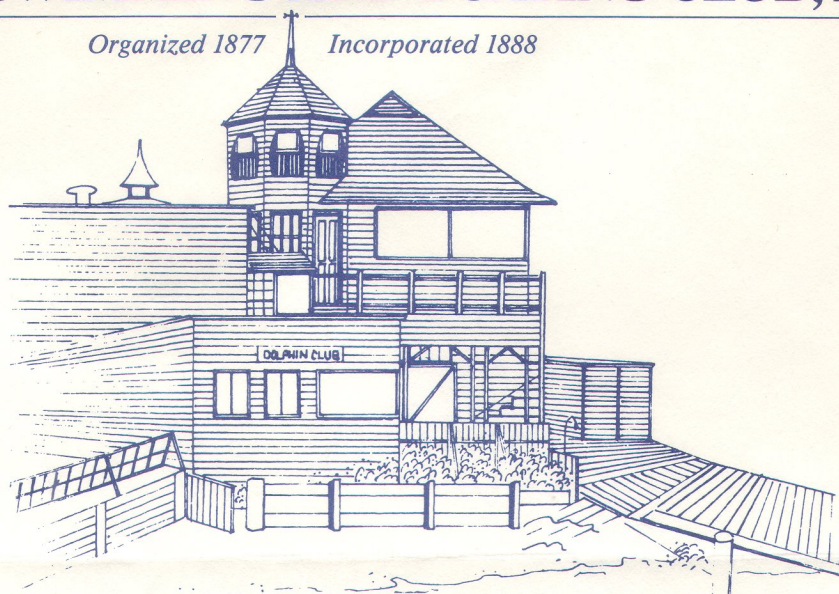# DOLPHIN SWIMMING AND BOATING CLUB, INC.

Organized 1877   Incorporated 1888

History

THE DOLPHIN CLUB WAS THE INSPIRATION of four young men who organized the club in 1877 for the purposes of improving its members in the arts of swimming and boating, and cultivating friendships among them. The club was housed in a small structure on a sand hill, later rebuilt at water's edge at Montgomery and Beach. The original membership was limited to twenty-five.

Since those days the club has flourished. It has produced notable athletes in both sports and also provided a happy place for less competitive lovers of these activities to pursue them. Over the years the club has assembled one of the finest fleets of rough water rowboats in the country and enlarged both its quarters and its membership. The present clubhouse was built at the foot of Van Ness Avenue in 1895 and was moved to its site at Jefferson and Hyde in 1938. Membership today exceeds six hundred. In 1976 membership became available to women.

Tradition

THE TRADITION OF THE DOLPHIN CLUB is one of cooperation and shared effort, so that its members may continue to enjoy its benefits at minimal cost. Although the Dolphin Club sits on city property, and is therefore operated as a facility of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, *the club operates entirely on money from membership dues and guest fees. No money is received from the city.* The club is non-profit. Its officers and board of governors are elected from among its members. Most of these offices are unpaid. The stipend for paid positions compensates for only a fraction of the work entailed.

Members and guests are expected to keep the facilities clean and in order, and to look for ways they can contribute to the club and their fellow members. Much of the clubhouse was hand-built by members donating their labor. Building and maintenance are still largely volunteer. Some of the other ways members can contribute are to pilot swims, maintain and refurbish boats, serve on committees, and help out at athletic and social events.

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