

Chanonry Sailing Club

Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting

Held in the Clubhouse at 7pm on Friday 7 December 2018.

1. Present and apologies for absence.

Present were:

Marisa Astill-Brown, Jon Bailey, Steve Bramwell, David Cameron, Hanako Cameron, Kyle Cameron, Gavin Campsie, Richard Cherry, Helen Cherry, James Dargie, Liz Duncan, Jack Evans, Richard Evans, David Finlayson, Gregor Fisher, David Gibb, Laurence Gunner, Alan Hardie, Thomas Hardie, Steve Hill, Sandra Hogg, Helen Jenner, Richard Jenner, Chrissie Lane, Tim Lloyd, Joan Maxwell, Tim McKeggie, Donnie McLeod, Calum Pearson, Edith Robertson, Helen Robinson, Mike Wilson, Janet Witheridge, Robin Witheridge.

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Janet Amos, David Bell, Mona Dargie, George Hogg, Kevin Holliday, Peter Illingworth, Morven and Duncan MacLean, Iain Morton, Helen Rowson, Peter Smith, David Vincent, Michael Wilson, Ben Yeats, Helen and Derek Young.

2. Minutes of 2017 AGM.

One amendment was noted. Acceptance as correct was then proposed by Janet Witheridge, seconded by Marisa Astill-Brown and passed unanimously.

3. Commodore's Report

Commodores report AGM 2018

Good evening everyone and welcome to the AGM of Chanonry Sailing Club for 2018.

This past year has been an interesting one with some successes and unfortunately sadly some setbacks particularly for some individual members regarding their health and our thoughts and best wishes are with them at this time. Sometimes you just have to count your blessings and be thankful for your own good health and wellbeing.

Our sailing club continues to prosper with a steady growth in our rowing members and our dinghy sailors holding steady however our cruiser numbers are low but still just sustainable.

As this is my last year as commodore I would like to thank all the committee members over the past two years for their considerable efforts and

support to the club during this time. All these club activities don't just happen it needs considerable work for it to be "all right on the night".

Our coastal rowing has had a successful year including an increase in membership as more people interested in taking up rowing join our club. **Over the summer** there are rowing sessions through the week and at weekends and both skiffs have been out on several occasions and rowing has even continued over the winter months although not as frequently due to weather and daylight. **Our rowing participants** are mainly of a more senior age profile so social rowing provides excellent exercise and fun and companionship for all who participate. **Our rowers took part** in the 1st Flat White challenge rowing from Cromarty to Foulis and return, quite a row. **The excellent summer** weather encouraged exploration of the Beaully Firth including a very pleasant mid summer row and barbeque with a Dolphin escort back home to Fortrose. **We had a presence** at the Findhorn regatta which was most enjoyable although it was cut short due to rising wind. **Chanonry Maid**, had a refit over last winter and is in very good condition for at least another year. **Unfortunately Silver darling** suffered damage after being blown off the harbour wall and landing on some stones. **Repairs** have been carried out and I defy you to find the patches and she is now ready for use. **Over this winter** further training for aspiring coxes will be set up so as not having to rely on the same few coxes and allow more rowing opportunities for all. **Once again an invitation** to all members to come along and try a row over the winter months, it is a good social and relaxing exercising opportunity and it is fun and even in winter you soon warm up.

Our cruiser numbers are down again this year but hopefully we can slowly increase numbers to our very keenly priced moorings. **The Moray Yacht Axis Open** regatta series races were reasonably attended. **Our local cruiser fleet** is not well represented at these events and we would like to encourage more of our cruisers to have a go, myself included, the races are in the most part very friendly and good craik afterwards and if you are short of crew then put out a call for crew. **Our club hosted** the CSC Cruiser regatta and the Black Isle Challenge cup both are part of the open regatta series and once again the hospitality offered up by the club was very much appreciated by participants particularly our visiting cruisers. **Once again a very big thank you** to all our catering volunteers for their efforts, for all who assisted in our water taxis and of course those Race Officials without whom there would be no racing.

A number of cruisers enjoy the delights of the West coast and spend as much of the summer as they can sailing these waters. **Others** enjoy the local challenges of the Inverness and Moray Firths. **One of our members**, Jamie Norman had a really challenging trip from Chanonry up as far as Shetland, the

excuse was that he had an invite to a Wedding in Lerwick, and his return was by the Western Isles, the things you do to get to a Shetland wedding.

The club has a number of moorings available for members at competitive rates and we hope this will attract new members as some winter storage may also be available. **We are very confident** with the diving company who carry out our moorings work and there have been no failures again this year attributable to the mooring work that the club provides. **Once again a dedicated team** of helpers turned out to assist our cruiser owners and our harbourmaster in carrying out necessary works in supporting the dive teams and the crane in and out operations. **The more people who can assist** make it a more enjoyable day and certainly less strenuous for us older cruiser owners. **We have introduced a briefing session** prior to the Spring and Autumn mooring works and this has been very helpful for mooring holders and those who assist with the mooring works.

