



Wormit Boating Club & Watersports Hub

Trustees' Annual Report

16th September 2022 to 15th September 2023

Charity contact information

Wormit Boating Club and Watersports Hub (SCIO)

Scottish Charity Number: SCO **52016**

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Charity Trustees

Name all of your charity trustees for the period, and the date they left if they were not in post for the whole year

1. Captain Ralph Webster
2. Professor Lesley Holdsworth OBE
3. Mr John Don



Objectives and activities

Wormit Boating Club & Watersports Hub (WBC)

The club exists to promote community participation in healthy recreation, in particular by the provision of facilities for safe boating and watersports, for the benefit of any and all of the inhabitants of the North East Fife Council area (and for the avoidance of doubt without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion).

We are delighted to report that Wormit Boating and Water sports Hub (SCIO) attained charitable status last year (September 2022). We see this as the first step in developing the club for the wider benefit of its members and the local community. Although the club itself has been in existence for over 100 years members felt that becoming a registered charity would afford us opportunities to develop the club for the benefit of its members but also the wider local community. Being a registered charity us to opportunities to raise funds

It has long supported the needs of the local community in accessing and enjoying activities on the River Tay. Like many coastal communities, the villages of Wormit and Newport have a rich history of being intimately connected with the water, both as a way to earn a living and as a source of leisure. As needs have changed and the necessity to use the water as a method of travel or a source of food has diminished, many communities have turned their back on their waterfronts, and consequently opportunities to connect with the water have also diminished. Wormit has been fortunate to sustain a strong connection with the water through its base at Woodhaven and has grown a substantial community of users, whose interests range across sailing, rowing, and more recently kayaking, paddle boarding and open water swimming.

The club prides itself on its inclusivity and a welcoming attitude, and currently works on a voluntary basis to promote water sports for the whole community, offering water sports access for a catchment area of over 200,000 people – recognising and supporting the physical and mental wellbeing for all ages that the activity can bring.

We currently offer regular introductory sessions and train participants in boat safety and safe water practices. Following recent open days, we have had many requests to participate in future sessions. At our most recent open day, not only did we all have fun on and off the water, we had over 300 additional community members attending and recruited new members.

Wormit Boating Club and Watersports Hub therefore finds itself in the position of representing a strong sustained tradition of engagement with our coastal waters,

with growing interest from all parts of the community and a well developed ethos of inclusivity. We have established a Development Group to look at ways to consolidate and grow the role of the Club. The vision is to build on the work that has been done so far by establishing improved facilities that will enable a wider range of activities to be accommodated, while also growing links to other local groups to encourage them to access the water and enhanced facilities. We know that there is demand to re-connect with the water and we feel we have the skills, knowledge and commitment to help as many of our local communities to take this step safely, sustainably and successfully.

A major aspect of developing the club will be to improve the facilities on offer to accommodate the growing interest and wider value the club could provide including the clubhouse, storage and the associated safety requirements. In addition to attaining charitable status in 2022, we successfully completed stage 1 of our application to Fife Council to acquire the land the club currently leases under a land transfer agreement and more recently, submitted our full application (August 2023). We feel that there are significant benefits for the club in owning the land and being able to develop it to meet our future vision.

As Trustees of the Club, we can report that we are both enthused and also delighted by what this 'small' club has achieved this year. We may be a small community club of circa 240 members, but we believe that we provide facilities and opportunities that can grow and benefit even more members and our wider local community.

This is our first annual report since achieving charitable status.

Governance and Management Structures

We have an active and committed membership, committee and group of Trustees. Each brings skills, knowledge and experience from a range of sectors relevant to managing and developing WBC. In addition to marine craft skills and sailing and instructing qualifications, we have members with strategic and major project management, risk assessment, finance, property management and maintenance, marine craft and maintenance, marketing, business, education, scientific and medical skills. WBC's constitution outlines our approach to governance and can be found at www.wormitboatingclub.org.uk

Trustee recruitment and appointment

WBC has three Trustees who were appointed by the membership of the Club in September 2022 at the AGM. They have all continued to oversee the Club over the year and will stand again for election at the forthcoming AGM which is due to take place in September 2023. The current trustees have a range of diverse and complimentary skills and experience. Ralph, our Commodore is a Master Mariner and spent his working life at sea. He is also a keen sailor and rower. John is one of the longest serving members of the club having been a member since 1960 and still maintains a keen interest in the club. Lesley belongs to the rowing section of the club and has significant experience as a Board non-executive. All live within three miles of the club and are committed to its development for the benefit of its members and the wider community. We will however be aiming to recruit two further Trustees in September 2023 as we progress our development plans.

