



DRAFT

CHANONRY SAILING CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Friday 24 October 2008

Present: Diarmid Hogan; Jon Shepherd; Richard Evans; Jack Evans; Joan Maxwell; Helen Jenner; Helen Rowson; Steve Bramwell; Sandra Hogg; Miles Mack; David Pocock; Roxby Robson; Stephen Brown; Bryan Smith; Dave Dunton; Sarah Dunton; Robert Morrison; Mike Wilson; George Taylor; Mike Burns; Alec Mann; David Gibb; Pam Hogan; Susan Beattie; Pamela Moncur; Richard Robinson; Richard Jenner; George Hogg

Agenda Item

1. Welcome & Apologies

Richard Jenner, Commodore, welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies had been received from: Helen Robinson; Caireen Gourlay; Shane & Fenella Rankin; Marjorie Taylor; and, Bill Burgon.

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 26 October 2007

The minutes were proposed for agreement by David Pocock and seconded by Bryan Smith and approved by those present. There were no matters arising.

3. Commodore's Report

Richard Jenner began his report by noting the sad and untimely death of member Grenville Robinson. Grenville is much missed. Richard also thanked Helen Robinson for the donation of the tender "Gren" for use of club members in association with the club cruiser Wisp.

Richard went on to note the outstanding performance of Callum MacIver who won the RYAS Young Sailor of the Year Award and Jack Evans who had received the R&C Sports Council Participant Award. Both Jack and Callum are members of the Scottish Squad. The fact that Chanonry Sailing Club is now the venue of choice for the North of Scotland Sailing club coaching sessions provides a real opportunity for our youngsters.

A number of other club members had also done well in their sailing endeavours locally, nationally and internationally. These included Alfie Rowson, Robbie Burns, Ben Yeats, James Burns and Mike Burns.

Between Mike Wilson, Diarmid Hogan and David Pocock a number of improvements have been carried out to the club house and harbour area with more in the pipeline. The most significant project this year however has been the very successful installation of Trot moorings. Tim McKeggie, Mike Burns, Mike Martin, David Pocock and Roxby Robson have driven this project forward and delivered it under budget. Almost all the leases have now been sold and the 4 visitors' moorings are proving popular.

Unfortunately due to boundary problems the sale of the Lettoch land has fallen through. The problems have now been resolved and the land will continued to be marketed. The sale of the land is key to taking forward a number of improvement projects. Community Amateur Sports Club status has however been achieved and this should benefit the club in years to come.

As ever the mainstay of the club however is its members and particularly those who, on a voluntary basis, keep things running. Whilst too many to name them all Pam Moncur, Pam Hogan, Liz Watson, Diarmid Hogan, Martin Ball, Roxby Robson, Tim McKeggie, Richard Evans, David Pocock and Martin McLauchlan all warrant mention.

Finally Richard thanked the Committee for its support over the year. In particular Richard thanked Roxby as the only Committee member standing down this year at the end of his 3 year stint on the Committee. Richard expressed his regret at standing down as Commodore but was clear of his preference to continue in the Training role.

4. Sailing Report

Helen Jenner opened her report by observing that it had been a good year, with the dinghy park fuller than ever. It had been a good racing season with about 40 dinghies taking part in all, although for some races turnout could be on the low side. Suggestions to encourage larger turnouts are always welcome.

The Ness cup had had some 24 entries split fairly evenly between dinghies and cruisers. Combining it with the Lifeboat fundraising day had worked well.

Cruisers from the Club have been competing at an Inner Moray Firth level, which has offered more competition than the Club alone could have provided.

In July around 20 cruisers and dinghies had sailed round to Rosemarkie in memory of Grenville Robinson. Helen Robinson provided a superb lunch and a display of dolphins on the way home finished off a great day. It is hoped that the trip might become a regular annual event.

The Regatta in August gave two good days' sailing for those who took part. The dinghy numbers were down a bit – particularly as the dates clashed with some other Laser and Topper events. In conjunction with the Regatta we hosted the Gaidhealtachd Sailing North of Scotland Dinghy Championships. Ben Yeats was the individual champion and Chanonry the Best Club!

The turnout for the September Club championship was poor and again suggestions for how the event might be improved and made more attractive would be welcome.

Helen finished by thanking those who had made the holding of events possible. These included all those who had undertaken Race and Safety Officer duties, David Gibb for maintaining the race marks, Richard Evans for collating race results, and Stephen Brown for keeping the petrol cans topped up. Stephen is unable to continue to do this important task and we will be looking for a volunteer!

5. Training Report

Richard Jenner reported on what had once again been a successful training programme. Sailing training had included the following courses: Adult Level 2 Dinghy training; Start Racing; Informal Sunday morning training; Race Coaching; Powerboating; and, a forthcoming series of shore based courses including vhf, first aid and dinghy cruising.

