



## **Chairman's Review 2019/20**

Welcome everyone to this very unusual Annual General Meeting of the Harbour Board. This is indeed a first for Tarbert Harbour Authority.

With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic at the beginning of this year, 2020 has indeed been an unprecedented and difficult time for everyone and at times sad for some.

Tarbert Village however, has been fortunate to date with no record of any COVID-19 cases in the local community and we can only hope this will continue until this pandemic is brought under control.

My Review this year starts as usual with the accounts, which I hope you have received a copy of:

### **Accounts**

The net surplus shown in the accounts for 2019/20 was approx. £18.5K and despite the effect on the Trusts activities during the 2020/21 season, due to the pandemic; the Board have a reasonable expectation that the Authority has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Following the completion of the new and upgraded Harbour infrastructure over the past few years; the Board is looking ahead and will now be concentrating its efforts on improving the activities and additional services on offer to all Harbour visitors. A new 5 year Strategic/Business Plan is being formulated and projects will be identified and hopefully progressed within the coming years as and when funding allows. We are also pleased to announce that following negotiations with Crown Estates this financial year, we have been able to renegotiate the Pontoon Lease Agreement we held with them, which has secured the Harbour just under a £300K saving over the next 10 years.

### **Shipping**

Following her extensive engine refit, we were fortunate enough to welcome the Paddle Steamer Waverley back to Tarbert for two visits during August 2020. She regrettably had to prematurely end her season following an unfortunate accident whilst visiting Arran. We are hopeful however, that we will be able to welcome her back to Tarbert in 2021.

### **Fishing**

Fishing dues were slightly up on the previous year together with the Fish Quay income. However, the COVID-19 Pandemic, lockdown, the uncertainty of Brexit and the market value of the landings this year, have all had an enormous adverse effect on the fishing industry in Tarbert. Despite this pressure, the Board remain resolute in providing support for the local fishing industry, wherever it possibly can and improvements to the Fish Quay are high on the Boards agenda.

Fish farm traffic has again continued to make use of the facilities this year both at the Fish Quay and East Pier.

## **Leisure**

Although Berthholder dues were down, the 2019/20 accounts show an encouraging increase in income for the visitor dues, which we believe is due in no small part to the new upgraded facilities we are now able to offer all our customers. Unfortunately lockdown in March 2020, which decimated most of the 2020/21 season, including the cancellation of the prestigious Scottish Series and other Tarbert Festivals, will mean that next year's figures will be considerably lower. As stated earlier however, the Board remain optimistic that next season will see these figures recover and increase year upon year, and we are hopeful that all the festivals will be able to take place in 2021.

## **Property and other Infrastructure**

Despite the setbacks this year, the Board remain keen to continue with the development of the Harbour. Two projects which unfortunately could not be completed by the end of the financial year, were the Harbour car park extension and the replacement of all the electric pedestals on the pontoons. Work on the electric pedestals was finally able to commence in mid October this year and has now been completed. We are sure all our customers will find these to be a great improvement on the old pedestals. The extension to the Harbour car park was halted in March 2020 due to the Pandemic. Following the lifting of restrictions, work was further held up due to some concerns raised by A&BC. These however, have all now been resolved and we are pleased that work on the car park has recommenced. The boat lift out this year was unfortunately delayed due to this work stopping and is now programmed to take place at the end of January 2021 with a lift in taking place in April 2021. This will mean however, that work on the car park may need to stop again when the boat lift out takes place. It will however resume after April 2021 with a final completion date of early May 2021, in time we hope to welcome back the Scottish Series to Tarbert.

## **General**

The delayed Scottish Water Sewer Replacement work commenced at the start of September this year and will continue for 13-16 months. This will mean a great deal of disruption for the whole of the village however, Scottish Water have again agreed to discontinue with work for the Scottish Series in May 2021 and the Seafood Festival in July 2021. Some disruption at the Harbour is envisaged as Scottish Water are using available Harbour space for storage of equipment and their own staff porta-cabins buildings and facilities. We are assured however, that disruption will be kept to a minimum and should not impact on Harbour activities.

The Harbour will be looking to appoint Trustees in April 2021 and anyone interested in applying to join the Harbour Board should apply for a pack in December of this year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone well for the 2021 season and ask you all to remain positive and above all stay safe.

Duncan I. Cunningham  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour Authority  
November 2020