Achievements and performance

We exist as a club to provide the community of North east Fife with opportunities to get involved with water sports on the river Tay. We have a range of watercraft that members can use at no additional cost including, dinghies, skiff rowing boats, paddleboards and kayaks. Many of our members have their own boats, kayaks or boards which they store at the club. We have seen an increasing interest in our activities this year with 47 new members joining us. WBC has various sections, each of which is led by a team or committee of volunteers. We have sailing, rowing, kayaking, paddle boarding and open water swimming sections. The largest sections, sailing and rowing, have full committees overseeing their activities with designated individuals responsible for other key aspects such as first aid, safety, welfare, training, publicity etc.

In this report, we would like to focus on some key highlights from each of our watersports sections and also the overall club activities this year. And, these include:

Our fabulous open water swimmers who are very keen and (brave) and swim in the river all year round. They have had numerous successes this year in terms of races they have entered. One of their most prestigious successes (amongst many others), this year was being placed first, second and third in the very challenging Loch Tay 3000m open water race. Well done to them!



Sailing Section

Our sailing section continues to meet regularly to train and race. It's been a successful year organising junior and senior sailing for beginners. In total we have had 18 juniors and 8 adults who had never sailed before who are now members of

the club. It is hoped that this will continue with adult training taking place throughout the season at the club and another course planned for the juniors to attain RYA level 3&4 in the Autumn.



The club have a number of sailing dinghies that anyone in the club can use and these are maintained by a group of willing volunteers.



We are also keen to develop watersports skills in our younger members and to this purpose, we ran a six week sailing course with qualified instructors from the Ancrum Sports Centre during the spring - summer. These were attended by 12 young people between the ages of 6 to 14. We also ran a full weeks watersports programme for children between the ages of 6- 14 in August this year. The children were able to take part in the full range of water activities and improve their skills on the water while having much fun. We know that children benefit in many ways from being involved in the club in addition to learning new watersports. Benefits such as increased confidence and the ability to communicate as well as enhanced social skills.



Rowing Section

We have an active and keen rowing section at WBC with over 60 enrolled members. In April this year, over 200 people and 13 teams from all over Scotland joined us in a 20 mile Perth to Wormit Row that took place in glorious sunshine. There were three legs; Perth to Newburgh, Newburgh to Balmerino; Balmerino to Wormit. The members of WBC then laid on a sumptuous spread for our visitors to balance out all those calories that had been lost during their efforts. This is an annual event that sees more and more teams from Scotland keen to take part and WBC are always happy to provide the soup and cake. So good to get so many keen rowers together in one spot and the blether goes on for quite a while!



Our rowing section, as well as training and social rowing on the Tay out of Wormit take every opportunity to get out and race against other clubs. This year has seen them win the Fife Cup at Lochore Meadows, take part in in races and regattas in Troon, Loch Tay, Elie, St Andrews and Berwick. Last year, they had quite a success in the World Skiffie Championships in Holland and, not wishing to lose their reputation, each of these events is approached with military precision!





Kayaking Section

Our kayaking section goes from strength to strength with more and more people wishing to join the club and also store their own kayaks with us. To this end, we have built a large storage shed for this purpose and to free up much needed space in our dinghy park. We have raised the funds for this build via donations from local organisations to whom we are most grateful, from the proceeds of the open day and from WBC's funds. We are also fortunate to have members who have given of their skills and time to make this happen. We are very pleased to report that it is nearing completion and expect it to be open for business in September. We know that kayak storage is a problem for many who want easy

access to the water so we see this as a great way to attract new members. In addition, we have expanded our club kayak fleet by 12 kayaks so that our members can use them as and when they wish.



