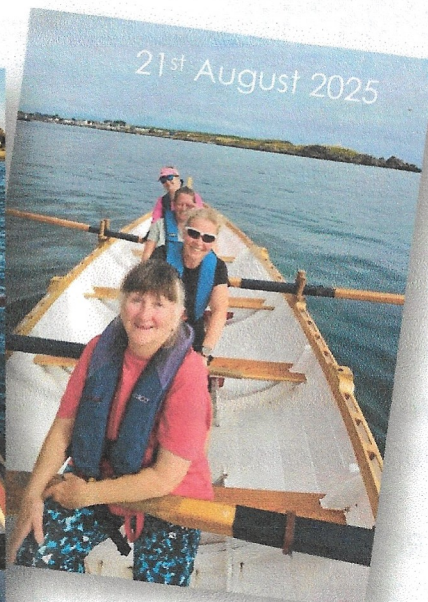
Pete in the cox seat



22nd Nov 2025

Shaun worked with the Isle of Whithorn Bowling Club, to organise our fundraising Race night in February 2026, and we are incredibly grateful to all those in the bowling club who gave their time, and the space to help us

raise funds, particularly Derek, Darren and Brian Vance. Thank-you to all those who sponsored races; fourteen individuals and local companies contributed.



Our charity is nothing without our people and this commitment from so many, to help us succeed, is huge, and we are incredibly grateful.



Where we have struggled to meet our charity objects this year, has been in celebrating our heritage by building and maintaining coastal rowing boats. In the belief that we would be using our community boatshed this fiscal year we vacated the shed space that Shaun has loaned to us for so long. In April we cleaned out the space and returned it with grateful thanks to Shaun and his family. Contractor delays meant that we have not been able to use our community boatshed as planned. We have had to delay social, maintenance, and construction plans until next year. Our beautiful

skiffs both received ad hoc maintenance, and we have continued to use the caravan so generously donated by Miles Thomas for our equipment storage. Both skiffs are due much needed T.L.C and we look forward to returning to regular build and maintenance sessions in 2026-27. We hope this will enliven the everyday social element of our coastal rowing, enabling everyone to engage with us on and off the water.



We continue to beach clean at the Isle, a way for people to engage with us who might not otherwise access our coastline or consider coastal rowing, and we continue to provide waste bins to support that work, with a view to keeping the Isle of Whithorn beautiful.

At our AGM in July 2025 all standing trustees were re-elected. Office bearers elected to remain the same as previously; John as Chair, Jannine Treasurer, Becki as Rowing Captain, Simon Vice Rowing Captain, and Vikki as Secretary. At our first meeting after the AGM, we co-opted Alastair Scoular and Ruby Bell back onto the board, as both wanted to be available to commit to the charity. With Sue Thomas and Shaun McGuire this is our full complement.

More information about our trustees and what they bring to the board is available in the 'About Us' section of our website
wigtownbaycoastalrowing.org

