

WAYZGOOSE

Rowing Clubs

Rowing as a printers' sport was very popular in Glasgow. Rowing as a competitive sport had taken place on the River Clyde since the mid-1840s and was 'the' spectator sport in Glasgow. The highlight of many people's week was the regatta which was held every Sunday on the Clyde. Thousands of people lined the banks of the river between the Nelson Monument and Rutherglen Bridge to cheer on the contestants and possibly place a bet on the races.

From the late 1870s printers held their own annual regatta in which entry was restricted to members of the printing trade. Participants included firms such as MacLehose, McCorquodales, Glasgow University Press, Blackie & Sons, Collins and Wm Hodge & Co. In 1914 the Glasgow Printing Trade Amateur Rowing Club (GPTARC) was established to bring all the individual printing house teams under one organisation. From 1924 they rowed out of the East Boathouse on Glasgow Green.



The (GPTARC) held its regatta and competitions over several Saturdays during the rowing season. While most competitions were open to non-printing clubs, one Saturday was reserved for printers only. The printers' regatta was supported financially by the big printing houses. Patrons also included the Scottish Alliance of Employers in Printing and Kindred Trades (Glasgow branch) and the Glasgow Typographical Society. The club continued to flourish until the 1960s, when it was decided to sever the link with the printing industry and to rename the club the City of Glasgow Rowing Club. The City of Glasgow Rowing club later amalgamated with the Glasgow Argonauts to become the Glasgow Rowing Club. The club moved out of its original location at the East Boathouse to a new clubhouse located down the river in Silverfir Place. This new version continues to flourish and celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2008.