A number of our members have completed an eight-week kayaking skills and safety course run by one of our members who is a qualified instructor. We feel that having such instruction at the club is important as it not only attracts more kayakers to the area, it ensures that they have a heightened awareness of safety on the water and their impact on the wildlife and environment.

Open Day

In May, we held our usual Open Day which encourages the local community to come down to the club and experience the full range of watersports on offer, rides on fast ribs, shanty singing, raffles, tombola, children's games, face painting and lots of delicious food of course. Members provided food donations, and local businesses donated prizes for the raffle.

We had a visit from the RNLi lifeboat from Broughty Ferry which is always a crowd pleaser. Over 250 people came along to the open day and fun was had by all! This is always a great opportunity for the club to not only give people an experience on the water for free but also to encourage them to come and join us as members so they can enjoy the Tay all year round.



Community and Schools Survey

This year has seen us starting to move with our ambitious plans for developing the club. We are keen to involve as many of the local community in our evolving plans and we have deliberately taken a co-production approach. We believe our vision will benefit many in the community and we want our clubhouse to be used by many community groups but we need their input to help us shape this development. Presently, our clubhouse is used by a couple of community groups, a knitting group and also for karate lessons but we have much bigger ambitions for the new clubhouse and anticipate that many more community groups will want to use the facilities. Our inclusive approach led us to conduct a community online survey over last winter, which was widely publicised in the local community.



In the survey, we asked:

- What people knew about the club;
- What they wanted from the club;
- Shared our ideas for development;
- Their ideas for improvements that would benefit the club and wider community.

The key findings included:

- 95% felt the club was extremely beneficial to the local community;
- 94% were strongly positive in terms of the plans the club has for development and the new plans for a clubhouse;
- 64% were aware of the club and its facilities;
- 58% provided ideas for other developments/services/opportunities they would like to see the club provide.

We also surveyed 98% of all local school children with:

- Unanimous support (100%) for there being a local boating club at Wormit
- 99.5% strongly positive in terms of the plans the club had for development and the new plans for a clubhouse
- 70% were not aware of some of the types of watersports on offer i.e., kayaking, paddle boarding, open swimming etc.
- 60% provided ideas for other developments they would like to see the club provide

When the total numbers of both surveys are combined, we feel we have achieved the direct input of about 10% of our local households (and over 95% of local children aged 5-11 years).

Electric rescue Boat

A significant development for WBC this year has been the purchase of a UK built, RS Pulse 63 electric rescue boat. This is the first electric rescue boat to be purchased by any club in the UK and will replace our older boats which run on more polluting fuels. This represents our commitment to being climate ambassadors for the Tay and respecting the habitat of the wildlife with whom we share the water. We were able to raise significant funding of over £60k for this purchase from local businesses and the Crown Commission in addition to a generous contribution from the boat builder themselves. Local school children were invited to name the new electric rescue boat. They suggested 64 names then voted for their favourite with the top three receiving prizes for their efforts including one year's free membership of the club. The winning name was eWOC (electric Wormit Operational Craft).



In anticipation of the delivery of our new electric rescue boat (eWOC), we needed to extend one of our sheds to house the boat. This was a membership effort and culminated in a painting party. We are now the proud owners of a much improved and large enough shed for our new arrival.



Certified Training Centre

In 2023, we achieved Royal Yachting Association recognition as an approved training facility. This allows us to offer certified training. For example, our instructor



is running certified Power Boat 2 courses very successfully which have proved popular with both members and non members. These courses have been financially supported by Fife Council, Community Sports Grant scheme.

Communications

Over the last year, we have developed a new, vastly improved website (www.wormitboatingclub.org.uk); created an on line membership form and updated our club's logo. All documents and information are now available online, which enables the community to know what's going on at the Club and sign up to become members should they wish to join in our sporting activities, or just get involved generally.