In addition, and for the first time, the Club ran a Junior Summer School during a week in the Summer. This had been a great success with 18 youngsters attended. Although exhausting it was held to be worthwhile by both those doing and receiving the training. It is planned to run the school again next Summer.

As the trainers are all doing it on a voluntary basis the training programme as a whole is a considerable money maker for the Club. At standard charges the voluntary input is worth over £7,000. This is a very valuable contribution and Richard thanked the trainers: David Bell; Gavin Campsie; Richard Evans; Caireen Gourlay; Helen Jenner; Joan Maxwell; Richard Robinson; Helen Rowson; Clare Skea; and, Steve Bramwell.

6. Treasurer's Report and Consideration of Accounts for 2007-08

Richard Robinson introduced the accounts which were hot off the press. He particularly thanked David Gibb for checking the accounts. Richard noted that under the new constitution the AGM may consider the accounts but their approval is a matter for the Committee.

Richard commented that there had been considerable expenditure this year on the club house, harbour and particularly on the Trots project. The cost of insurance has also risen significantly from £3k to £5.5k. This was on the back of a revaluation of the club house for insurance purposes. The net effect of this was a decline in current assets to £14.8k.

Richard noted an apparent reduction in the membership of about 41 to around 165. He considered the latter figure to be the norm and the previous year's figure an aberration. This is due to the increasing lateness of paying annual subscriptions which makes it difficult to differentiate between those members who are late in renewing their memberships and those who have left the club without notifying anyone.

Grant income was noted and the Club's appreciation of the support of the Crown Estate and the Ross & Cromarty Sports Club were particularly recorded. The presentation of the accounts was discussed and it was agreed that it would be important to particularly note appreciation of those grant aiding or making donations to the Club. It was suggested that the OSCR guidance on the preparation of charitable accounts be followed in future even though the Club is not a registered charity.

It was noted that the timing of the end of the year and the holding of the AGM meant that there was little time to prepare the accounts for presentation to the AGM and no time for the Committee to consider these. It is planned to adjust the timing of the AGM in future years. This should allow for a more informed discussion at the AGM of the accounts.

7. Outcome of Fees Consultation

Richard Robinson and Richard Jenner spoke to the fees consultation which had been recently undertaken. The rationale for increasing the income from the membership was set out. This essentially is based on increasing costs, the need to increase investment in the maintenance of the Club's assets and the need to implement outstanding aspects of the agreed development plan.

The response to the consultation had been split fairly evenly between the two options presented to the Club. These were to shift to a base fee plus charges for additional services/activities, or an across the board inclusive fee. There was a slight majority in favour of the latter option which essentially is the status quo. The Committee recognised therefore that there was not a mandate from the membership to change the way in which the fee is calculated. There had however been significant support for introducing some charges for items such as cruiser storage and storage of additional dinghies in the park. The Committee will consider these matters further. In order to raise the sort of money required the fee will have to be increased by approximately 15% over and above any inflationary increase.

In the meantime it is proposed by the Committee that it is clarified what the different categories of membership are entitled to. This covers items such as use of the club house, storage of dinghies and tenders, winter storage of cruisers, use of the harbours and slips etc. A draft table of entitlements was presented and discussed. This will now be finalised by the Committee in the light of discussion at the AGM. In particular it was noted that a firm line will be taken in future with those members paying their subscriptions late with renewals required by 14 February annually. The Committee intended to introduce a joining fee based as a percentage of the related annual subscription. Members who did not renew by the February cut-off would be deemed to have left and would have to pay the joining fee should they decide to re-join. The Committee planned to introduce membership cards and boat tags for dinghies and tenders which would be distributed with the handbook.

There was discussion on methods to pay fees and the Committee undertook to investigate alternatives to cheques.

8. Election of Office Bearers for 2008-09 and Committee members for 2008-11

There being no alternative nominations the following members were elected as office bearers to the Club on the nomination of the Committee:

Commodore	Miles Mack
Club Secretary	George Hogg
Treasurer	Richard Robinson
Sailing Secretary	Helen Jenner
Social Convenor	Pam Moncur
Training Principal	Richard Jenner

There being no alternative nominations the following members were elected to the Committee:

David Pocock (previously co-opted)
David Dunton (previously co-opted)
Caireen Gourlay (previously co-opted)
Simon Grey

Sarah Dunton who had previously been co-opted to the Committee intimated her resignation.

9. Other matters for which notice has been given

David Pocock proposed a vote of thanks to Richard and Helen Jenner for their very significant role in the running of the Club which was approved by the membership and given a round of applause.