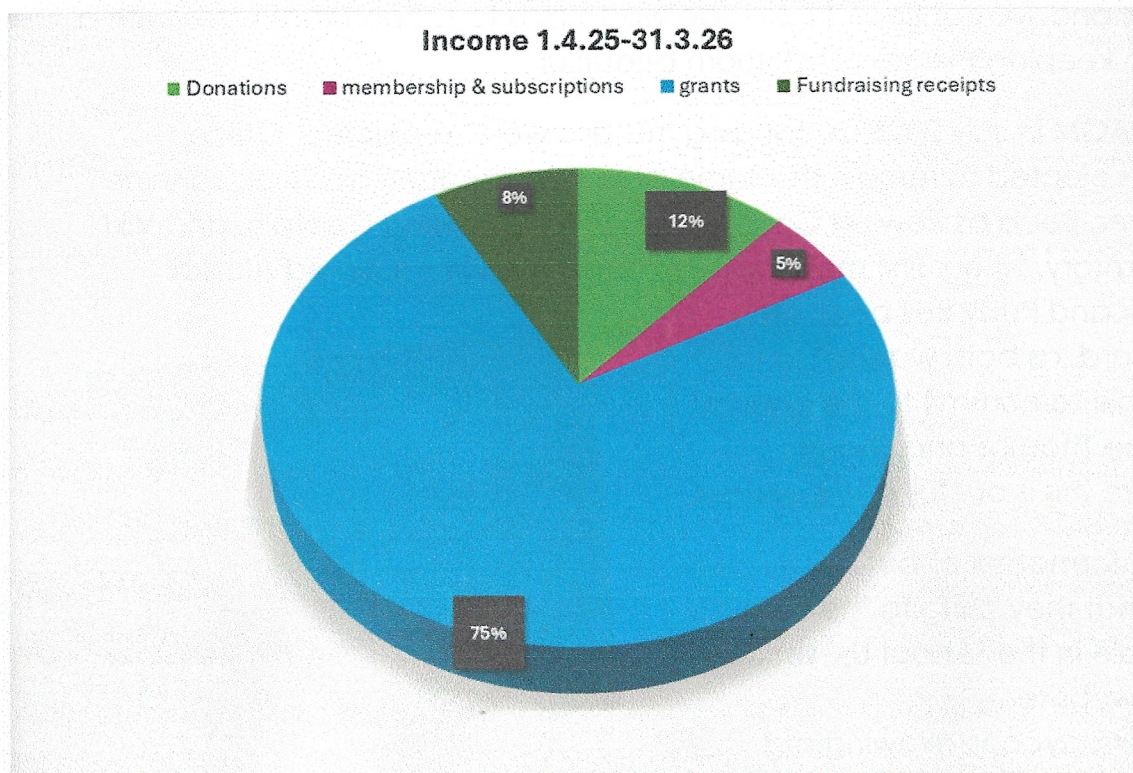


Financial Review

Financially this year has been quiet in comparison to last. We have continued to maintain income and expenditure accounts, with a total income this year of £51557.30, and total expenditure of £47516.20, leaving a balance of £4041.10. We end the year with a total of £16568.58 in our bank account.

Grant funding has contributed £33125.02 to charity funds this year, with money from Sportscotland Facilities Fund and South of Scotland Enterprise ringfenced for boatshed costs. An increase in membership fees has created a cushion for us to be able to meet insurance costs for our skiffs, public liability insurance and building insurance costs. Membership fees raised £2335 this year.