We continue to use the Spond app as our booking system for rowing, sailing and kayaking which continues to work well. We actively use social media to publicise our activities under the hashtag #wormitboatingclub

Historical Ties

The Norwegian 333 Squadron of the Norwegian Airforce have a longstanding tie with WBC as they were stationed there during the second world war. These ties have continued and it is normal for them to visit us each year to pay their respects and to lay a wreath at the memorial stone. The club is always pleased to see our Norwegian friends and use the opportunity to host a social event.



Reserves Policy

WBC has a Reserves Policy which is reviewed annually. The club has on-going financial commitments that primarily relate to:

- maintaining the clubhouse, land and other buildings including utilities
- ensuring that the club has the right equipment to carry out its activities and that they are safe and well maintained
- Rent of land and launching charges to Fife Council
- Insurance and public liability
- Membership of the RYA and Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
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Our income is predominantly derived from:

- membership fees
- fund raising, grants & donations
- training courses

In 2023, the Trustees of WBC reviewed the financial situation and agreed that the club requires reserves to cover the financial commitments detailed above. For 2022-23, the level of reserves was set at: **£17,465.00. NB.** This included the potential to contribute £10,000 from club funds to purchase the new electric rescue boat however, the club's actual contribution was much less (less than £1000) due to additional donations we received for this cause. The club has no deficit and a current reserve of £87,233.90 which will be used to support our development plans. Our accounts and finances are audited by EQ Accountants LLP with input and final sign off from the WBC Trustees and Committee.

Financial review

Our main sources of funding are membership fees supplemented by donations, fundraising and grants for specific projects.

Analysis of Income for 2022-2023 (£)

Membership Fees	16,687
Restricted grants	48,000.00
Unrestricted grants	1,713.00
Rents Received	1,133.00
Donations	17,463.00
Fundraising	2,996.00
RYA Training	2,160.00
Total:	90,152.00

Analysis of Expenditure for 2023-2023 (£)

Rent/Utilities/Catering & Incidentals	14,199.60
Land/buildings enhancements, build & maintenance	10,130.00
Equipment & Fuel	7,586.55
Affiliations	504.95
Insurance	3,257.00
Electric Rescue Boat	60,963.00
Total:	96,641.00

Funds at 15th September 2023 (£)

Reserves: Restricted	0
Fixed Assets	328,870.00
Unrestricted:	87,260.00
Total Assets	416,130.00

This year, we have been particularly successful in attracting funding in the form of donations and grants to support the enhancement of the shed which houses our rescue boat, the purchase of the first electric rescue boat in the UK and in building a new kayak shed.

Donated facilities and services

As well as a membership which regularly gives of their time and skills voluntarily, we have been most fortunate in attracting a number of grants from local organisations and also the Crown Commission.

Our volunteers run taster sessions for interested members of the local community to try out a range of watersports including monthly rowing tasters which allow people to try out before deciding to join the club. They also contribute to the upkeep of the clubhouse and land. For example, this year, we have constructed additional storage for the increasing number of craft, boats and kayaks our members want storage for. Regular work parties allow us to minimise the need to employ contractors and trades.

We have a kitchen which in addition to providing snacks and drinks, regularly caters for the social events and regattas we hold.

