



Draft

## **CHANONRY SAILING CLUB**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 1 December 2013**

**Present:** Richard Jenner, Helen Jenner, Mike Wilson, Janice Illingworth, Peter Illingworth, David Pocock, George Hogg, Sandra Hogg, Mairi Macleod, Dave Hewitt, Diarmid Hogan, Joan Maxwell, Richard Evans, Jack Evans, Diarmid Hogan, Natalie Dunton, Donnie McLeod, David Bell, Joanne Johnson, Alan Munro, W. MacNaughton, Bill Lee, Alan Hardie, Helen Robinson, David Gibb, Peter A Moran, Helen Young, Martin McLauchlan, Tim McKeggie, Liz Watson, Helen Rowson, Ben Yeats, Georgina Hayel, Ross Slater, Alex Johnson, Bill Burgon .

### **Agenda Item**

#### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies have been received from: Ron Tesmer, Steve Bramwell, Cheryl and Gavin Campsie, Jon Shepherd, Alistair Todd, Adrian Hodges, Rodney Timson, Caireen Gourlay, Bryan Smith, David Finlayson.

#### **2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 23 November 2013**

The minutes were proposed for agreement by Richard Evans, seconded by David Bell and approved by those present. There were no matters arising.

#### **2. Commodore's Report for 2013**

As the Sailing Secretary and the Training Principal had produced comprehensive summaries of activities in their areas that had been published on the website, the Commodore explained that he intended to focus on the non-sailing aspects of the Committee's work during 2013.

He drew attention to the difficulty there had been in filling Committee posts at the start of the season because of the perceived workload involved and outlined the actions that had been taken to make the posts easier to manage. This included a determined effort, with some success, to get more members involved in the detailed operation of the Club. One example was how Adrian Hodges had taken on the challenging task of managing the duty roster thus easing the load on the Sailing Secretary. Others included Iain Morton and Tim Lloyd organising the Open Day and Hanako Cameron keeping the Galley stocked; there were others too many to mention but the Commodore thanked all for their assistance.

Although perhaps some thought the Club too bureaucratic in particular areas, the

strong membership figures demonstrated that broadly speaking the Club was providing what people wanted – especially in the field of training that attracted the bulk of new members. This meant we had to comply with RYA guidelines and standards to retain our training centre status, and it was simply not sensible to ignore modern safety practices and Highland Council or Insurance Company requirements.

During the year, a Committee priority had been to make the Club more “sociable” hence the introduction of Sunday morning sailing so members could sail then chat over lunch, “tea and cakes” served post racing, more frequent newsletters, and the calculation/publication of race results in the Clubroom. This would be further developed in 2014.

The Dinghy Park had been reorganised largely by the Wilson Family and this had created about 15 more spaces - although these had soon been occupied. Consideration had been given to extending the Park towards the sea, and this remained a possibility for the future. A proposal to introduce stacking for the smaller dinghies had been dropped largely because most of these boats were sailed by juniors.

Following some suggestions that there were too many, the Committee had considered carefully the subject of Club duties (race and safety officers). Although there would never be any element of compulsion, active members had to realise that they were expected to do their “share” of duties (which averaged out to about 5 per annum) or the Club simply could not function. To increase the number of people on the rota, the eligibility criteria for duties had been reviewed; it was decided, with their parent’s permission, suitably qualified juniors aged 16-17 would be allowed to carry out the assistant safety officer role but the Committee was not prepared to relax the requirement for safety and race officers to be aged 18+. Also, it would be made clear to new members on the application form that, following training, they would be expected to join the duty rota. The roster would be opened for volunteers at the beginning of the year and then those who had not volunteered would be allocated duties. A “swap” facility was available through the website.

The Committee had hoped to install a “no-step access” pontoon along the mole wall with the assistance of a very generous donation from a Club member but despite considerable preparatory work this was currently stalled over technical and planning issues partly arising because of the Harbour’s listed building status.

Following considerable interest within the Club, the Committee had decided to proceed with the build of a St Ayles rowing skiff and this project was being led by Donnie MacLeod. The Avoch Sea Scouts had kindly offered space for the construction and the aspiration was to have the boat on the water by our Open Day.

The website was now the prime means by which the Club attracted new members and disseminated information to existing members. The very considerable work required to maintain the website had fallen to Richard Evans and the Commodore thanked him for his considerable contribution to the effective functioning of the Club. He also noted that Richard was currently leading a sub-group engaged in overhauling the website in time for the 2014 sailing season.

In conclusion, the Commodore acknowledged and thanked all those, both on and off the Committee, whose work behind the scenes had enabled the Club to have a very successful 2013 season.

### **Questions Raised by Members**

David Gibb enquired about whether or not the building of the skiff was allowed by the Club constitution. David Pocock stated that there had been no objections raised by any Club members so far and that the skiff project has been met with widespread enthusiasm and support.

David Gibb also asked about where the funding for the skiff project would come from. Both David Pocock and George Hogg explained that the money would be generated through fundraising.

Helen Rowson asked about the possibility of acquiring a defibrillator for the Club. She will provide the Commodore with the names of the charities helping with the installation of defibrillators in community centres.

### **3. Treasurer's Report and Consideration of Accounts for 2013/14**

George Hogg presented the Treasurer's report to the AGM. He explained that the accounts had been independently examined by David Gibb who was satisfied that they were an accurate account of the Club's financial transactions. The accounts were subsequently approved by the Committee.

He noted that a small surplus of £3,800 had been realised which translated into a small reduction in unrestricted funds available once appropriate sums had been added to the Safety Boat and Moorings reserve funds. This is in line with the Committee's policy of utilising the funds available to it to improve the facilities and services available to members whilst still making sensible provision for management of the Club's considerable assets.

He thanked Janice Illingworth and David Gibb for their invaluable help with the accounts this year. George also thanked the Ross and Cromarty Sports Council for their support, as well as the Eric Twiname Trust for their support for training and sailing endeavour.

There were no specific questions in relation to the Treasurer's report.

### **4. Election of general Committee members for 2014**

Richard Evans proposed that all office bearers be re-elected for next year. Tim

McKeggie seconded the proposal.

The following members were elected to serve on the Committee:

David Finlayson

Alan Hardie

Tim Lloyd

Mairi Macleod

The new members were welcomed to the Committee after the nominations were approved by all present.

#### **7. Other matters for which notice has been given**

No matters were raised and the meeting was concluded.