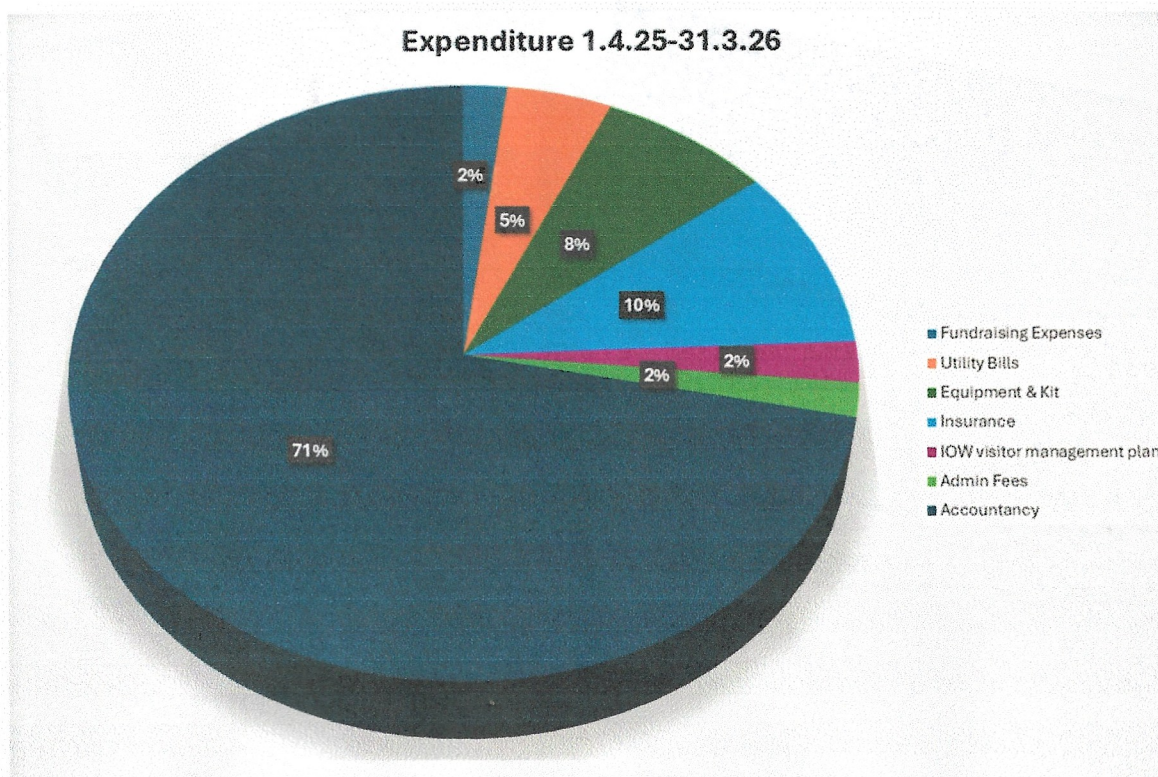
Donations, from several very generous individuals and organisations, have brought in £5269.19 this year, including £919.50 raised from the Race Night in February. Port William Community Shop gave us £200 towards our club gazebo, and we had £1000 from a club member, and £1000 from Newton Stewart Sub Aqua Club to help us to pay for an unexpected and unwelcome invoice relating to the boatshed. The Isle of Man Challenge raised, by the end of this fiscal year, £3628.09, of which £1000 was a generous donation which will enable the charity to buy a Concept 2 Rowing Machine.



As shared at the AGM on 4.7.25, we had a combined loan of £7200, from Vikki and Jannine to be able to pay for the accrued accounts and independent examination that the law required us to provide for the fiscal year ending 31.3.25. This expenditure is not one that we could obtain grant funding to pay for and is peculiar to charities in Scotland as the threshold for accrued accounting is £500k in Scotland and £1million elsewhere in the UK. We agreed we would need to fundraise to pay back this loan. This shows as an outstanding liability in our accounts for this year end.

We spent £197.24 on Isle of Man Challenge fundraising this year, paid for from the fundraising campaign, and £774 on the new club gazebo. £996.95 on skiff, and public liability insurance, paid for from membership fees, and £224 on waste uplifts supported by donations from the Steampacket Inn. We had £183 administration fees including £80 SCRA affiliation fees, an increase of £20 on the previous year, and £7200 on accountancy and legal fees.

Thanks to Simon's work we have solar panels which will offset our electricity bills as we move forward. Despite not being able to use the boatshed we are liable for utility bills, paying £475.28 this year for electricity. Scottish Water, as we are a charity with total income in fiscal year ending 31.3.24 of less than £100k, rebated our water bills for this year in full. Sadly, this will not be the case for 2026-27 as our income in year ending 31.3.25 exceeds their £300k upper limit to qualify for a rebate.



Our community boatshed as a charity asset has accrued £37,465.73 this year, to a total asset value of £778,410.73. The council are yet to assess the building for rateable value purposes, as we have not had our completion certificate. Our other assets include our skiffs, valued currently at £11906.62, but priceless to us, and oars and other equipment to the value of £2020, and trailers £2014.99.

We shall report in full on the financial impact on our charity income of the Isle of Man Challenge 2026, and the total income and expenditure for the creation of our Isle of Whithorn Community Boatshed in our Annual Report for year ending 31st March 2027.