Racing results for the season's series and events are published on the club website www.chanonry.org.uk/2018.html. **Pleasingly winners** are distributed among a good number of sailors. **Other achievements** over the season have been reported in newsletters. **We've run** successful Open and Annual events again this year: • Ness Cup for a mixed fleet of dinghies and cruisers. • **Our Dinghy Regatta** incorporating the Musto Skiffs and several visiting boats was very successful. **The catering takings** were boosted when the Race Officer decided to send everyone ashore after the first race on Saturday due to strong gusty conditions. **Something to consider** for next year? **After a break ashore**, the programme was completed with a total of three starts per class each day. **Not so successful** were the 8 class racing events intended to encourage competition within the various classes and especially for the Musto Skiffs. 2019 will see another incarnation of these events hoping to get the recipe right! **Some Members**, especially the Musto Skiffs, have represented the Club in competition across Scotland and the UK with generally good results. Well done. **The very last event** in 2018 is the Cold Turkey on Thursday 27th December starting at noon. **There will be** the usual soup and rolls on coming ashore. **We've had over** 100 races in regattas, series and one-day events this year and that requires a huge volunteer effort so a big thank you to all those who supported these dinghy and cruisers events in their capacities as Race Officers, Safety Officers and Catering.

Programme 2019 We are starting to look at the programme for next year so if you have any suggestions for improvement, then we'd like to hear from you via the website sailing@chanonry.org.uk or by contacting a committee member directly. **This years' programme** of Friday evening Social Sailing has seen bigger turnouts along with a few dinghy day cruises. **Of course**, the weather wasn't always on our side. **We have improved communications** about social sailing with emails directed to those who have signed up for them and by using the Friends of Chanonry Sailing Club Facebook group. Calum Pearson and Helen Young have been driving these events and made a very

good job of it so again a big thank you to both. **Finally, further thanks** to the Sailing Sub-Committee for their help in planning and delivering the 2018 programme.

TRAINING

Shore-based training was run in January and February covering a variety of subjects. There was some demand for follow up sessions during the summer however due to other commitments we could not fit it in.

Certificates. We have issued 30 RYA certificates this year: 17 x dinghy certificates for various stages or levels; 9 x powerboat; 4 x assistant dinghy instructor. This represents a very creditable effort from our volunteer instructors.

Instructors. A 2-day course was conducted for 4 aspiring assistant dinghy instructors (ADIs) in the spring and followed up with practicing with 'real' students. All 4 have made very useful contributions to training this year.

Adult dinghy training uptake for the Level 1 & 2 course was only 2 students. It was decided that as both students were already members, the course should go ahead with the secondary objective of giving the ADIs in training an opportunity to practise on real students (under supervision).

Junior week in July went well with 11 students including 4 new students. The weather was largely cooperative and as a first, certainly in recent years, 4 students achieved Stage 4 certificates. The week generated **30 whole-day duties**. Some of these were covered by parents but the majority by the instructors. Of note, **David Vincent** (neither a parent of a participant nor an instructor), helped for the entire week and we were given additional support by two of our younger members, **Kyle Cameron** and **Oliver Bull** who sailed along with the students.

Powerboat training ran 2 courses in April and August thanks to **Helen Jenner** and **John Crossley**. There were also 2 safety boat skills sessions early in the season.

Race Coaching. 16 sessions were provided between March and September to a mix of adult and junior participants; average attendance 5. The main emphasis was on learning how to make your boat go better/faster and some sailors also learnt about racing rules and tactics. By the end of the season more juniors started to make the transition from Dolphins and we hope to see them making progress at this level next year. There has been a noticeable performance improvement in racing achievements by the more advanced participants. Again a big thank you to the coaches for giving their time:

Dolphins. There were 9 Dolphins evenings although sailing was lost on 2 occasions as it was too windy. The last session on 6 September was the best with 8 sailors participating.

Coastal Rowing. As mentioned earlier we hope to provide training to assist the lead rowers develop a 2-day programme for new coxswains which will be delivered this winter as a combination of shore-based and on-the-water activity. **RYA annual inspection** was on 24 June and went very well with the only action (to be completed by the next inspection) being to adopt an **Equalities Policy** (this has been drafted and adopted by the Committee).

Programme for 2019. The first PBL2 course will be on 23 & 24 March. We're running a RYA First Aid courses principally for instructors on 30 March. There is an early junior Stage 1 dinghy course programmed for 18 & 19 May and Junior Week will be 15 – 19 July.

Long Term. The long-term prospect for the Recognised Training Centre remains tenuous due to a shortage of senior instructors (only 1 active in 2018) and a significant number of key instructors and coaches are now claiming their state pensions. We need volunteers prepared to enter the formal instructor pathway. If you wish to consider entering this pathway then again please contact us through the club website or speak to a committee member.

One last item.

I was approached by Joan Maxwell, I'm sure she won't mind being called a senior member of our club, as she has a significant photograph of 5 of the founder members of our club that she wishes to present this to the club. Joan also wishes to present a scrap book that she has compiled over the years relating to the early days of the club and it goes up to the year 2000. In my opinion these photographs and records are very important to organisations such as ours. The club is now approaching it's 63rd year and a lot has happened in that time and unfortunately a lot of the early story could so easily be lost so I think that this record is vital for Chanonry Sailing Club. Joan would you like to say a few words.

