



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The New Coracle Shed, Green Wood Centre, Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DR on Sunday 14th October 2023

PRESENT

Euan Raffel, Peter Stanyon, June Lewis, Gary Fruland, Dave Purvis, Mark Dellar, Jude Pilgrim, Peter Faulkner, Simon Miles, Terry Kenny

APOLOGIES

Martin Fowler, David Gent, Wendy Gee, Dylan Jones, Bruce Watson

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Dave Purvis. Seconded by Jude Pilgrim.

MATTERS ARISING

None

REPORTS

Chairperson

Teifi coracle season was poor at best. Lots of salmon caught, but minimal sewin. Puts fishermen between rock and a hard place with the new rules and restrictions. Was present at three events this year, running have a go sessions and exhibitions – Neath Steam and Vintage Show, new event for Teifi coraclers this year and invited back for next year; Royal Welsh Show – first year Teifi coraclers have taken full ownership of the event. Took fibreglass coracles to the show to get people out on the water. Was well received and important to have coracles represented and accessible to the public alongside the paddleboard, canoes, kayaks etc have a go sessions. Third event was the Welsh Game Fair, again taking fibreglass and traditional coracles for have a go sessions and presentations. Again well supported, wide age range of participants. Head of Coracle World Championships was in attendance and had a go, some talks about possible future collaborations.

Cilgerran races were again successful. River conditions meant that the novice races had to be cancelled unfortunately. Thanks again to the Cilgerran coraclers for coming along to support.

Changes to licencing being discussed, had meetings with Natural Resources Wales. A couple options being considered – leave things as they currently are, paying for full licence and unrestricted catch; or restricted licence which comes with limitations on the numbers of fish that can be caught and landed, but a reduced fee.

A couple media appearances this year – Weatherman Walking (BBC Wales), The Guardian newspaper.

Secretary

No report as such as Dylan has been absent. Usual stream of enquiries by email. Few enquiries from the US on where to locate materials. Quite a few coracles have been rehomed this year. A secondary school student has been in touch regarding a school project they have started, lots of questions on where to find information, materials, etc. The project will involve building coracles. He has been

asked to keep us up to date with his project and we will send some resources to him – copies of books, etc.

Treasurer

Balances today – current account: £2623.24, deposit account £2.37.

The 2022 accounts were presented for approval. Nothing much of note. A couple members made use of our insurance. A couple donations were received which we are grateful to receive.

Donations totalling £1000 were paid to the Carmarthen and Teifi netsmen to help towards the increased cost of their licences.

Postage costs remain high, work continues to get more members to receive communications by email.

We have switched to Lloyds Bank this year following HSBC's decision to charge fees to organisations such as ourselves for day to day banking, including a monthly charge. The deposit account with HSBC is in the process of being closed.

Proposer: Jude Pilgrim, Seconder: June Lewis
Accounts were accepted

Membership

94 members – 73 individual, 21 joint/family/associate members. Numbers are recovering to pre-pandemic levels but still slightly lower than historic normal levels.

National Coracle Centre

Visitor numbers down to around 800 last year. No longer gets coach, school parties etc visiting. Restricted visiting hours introduced in response to this.

Netsmen's reports

Teifi Coracle Netsmen's Association
See Chairperson's report

Carmarthen Coracle & Netsmen's Association

Carmarthen River Festival took place again this summer, at the end of August (postponed due to weather conditions). Large crowds attended, young children were able to have a go in a pool constructed on the river bank. Races were again very enjoyable and thanks to the Teifi coraclers for joining.

Rick Stein paid a visit to Carmarthen to do some filming, the programme should be broadcast early in 2024.

Coraclers again led the St David's Day parade through Carmarthen.

Ironbridge Coracle Trust

This year saw the end of the national heritage project, during which they have spent about £500,000 on the restoration of the shed, the sculpture and other activities. The New Coracle Shed has had an automatic entry system installed, so it locks and unlocks on a timer and reduces volunteer workload previously associated with this. CCTV also installed to watch over the facility.

Visitor numbers are good, helped by the new café at the Green Wood Centre.

The slipway next to the old coracle shed has been restored and provides good access to the river, though access from the river bank remains restricted.

At the Green Wood Centre, a classroom has been created which the Trust can use for group activities when the New Coracle Shed is not big enough to accommodate numbers attending.

The regatta again was successful. Lots of people attending, spectating and patronising the associated stalls. The drift at the end of the regatta returned after many years absence.

A large willow crown was created for the coronation and was sailed down the river on the regatta day on two canoes – couldn't happen on the coronation day due to river conditions.

Thanks to the rowing club for providing safety cover on the river.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President: Peter Faulkner

Vice Presidents: Rod Bowen, John Davies, Martin Fowler, Terry Kenny

Proposed Euan Raffel; Seconded Jude Pilgrim

Carried and elected en-bloc, with the proviso that should Peter's health deteriorate, Terry Kenny will take over as President

Chairperson: Mark Dellar

Vice chairperson: Malcolm Rees

Proposed Dave Purvis. Seconded Gary Fruland

Carried and elected en-bloc

Secretary: Peter Stanyon

Peter Stanyon has agreed to take on the role of interim Secretary while the search for a permanent replacement continues. It was agreed to ask Julie Rees if she would be willing to take on the role of Secretary.

Proposed Euan Raffel; Seconded

Treasurer: Euan Raffel

Proposed Jude Pilgrim; Seconded Peter Faulkner

Carried

Committee: Gary Fruland, June Lewis, Jude Pilgrim, Dave Purvis, Julie Rees, Bruce Watson, Steve Miles

Proposed Euan Raffel, seconded Mark Dellar

Carried and elected en-bloc

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

First I must offer my sincere apologies to everyone for not attending last year's AGM. I hadn't even tendered my apologies. The oversight occurred during a particularly difficult period of ill health that has plagued me for over 18 months. There are however clear signs the illness is beginning to loosen its hold at last. I have only been out in my coracle once this year and that was thanks to Conwy Richards who assisted me in and out of the coracle. After a few awkward paddle strokes I was away, free as a floating leaf skimming across the weir pool; the thrill of my first launch in July 1987 was relived. So "old age" doesn't come on its own! However, I was shocked at the speed with which it overtook me! May I offer you this adage "take nothing for granted".

The "magic" was still there and the experience was indeed a tonic to mind, body, and soul. I urge you to never miss an opportunity to get out there on the water. It is a great comfort to know that the Society too is still very much afloat after 33 years. On behalf of the Society I would like to sincere and thank and congratulate all of the officers who give of their time freely and unstintingly for our Society's

good. We would like to hear about your personal coracling. experiences so don't be shy, let's make the next journal a bumper edition. Winter well and always remember the RNLI motto RESPECT THE WATER.

Meeting closed