Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing Club

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Annual Report and Financial Statements
1st February 2025 – 31st January 2026

Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the period from 1st February 2025 – 31st January 2026.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name: Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing Club

Charity number: SC047648

Address: c/o 114 Northfield Drive, Edinburgh, EH8 7RF

Trustees during the year and at the date of approval:

Donald Reid – Chair (stood down 14 March 2026)
Katherine Stephen – Secretary
Lucy van der Ven – Treasurer
Pablo Evans – Committee Member
Rosie Mulholland – Committee Member (stood down 14 March 2026)
Joanna Allsop – Committee Member (stood down 14 March 2026)
Becci Wilson – Committee Member
Emma Lawrence – Committee Member (stood down 14 March 2026)
Sean Watters – Committee Member (Appointed 14 March 2026)
Sally Champion – Current Chair (Appointed 14 March 2026)
Claire Tochel – Committee Member (Appointed 14 March 2026)
Ben White – Committee Member (Appointed 14 March 2026)

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 17 August 2017. Prior to that it was an unincorporated association. The assets of the club were transferred to the SCIO on the date of incorporation. It has a two-tier structure, being governed by the charity trustees with a body of members.

Appointment of trustees

The management committee are the charity trustees. They meet regularly, around every two months or more often as required. Membership of the committee is open to all members. The committee is elected at the AGM which is usually held in March. There must be a minimum of five and a maximum of nine trustees.

The management committee has delegated responsibility for training and race selection matters to a sub-committee, as permitted under the constitution.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The charity's charitable purposes are:

- to promote and facilitate public participation in the sport of Scottish Coastal Rowing.
- to develop members' skill and technique in the sport of Scottish Coastal Rowing.
- to stimulate healthy competition by means of races, regattas or other organised events.
- to promote exploration and adventure through rowing expeditions and travels.
- to 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 fitness.
- to encourage its members to adopt and apply best practice in health and safety, safety at sea, and child protection and to take personal responsibility for their application.

Activities

The club organises coastal rowing outings from our base in Portobello in our two skiffs, Skelf (launched in December 2015) and Sprite (launched in May 2018). Launching from Portobello beach as weather permits, we have multiple crews out every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and frequently also on other weekdays. Rowing on the sea takes place all year round. Off-water strength and fitness work is organised weekly through the autumn, winter and spring with strength and conditioning training and Erg (rowing machine) sessions. On-water technique development is a regular feature of the club's programme, with weekly training programmes, side-on coaching, videos and opportunities for race practice all employed. Club social gatherings are also organised approximately four times a year.

During the summer racing season the club attends a number of regattas hosted by clubs around Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The club's two boats are also available for members to organise longer expeditions (known as 'Adventure Rows') subject to approval from the management committee.

An important part of the club's activity is boat maintenance, undertaken by a group of bosuns within the club. Their work includes week-to-week repairs and maintenance, the design and manufacture of new or replacement equipment including oars and rudders, as well as annual overhauls and painting of the skiffs.

The club holds annual recruitment initiatives dependent on the capacity for new members. The current membership numbers approximately 58, including 14 youth members (under 18). The youth cohort is organised by dedicated youth co-ordinators who are supported by parents and other club members to encourage this valuable resource to the continuation of the club.

Achievements and performance

Eastern approached the triennial SkiffieWorlds with the objective of retaining our status as the top-ranking Coastal Rowing Club in Scotland and in doing so to compete to win the overall prize. As outlined below, the club achieved these top-level objectives. We also promised to remain a supportive club offering learning and opportunities for all to develop, something we largely met despite the significant distractions of the SkiffieWorlds competition.

At the SkiffieWorlds event held in Stranraer in July 2025, Eastern came second in the overall table, losing out only to perennial winners Dundrum of Northern Ireland. In 24 race categories, we won 12 medals (compared to 5 in 2022), with two gold, eight silver and two bronze. This was a record haul of medals by the club at a SkiffieWorlds championship, and we were on the podium in every age category at least once with the exception of the U19 category. We had 18 Top Six finishes and 23 Top Tens, we qualified for more finals than any other club (23), and actually won more overall points than any other club (the final table is decided on the best six results only). Eastern was the only club to break Dundrum's clean-sweep of golds in the six youth categories with our victory in the Mens U17 category (with a crew of mainly 15-year-olds). The competitive success was both broad and deep.

While the Worlds dominated half the year, we still rowed most weeks of the year, we maintained a regular on-shore fitness and training programme, we gathered as a club for social occasions, including an energetic 10th Birthday party in November, we organised Race Sundays, we went to regattas in Musselburgh, Port Seton, North Berwick, Ullapool and Cromarty, a crew completed the Great River Race down the Thames. A youth crew (as well as an adult crew) completed an adventure row to uninhabited Inchkeith island in the Firth of Forth.

Financial review

The principal regular source of funding for regular activities and expenditure are club membership fees, which are charged to members on an annual basis. There was a 5% increase during this period to cover for inflation and other increased costs. Differential rates are charged for older members, youth members, as well as other concessions. Membership was paid before the accounting year end (January 2025) and therefore the subscriptions are annotated as lower than in previous years. Payment will now be delayed to February to ensure that this is not repeated.

Receipts for the year were £12,036 and payments £17,398, a deficit of £5,362. Last year's receipts included £13,369 of one-off donations, and spending was at a similar level to last year (£17,398 compared with £17,796). The club held £5,932 in cash at 31 January 2026.

The club makes semi-regular applications to trusts and other funding bodies to support their activities as well as identified projects. Given the significant sums raised in this way in the previous

financial year, there was less focus on fundraising in the period 2025-26. However, the club remains in a sound financial position and felt able to commit to the initial purchase of the kit to build a third boat for the club, construction began in summer 2026.

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to hold cash reserves of about six months of the club's normal running costs in order to meet commitments and cover any unexpected expenditure. This is currently held at £4,000, an increase of £1,000 from previous years. This is based on the average of the last two years' running costs (rent, insurance, regatta and affiliation costs), with boat maintenance limited to £2,000 a year and excluding training, which is largely covered by session fees. Most of the club's commitments can be ended on a month's notice, so the trustees estimate the club could wind down for around £2,000 if needed; the higher figure allows for unexpected costs such as equipment repairs. At 31 January 2026 the club held £5,932 in cash, which is above this level.

Plans for future periods

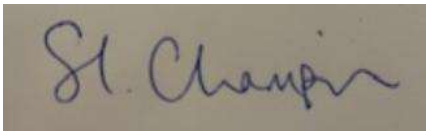
Club activities will remain consistent with both on and off-water training, with a particular focus during the summer months towards attending and competing at regattas. A number of crews have also organised to attend longer-format events and races in Ireland, England and Scotland. Alongside regular boat maintenance and bosuns' activity, the club has committed to build a third skiff, with the initial work beginning in summer 2026 and work continuing into the autumn. We use our current two boats a lot, and a third boat will allow for a more realistic maintenance regime as well, we hope, as allowing more adventure rowing and the chance to experiment with the boat set-up. Coastal rowing in St Ayles skiffs was created, in part, to encourage and inspire community boat building, so we also hope participating in the boat build is something many members will enjoy. In addition, the club has formed a Future Club sub-committee with the brief to explore and work towards options for improving the club's long-term options for boat storage and accommodation, in particular exploring possibilities for a covered boat-house within the Portobello area.

Financial statements are included in the OSCR template.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signed:



Sally Champion

Role: Current Chair
Date: 28 October 2026