



The Harbour
Fortrose
Ross-shire
IV10 8TP

info@chanonry.org.uk

www.chanonry.org.uk

November 2009

Chanonry Sailing Commodore's Report

Sailing Programme

The 2009 season has been marked by feast and famine as far as the wind goes, resulting in some smaller than usual turnouts. The total numbers competing, however, have held up quite well – I won't go into the club racing winners now, as they will be receiving their prizes later this evening.

The Evans family has had a good season, with Richard being awarded RYA Coach of the year, Jack being selected for the Scottish Laser Radial Squad for next year and Richard and Jack together winning the North of Scotland Dinghy Championships held at Lochaber.

On the keelboat side James Burns has had a successful year winning the MYA trophy for the best overall performance of the season.

We hosted a successful Topper Traveller on 4/5 July with 20 boats competing, our highest placed sailor was Callum MacIver – 5th overall. We have also just heard that he was 3rd in the Ross & Cromarty Athlete of the Year Awards having been nominated by his NoSSS coaches.

The Regatta at the start of August was windy but sailable, albeit with some achieving record numbers of capsizes. 16 dinghies and 10 cruisers competed in the handicap racing. Ben Yeats was the winning dinghy sailor and James Burns was the winning keelboat skipper.

The Ness Cup was delayed due to too much wind on the original date and was finally held on 22 August with 18 boats competing. Ben won again, he was also 5th at the RS300 National Championships and Top Scot!

Friday evening sailing was very quiet which is a shame as it is an ideal opportunity to get on the water with the advantage of a safety boat but without the pressures of racing. Hopefully more members will want to take advantage of this opportunity next year.

Let's hope the weather next year favours us with fewer gales and flat calms and more fair breezes.



Many thanks to Helen Jenner who has been running the sailing programme so efficiently for the last 3 years and for all the training of members as safety boat crews.

Training

Training has had another busy year. We've run popular evening sessions on dinghy cruising, a VHF course and 2 First Aid Courses. Practically we've run an adult dinghy level 2 course, a junior dinghy stage 1 course, a junior dinghy stage 2/3 course, race coaching sessions, extensive powerboat level 2 training including a junior course, a safety boat course and 8 sessions for safety crews to develop or practise their skills.

Our audio-visual equipment has been enhanced with a RYA grant that payed for the new wall mounted screen and the self standing flip chart & white board while a lottery grant covered 2 waterproof digicams and masthead buoyancy bags.

We continue to be the location of choice for the North of Scotland Sailing Squad and host 6 weekend events per year. I'm sure because of our central location, great facilities and the excellent catering .

There are 3 things I would like to highlight:

First, through our affiliation agreement with the Avoch Sea Scouts, we have access to 4 brand new Topaz Uno +. These have been used extensively this year for all age groups to the point where we've only used a GP14 twice for training and the committee intends to dispose of one club owned GP. This will give us a mixed dinghy training fleet of 3 Optimists, 3 Tera Sports (with a replacement hull free of charge from RS), 4 Topaz Uno + and one GP14.

Secondly, for the junior stage 1 training this year we 'bought-in' a Sailing in the City Senior Instructor . This was partly to give our hard pressed volunteers a break but partly to learn from the techniques used with 8 – 12 year olds. Jack Evans helped throughout the week and doubtless benefited from the experience when he qualified recently as a full Dinghy Instructor with Racing endorsement.

Lastly, the committee decided to offer safety boat training as a loss leader to improve the number of trained drivers in the club. It has been outstandingly successful with a total of 37 powerboat related certificates.

Many thanks to Richard Jenner and his team for all their hard work.

Resources

The Clubhouse

Over the last 12 months Diarmid Hogan has overseen a significant programme of maintenance and repairs to the club house. We have also bought new furniture and upgraded the catering and IT facilities. These have been well used and we would like to explore hiring out the clubhouse. Anyone interested in hiring should contact the social secretary to arrange bookings.



Thanks to Diarmid, who in addition is frequently spotted giving the grass a trim.

Lettoch

Lettoch is a small patch of land that was gifted to us many years ago, on the demise of the Beaully Firth Yacht Club. For many years we have been investigating the possibility of selling the land and I am very happy to say the sale of land has now gone through. This has given our capital funds a significant boost and has meant we can bring forward our plans to upgrade facilities. We are awaiting delivery of a new Humber as our old boat had reached the end of its useful life and was increasingly needing expensive repairs and adaptations.

