



THE MODEL STEAMER CLUB

SAILING EVERY SATURDAY AT ROUKEN GLEN POND

Ian McGhie - President Tom Ewing - Secretary Gerald Leviin - Treasurer

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

ACCOMMODATION.

Current Situation

The Committee has been reminded that the last update on this (excluding the President's Report at the AGM) was in August. Despite appearances, it has been trying to get progress, but has been tied down to the Council's deliberation's on the Grant Application. It feels that analogy of the swan progressing serenely with all the activity out of sight has not been appropriate. It has seemed more like trying to dock a paddle steamer on a strong gusty day. Lots of to-ing and fro-ing, a lot of churning and splashing, but not a lot of success.

You will remember that it was reported at the AGM that having previously agreed the size and location of a unit with the Council, we submitted a Community Grant Application, and were still waiting the decision which had been defered several times by the officials. In December we had a meeting with the Council to provide information for the final consideration by the Committee Chair, and three days later were advised that we had been allocated £2000. A qualified success leaving us with a £4100 shortfall.

We then made applications to two further Grant sources. One of these has been unsuccessful as they could not find a benefactor for us, but the other has defered our application as we do not have Planning permission for our proposal.

We had further discussions with the Planning officials and established that the cheaper, second hand Portacabin option would not be approved.

As the time required in getting a Planning approval delays the grant beyond the time conditions of the Community Grant, we intend to resubmit our grant application with a "letter of comfort" from the Council hoping to get an earlier decision.

We have also been advised that although the Park is out-with the priority area for Whitelee Wind Farm grants it may still be possible to tap into this, and we are pursuing this also.

It remains possible that we will soon be able to create our own accommodation at the Park.

Rouken Glen Park

The progress on the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant for the Park is proceeding as slowly as ours. As all the detailed investigation surveys and specialist reports are now completed, it is planned to submit the second stage application soon. It may be possible that tenders for the first of the works will be sought by the summer. We can only hope that the Council will redouble its weed clearing activity this summer and that we can get some sailing before the inevitable disruption to the water levels of the works to the Pond.

Having wreaked havoc on the Club and its activities, we have it from reliable sources that "The Boaters" and the Gym will cease trading shortly, and that the Council will be seeking a new tenant. Any one for a Model Boat Club with a very large tea-making and food facility?

Club Evening Meeting

On Wednesday, 1st Feb. @ 7.30pm, in Rhuallan House, Ian Quinn will be enlightening us on the Clyde Fleets since 1946.

Have they not, with one exception, all come and gone?

"Ship Ahoy"

The West Highland Steamer Club are holding a special maritime heritage exhibition as part of their winter season meetings. This will take place in the Hall of Renfield St. Stephens Church, 260 Bath Street. Glasgow, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday 30th March.

We have received an invitation to mount a static display as part of the meeting. Along with West Highland Steamer Club the Clyde River Steamer Club, Coastal Cruising Association, Cmal and possibly Calmac, PSPS, Waverley Excursions and MacBraynes Bus Circle will be represented.

This is an opportunity for us to discuss our joint interests in all the Steamers of the Clyde and the West Coast with other Clubs.

Ian McGhie will be contacting some "volunteers" for models.

Finally

Due to the lack of sailing at the Park, contact between members has been restricted. If you have any issues to raise, or reports on sailing, remember that Tom Ewing has all the membership contact information.

Importantly

The Club is going to be involved in a high level of expenditure this year, so prompt payment of subscriptions is essential. Please send them as soon as possible to Gerald Levin or Tom Ewing.

Please reply to - Tom Ewing
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