

### **Who are we?**

If you've seen dinghies, kayaks and skiffs (rowing boats) out on the water at Portobello, more likely than not members of Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club will be involved! We are a friendly, local community water sports club of around 150 members. We have a strong community ethos with low cost membership and kit and equipment for people to borrow when taking part. Around half of our members live in Portobello / Duddingston area. We are a registered charity, entirely volunteer run with a board of Trustees who are responsible for governance of the club.

### **What we do... three sports in one community club!**

Our members can take part in any - or all - of the three sports (sailing, kayaking and coastal rowing). The boat yard where dinghies, kayaks and our skiffs are stored is centrally located on the Prom, easily accessible and close to the public beach. Apart from the impact of coronavirus pandemic on activities during 2020, regular sailing and kayaking sessions take place from April to October, with occasional kayaking sessions during winter. Sailors race in the club and at local regattas with other clubs. We have run taster sessions for canoeing and sailing (part of Scottish Canoe Association and RYA Scotland initiatives). We are also affiliated to the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association. Ordinarily, rowing takes place year-round with crews also attending club regattas around Scotland. Teams of coastal rowers took part in coastal rowing's Skiffy World Cup in Stranraer in 2019.

### **Beyond the membership – working with local schools**

In keeping with our club's community ethos, we have developed a partnership with Castlebrae Community High School. This successful programme has grown over the year and in May 2019 groups of up to 18 S1-S3 pupils took part in a 6-week water sports block during their summer term. We also started working with Towerbank Primary School but this activity was curtailed by the pandemic unfortunately.

### **Our main challenge... no on-site facilities**

Our boat yard is located between the play park and residential buildings. The main shed - used for storing equipment - was bought in the early days of the club. As membership has grown, it is no longer fit for purpose and we have no facilities for members on site i.e. there is no dedicated and accessible changing rooms or toilet.

This lack of a club-wide facility prevents us from increasing participation and growing a wider membership. We are also limited in developing coaches and volunteer opportunities which in turn hampers our capacity to help members develop skills and progress.

Despite these challenges, our members - Covid-19 restrictions permitting - are out on the water seven days a week. As a forward and outward looking club, we have a strong desire to do more to honour our charitable objectives of increasing access to the water for everyone.

### **New PSKC community water sports hub**

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With Covid-19 restrictions curtailing activity on the water during 2020, we turned our attention to a new project to help us to grow PSKC sustainably: a new water sports hub (or clubhouse).

With a new building in place, we will be better placed to serve our members and reach groups who are under-represented in the current membership e.g. people with additional needs, more young people from nearby areas.

### **Progress to date**

Located in the boat yard, the proposed building is a single storey construction with two heated changing rooms (with partition wall which can create a bigger space), an accessible toilet and shower, storage space for equipment and garaging for the safety boat and tractor. There will also be a communal space available.

We have architect's plans and planning permission is in place. Undertaking this project is no small feat and we need to raise around £150,000 in total. If successful in our fundraising we aim to start work in the autumn and complete the building by Spring 2022.

### **Making up the difference – match funding**

We have applied to Sport Scotland Sports Facility Fund. However this would only fund up to 50% of the total project cost.

If successful, we are responsible for making up the difference by securing match funding for the project. So far, we have secured a pledge of £10,000.

### **Using your donation**

The donation of £2,000 would be an extremely welcome contribution towards our match funding target. Every penny counts and having the opportunity to be involved in your charity programme will improve our chance of securing funding from other donors. If successful, we would claim Gift Aid on your gift to add an additional £500 to the total.

Thank you for considering our project for support.

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