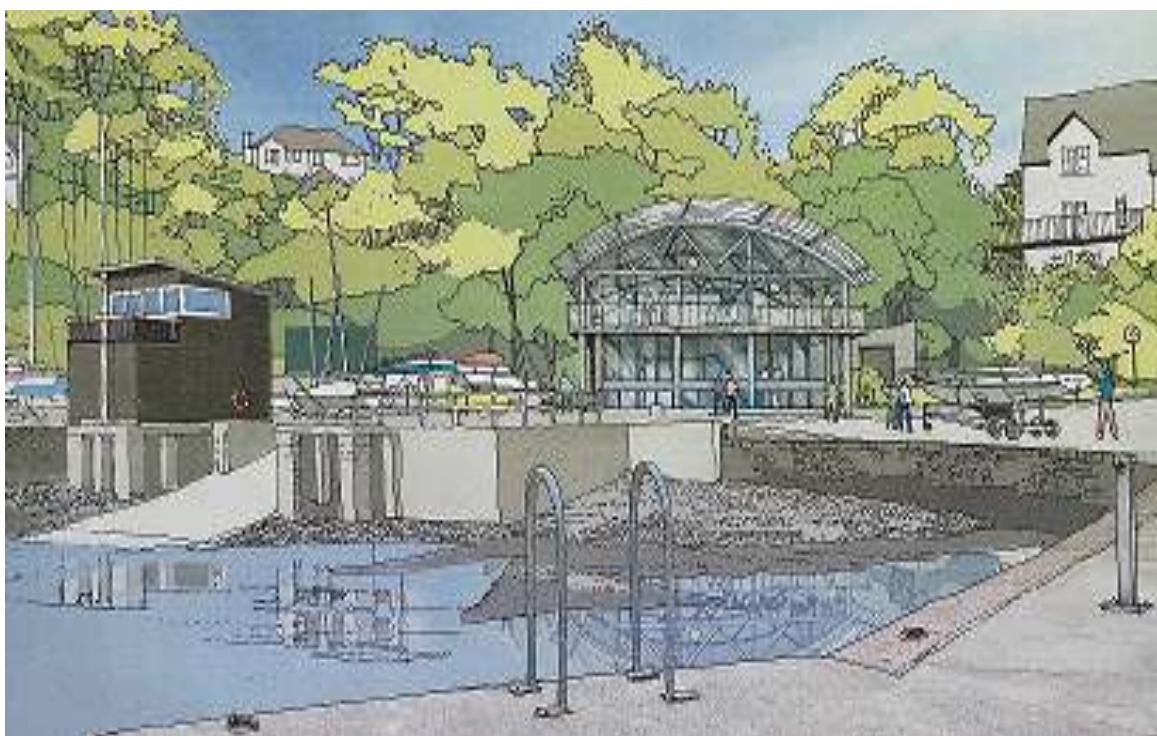
Future Plans

Our aspirations for a new two storey modern purpose-built community clubhouse have moved on considerably. We have lodged papers with Fife Council using the Community Land Transfer legislation to become owners and custodians of the Woodhaven Pier and the grounds we presently lease from Fife Council.

We see the future of Woodhaven Pier as a centre of national significance – as an exemplar of innovative, creative and inclusive use of our shared common waters.

Our ambition is for the club to be the focal point for three things: safe, accessible leisure use of the river, developing excellence in watersports and enhancing people's knowledge of the scientific and cultural traditions associated with these waters.

To this end, we want to be able to offer a 'living space for water access' that clearly links to the work of our neighbours such as V&A Dundee (sharing knowledge on boat design and boat building), and Discovery Point (climate science and exploration), and continues our successful work with partners such as the village fetes in Newport, Galdry and Tayport and our local schools and Universities.



WBC will continue to offer local school aged children the opportunity to have taster sessions and try a number of different watersports as well as running a week of watersports instruction. We have also participated in Dundee University's creative writing projects about our relationship to the water as part of Book Week Scotland and the Dundee International Women's Centre. We have also hosted rowing events for women who use the DIWC facilities. We hope to continue with similar types of events in the future. As well as growing our club and welcoming new members, the focus of our efforts during 2023-24 will be on finalising the Community Asset Transfer we are in the process of agreeing with Fife Council. This will allow us to begin the process of finalising our plans and raising the funding required to re-build the clubhouse. We are pleased to say that our project has the backing of our MP, MSP, local councillor and community council who have all visited our premises and written supporting documentation.

We also plan to strengthen all the sections of the club over the year and offer more training in watersports as well as social events.

Our 2023-24 objectives are to work towards achieving:

- Acquiring ownership of the land and Woodhaven pier from Fife Council.
- Engaging/involving members and the local community in developing fully costed plans for improving the facilities including a new clubhouse and enhanced storage
- Raising funds to support these plans
- Improving facilities on the site for the benefit of WBC and the wider community
- Safely, efficiently and sustainably manage WBC into the future
- Being recognised as a community ambassador in the area
- Being recognised as a climate change leader for watersports in Scotland

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

Ralph Bruce Webster

Designation

Commodore

Date

11/09/2023



