

Rowing Report

Weekly rowing sessions continue to take place and we recruited a couple of new rowers at the Big Black Isle Gathering a few weeks ago.

The rowing group mainly consists of over 50s who are generally happy with social rowing but we hope to attract younger members in order to create teams and become more competitive. At the moment Chanonry Maid is seen as 'the sailing club boat' by the local community and we have been told by several sources that this is putting people off joining. We know that we are losing Fortrose locals to Avoch Rowing Club.

To promote the Maid as the Fortrose St. Ayles skiff it was thought that the name 'Fortrose Community Rowing' would encourage local involvement and hopefully bring the community together. At the moment, the Maid seems to be the only rowing skiff in Scotland that is not associated through name with the town/community it is based in. Through identifying more strongly with the Fortrose community, we hope to bring more locals/members/money into the club and expand our rowing activities. Please note that this is simply a 'front' to 'get the punters in' and is by no means an attempt to create a group that is separate from the sailing club.

In terms of organisation, we have a group of new members who do not seem to have the confidence to take on organisational roles at this time. I hope this will change in time. Sandra Hogg has kindly volunteered to work with Richard Evans on creating a rowing section on the sailing club website that helps us to communicate and organise sessions/events more efficiently. I am continuing to organise events and rowing sessions but others must step forward to lend a hand.

There is certainly demand for a second rowing skiff and our rowers are looking forward to being involved in the next build.

Mairi Macleod

Skiff Captain