Many thanks to Joe Duncan for his expertise and all the time that he gave in handling the conveyancing for the club.

Hot Topics

Jet-ski Update

Earlier in the season we saw an increase in use of our slipway by Jetskiers. This caused us concern, especially when they were used at high speed close to sailing dinghies and indeed swimmers. Our neighbours also vocally expressed their displeasure.

A small group, led by George Hogg met, and after carefully researching the options recommended to the committee a number of measures: -

- Install a means of controlling access to the slipway;
- ban jet skis from using our premises;
- introduce a code of conduct for those using our premises based on respect for others; and,
- work with others to lobby Highland Council for bylaws should they be required.

Thanks to George and his group for the time they have taken to represent the club on this issue. And thanks also to George for the fantastic support he has given me as Club secretary.

Safety

Any organisation such as ours is increasingly minded to take safety seriously. The recent tragedy at Keilder Water only goes to show how important this is. I was very impressed with the health and safety plan that was already in place when I took over and I will strive to make sure that this work continues. Particular issues we have had to grapple with include RYA guidance on the use of “prop guards” and the risk of losing people overboard from the rescue boats. David Pocock has led a small group to look at these issues in more detail and we will be considering the group’s recommendations at our next



meeting. Thank you to David and his group that is working to make our sailing as safe as we can without intruding needlessly on our enjoyment of our sport. And thanks David for all your continued work as Harbour Master, it is greatly appreciated.

Juniors

I am pleased to say that my daughter Susannah has agreed to try and encourage more of the junior members to get out sailing. We believe that having certain events nominated as days for juniors will inspire them to get involved; especially if they know their friends are likely to be there. Susannah is going to use SMS texts and a "Chanonry Young Sailors" Facebook page to make it happen. Anyone wanting to know more contact Susannah or me.

Volunteering

As you can see there are many people to thank who are happily giving their time and skills to keep this club going. For me this is what the club is all about. A group of individuals who have come together to enjoy the pastime we love. It depends on a great deal of good will but I hope you will agree we also have a lot to gain too. Although the safety boats are often wet and cold, especially at this time of year, I have enjoyed increasing my proficiency at the wheel and am extremely grateful to others when it is their turn to be out there watching out for me! Equally being race officer can be challenging but very satisfying when the results are tallied up at the end. Working with this committee has been hugely rewarding. The level of expertise the club can draw on is truly impressive. Added to that are many others who willingly give of their time, and to all of you, thank you.

Perhaps I can single out a few for specific thanks: -

- David Gibb for having looked after the racing marks for many years and is now handing this on to Alec Man
- Ken Ferguson for looking after the safety boats, and we are grateful for his knowledge of powerboating
- Bryan Smith for ensuring our fuel store is sufficient for our needs, a nearly invisible role
- Tim McKeggie for managing the crane out and moorings association
- Caireen Gourlay for liaising with the Cruisers
- Richard Evans for his coaching at a high standard but also handling all the results and acting as club webmaster
- Jon Shepherd for looking after the membership list



- David Dunton for looking after Wisp, our club daysailer
- Richard Robinson for sorting the accounts
- And last but by no means least a special thanks to Pam Moncur who has put in endless hours with her able team to ensure hungry sailors are fed and looked after so well.

All the work of previous members has resulted in fantastic facilities. We have a buoyant membership and I am sure you will agree, an exciting future.

I am extremely proud of Chanonry Sailing Club.

IAIN MACMILLAN

(from the constitution: 13. The Club, on the recommendation of the Committee, may in general meeting elect honorary members to include honorary Rear Commodores.)

The Committee has one recommendation for election as an honorary member. Iain MacMillan is a long standing member of the club and we believe him to be, as an octogenarian, the club's oldest active sailor. Iain has been a very supportive member who is quietly 'there' when needed. When the club used to lay and recover individual moorings you could be certain that Iain would be there on the work boat pulling much more than his own weight. Iain is still the person, together perhaps with George Taylor, that a cruiser owner is likely to find hanging on to his guide ropes as his boat is craned-in or out – it gives great reassurance. All things do have to come to an end and sadly, but very understandably, Iain has decided that it's time to hang-up his sea boots and to pass on Smadjic to his son Charles in Poole. The Committee believes that the membership would wish to retain a connection with Iain and we put forward his nomination for honorary membership for your agreement.

