

## 50th Anniversary of The Deeside Sculler Club



The Deeside Scullers club (often abbreviated to its initials of 'Delta Sigma' ( $\Delta\Sigma$ ) in the Greek Alphabet) was formed in 1966 as a break-away group from Aberdeen University Boat Club (AUBC).

At that time, AUBC was the major rowing club in Aberdeen and all competitive rowing took place out of the AUBC boathouse. The site of the current ABC boathouse was occupied by Ogilvie's Boatyard, a business that rented leisure craft (rowing boats, kayaks or small motor launches) to citizens of Aberdeen to allow them to mess about on the river. The 'RGIT Boathouse' (current RGU Boathouse) housed dinghies and some sailing craft but no racing rowing boats. Both the Robert Gordon Rowing Club and its university status were not even twinkles in the eye of the College of Further Education which was RGIT!

## **Extract from original minutes**

Deeside Scullers Club was founded at a meeting of Messrs RFI Moore, B Smith, MJ Webster and RG Livingston in the Dungeon, University Union, Broad Street, Aberdeen on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 1966 at 5pm.

The objects of the select club of experienced oarsmen are broadly to facilitate communication between members and Aberdeen University Boat Club and to provide a club and colours under which any member may, at any time or place, row or scull. Membership is by invitation and confined to those who have connections with Aberdeen University Boat Club.

## What has Delta Sigma ever done for me ...?

I have heard this asked by various members of AUBC over the years. As well as living-up to its declared intent of maintaining communication between current university rowers and 'old boys' (or gals),  $\Delta\Sigma$  has provided tangible support in the past including sponsorship of try-rowing events (free food and beer!) and the purchase of the Janousek 4+ 'The  $\Delta$ eelinquent  $\Sigma$ tudent' which was gifted to the club entirely using funds from  $\Delta\Sigma$  or  $\Delta\Sigma$  members.

## But I'm a member of RGUBC ...

I hope the above precis helps explain that DS does not ignore RGUBC but the reason for non-inclusion in stated aims is simply that RGU did not exist at the formation of  $\Delta\Sigma$ !  $\Delta\Sigma$  is aware that the Aberdeen universities (plural) are increasingly working as one unit and is exploring ways of supporting this combined group. A major current project is exploring the purchase of a rowing trailer since neither university owns one.