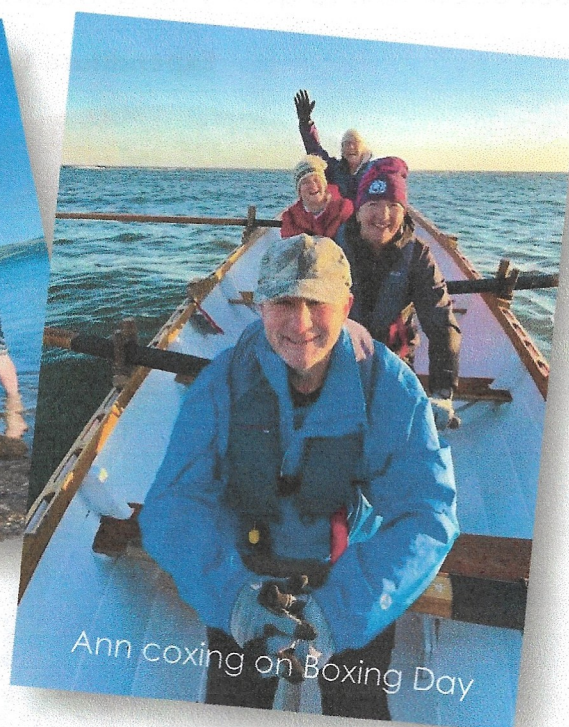
It has been challenging to complete a clear comparison between this year's income and expenditure accounts and last year's accounts, simply because of the way that the accountants produced the accrued accounts. As a charity we are grateful to those who have supported us in understanding how to ensure we have transparent disclosure for our members and for OSCR, especially our independent examiner.

Reserves Policy

We operate a reserves policy, retaining sufficient in our general fund to ensure we can pay one year's buildings, equipment and personal liability insurance, and utility bills.



The race is over The Worlds

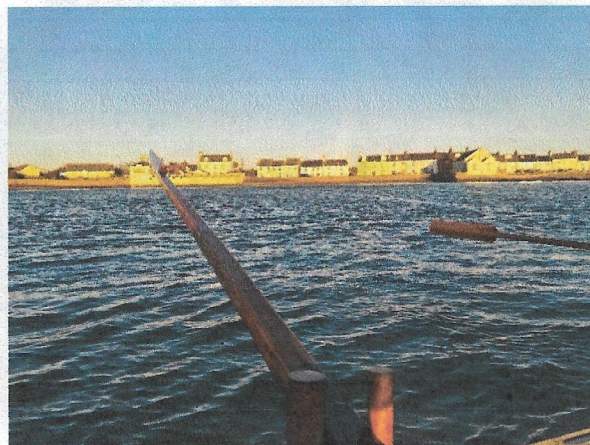


Ann coxing on Boxing Day

Future plans

In fiscal year 2026-27 we hope to have another busy and productive year.

- We shall finalise our first five-year business plan, with the completion of our community boatshed, and create a new plan to sustain our charity for the next five years, and beyond.
- We shall complete our Isle of Man Challenge double marathon row.
- We will support Gail McGarva with the launch of her unique traditionally built St Ayles skiff at the Isle of Whithorn, inviting all the skiff clubs in Dumfries and Galloway to join us.
- We shall maximise our assets, by using the boatshed and encouraging others to use it, initially by hosting open events to invite all those businesses, organisations, and locals who supported us with its creation.
- We shall work in partnership with Newton Stewart Sub Aqua Club in managing our community boatshed.
- We shall support our members and value our volunteers by implementing measures to improve rowing technique and recruitment and retention of volunteers.
- We shall provide Breagha and Ninian with much needed T.L.C and host regular sessions for boat maintenance and refurbishment within the boatshed, to reinvigorate this social and well-being element of our charity's work. We shall also refurbish donated boats, with a view to potentially supporting club funds.
- We shall fundraise in support of future longer distance rows.
- We shall compete in regattas, and competitions, encouraging more members to compete with us.
- We will encourage more people to row with us, by hosting taster days, social events, targeted sessions for different groups, young and older people, and activity days.
- We shall create opportunities for all club members to row with us further afield in social rows, inviting our neighbouring clubs to join us.



Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Vikki

Print name

VIKKI REAY-MARTIN

Designation

SECRETARY - TRUSTEE

Date

15TH JULY 2026.

