

Dundalk Rowing Club Minute Book, 1930 – 1939

Repository Code: IE LHA

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Title: Dundalk Rowing Club Minute Book

Dates: 03 Oct 1930 – 06 Nov 1939 (bulk 1930 – 1936)

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent: 1 bound volume, 74pp, 4 inserts

Name of Creator(s): Committee Members of Dundalk Rowing Club

Admin/Biographical History: Dundalk Rowing Club, at times also known as Dundalk Boating Club came into existence on 16th June 1870 following a meeting of likeminded sporting enthusiasts such as William Tempest, who was an original member. Within two days the first boat, named the *Orphan*, was purchased. The second boat, named *The Major*, was obtained two years later following a visit to Dundalk by Major Knox, the then proprietor of the Irish Times. Other early members included Tom Brown and Matthews and the Club tasted success in various regattas such as Greenore in 1872 with crew members RL Brown, JD O'Neill, James Murphy, WM Patteson and Captain Lawless. The Club did well and a boathouse was constructed on the embankment in the 1880's. However, this was destroyed by fire in 1922 and replaced by a more modern brick building in 1924. The committee in 1886 included HF McCann, Thomas Williamson, Thomas Brown, PV Carolan, G Miller, William M Patteson, VS Carroll, JD O'Neill, RL Brown and H Williamson. The secretary and treasurer was William M Patteson.

The club suffered a slump in its finances shortly after the turn of the century due to a lack of interest and support from the town's inhabitants. Although recovering, it did not function for the period of the Great War as many of the club members entered the military, re-opening again in 1919 before closing again due to the boathouse fire. 1921 proved to be a successful year for the Club, winning seven cups and with the 1921 Regatta in Dundalk. After the fire in 1922, rowing was resumed in 1925 with a successful Regatta held in 1926.

However, for most of the 1930's, the club struggled with its debts. For example, in October 1930 they had debts of £23, £10 of which were outstanding subscriptions, rising to £102 by 1934. The last minutes recorded in November 1939 suggests a winding up of the club and the sale of assets as debt rose to £120. Membership of the Rowing Club committee during the 1930's included: D O'Connell, E Byrne, W Hayden, PW Cooper, Dr Daly, W Lait, T Teevan, JR McDonald, J Murphy, P Reynolds, S Belfield, O Deery and H Callan.

Competition played a large part in the history of the club. They took part in regattas, both in Dundalk and other parts of the country, establishing a great rivalry with Newry and Drogheda in particular.

Archival History:

This item was donated to Louth County Library by The Old Dundalk Society. It was transferred to Louth County Archives Service in 2009.

Scope and Content:

A book containing the minutes of the Dundalk Rowing Club Committee between 1930 and 1936 (signed off May 1937). There is also one final entry of minutes dated 6th November 1939. Most of the committee meetings concern the Club's finances. Examples of fund raising activities include dances, whist drives and the failed attempt to lease a skating rink. Other entries refer to the condition of the slip and raising funds to build a new one, the loaning of a boat to Drogheda Rowing Club, the Club excursion, boatmen's wages, obtaining new members, forming a women's section and competitions. The Rules of the Dundalk Rowing Club are written in opposite minutes for the meeting on 19th June 1934. The minutes of 25th February 1935 record that it was proposed to close the Club and to circulate all Clubs with a list of property for sale including boats and oars to assist in clearing off the heavy debt, however, in 1936 the Club was re-opened for a period for subscriptions to go towards the debt. The minutes of the final meeting on 6th November 1939 record the approval of the sale of the clubhouse 'for the purpose of paying off the debts' and the authorisation to execute the assignment of the boathouse to the Harbour Commissioners at the agreed sum of £120. Two pages at the back of the book record a list of names to which tickets were issued for a whist drive in 1930.

Subject index:

Clubs and Societies; Dundalk Rowing Club; Sport

Appraisal & Destruction:

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Related Material:	Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA PP00297A/ Dundalk 1890 Regatta and Aquatic Sports Collection
Publications:	- Bassett's Louth County Guide and Directory, 1886 (County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society, Dundalk, 1998) - Tempest's Annual (Dundalk, 1927) - Tempest's Centenary Annual, 1859 to 1959, (Dundalk, 1959)
Repository Home Page:	http://www.louthcoco.ie
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