One last item.

Joan Maxwell gave a brief account of research she has done in the past few years into the history of the Club, using material from the Club Scrapbooks which are now returned to the Clubhouse. She had also compiled a further scrapbook of pictures and press cuttings dating from 1958 onwards. Joan invited other members to join her in further research on the history of the Club, those interested to contact her directly or through the Committee.

4.Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report Nov 2018/AGM

Membership: this has held up against last year's income due in no small part to the late addition of new members via the University of the Highlands and Islands and I hope this is an area of membership which could be sustained.

Sailing event income is slightly down on last year but nonetheless is still satisfactory.

Training income is down but this is to be balanced against significantly lower training costs.

Catering and social event income is somewhat higher than last year with only a modest increase in costs and I think that Janet and Robin are to be complimented on maintaining this vital part of club activity.

Fuel duty refund was successfully applied for again resulting in a refund of £304. I anticipate this level of refund will continue.

Cleaning costs have increased this year but this seems unavoidable to maintain the club in useable condition.

Moorings have, as planned, been essentially self-funding although the small numbers of boats on moorings does call the viability of moorings in to question. It is possible that if little work is required on moorings next year the cost of mooring might reduce and attract new members.

There is an exceptional cost of website maintenance and this is because Richard Evans has kindly been subbing the club by failing to submit timeous claims for the support he gives us by arranging our web presence.

The major increase in costs however has been insurance. The previous Highland Council administered scheme came to an end and, while Zurich would continue a clubs' policy, it became apparent that the wording of there policy did not give the committee "comfort". With advice from the RYA insurance has reverted to the insurers used prior to the inception of the council policy. While expensive the relative costs are similar to those being paid prior to the council scheme and service from AJG Gallagher to date has been excellent although I am pleased to say I have not had to test their claims handling!

Overall members will see that the club has returned a modest surplus of £3,144 compared to £4,720 last year.

David Finlayson
Treasurer

5.Election of Officers of the Club and General Committee Members

The following had been duly nominated:

Janet Witheridge – Social Convenor (Nominated by Alan Hardie, seconded by Pam MacIntyre)

David Finlayson – Treasurer (Nominated by Steve Bramwell, seconded by Helen Jenner)

Richard Evans – Sailing Secretary (Nominated by Helen Jenner, seconded by James Dargie)

Helen Jenner – Secretary (Nominated by Peter Smith, seconded by Janet Witheridge)

Richard Jenner – Training Principal (Nominated by Marisa Astill-Brown, seconded by Calum Pearson)

Sandra Hogg – General Member (Nominated by Edith Robertson, seconded by Richard Cherry)

There being no other nominations these were duly elected.

David Gibb noted that there had been no nomination for Commodore – this was confirmed. It would be possible to co-opt in year if a candidate came forward, otherwise the Committee would continue meanwhile without a Commodore.

6. Proposal to apply for Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) status.

A briefing note (at Appendix below) had already been circulated to the membership outlining the reasons for the Club potentially applying for this status.

The Commodore outlined the proposed procedure:

1. The Committee proposes that the legal status of the club be changed to that of a SCIO
2. all members have been sent a briefing note with their AGM calling notice (including those not opted-in for email)
3. a draft constitution will be available to view on the website by 3 January 2019 (and members will be alerted through a newsletter)
4. a period of consultation will open on 3 January 2019 and close on 3 March 2019. During this period members can ask questions or raise concerns with committee members (we suggest via the Secretary using secretary@chanonry.org.uk where possible) and these, together with committee answers, will be made visible in the members' area of the website
5. An EGM will be called in March 2019 to decide the matter.

There was a query from the floor as to whether charitable status was appropriate for the Club. At the request of the Commodore Richard Jenner explained, with reference to the briefing note, why SCIO status is appropriate and reiterated that there will be a consultation process as above and that the decision whether or not to apply for SCIO status will be taken by the membership at an EGM.

7. Other matters:

a) The Committee recommended to the Club the awarding of Honorary Membership to Peter Illingworth in recognition of his extensive work on behalf of the Club and its members in the coordination and maintenance of the Club moorings and craning operations, work which is often physically heavy and administratively complicated and stressful.

The proposal was agreed by acclamation.

b) Guidance on future applications for charitable grants – matter raised by David Gibb.

David Gibb explained that he was unhappy with the fact that the Committee had applied for grant funding from Caring and Sharing, a local charity, for equipment for the Club coastal rowing activities. He felt that it inappropriate for the Club to apply to a relatively small local charity whose charitable purposes do not specifically include the promotion of sport, in particular sailing.

He asked the meeting to instruct the Committee never again to apply for grant funding to Caring and Sharing or any similar charity whose charitable purposes do not specifically refer to sport and sailing.

Several members spoke to the matter, stressing that Caring and Sharing had been aware of the nature of the application and had been content that it was appropriate. In particular the grant had been for equipment for the Club coastal rowing activities, which are open to all members but which in practice currently benefit in particular a group of members who find the ability to get out on the water as a group in a social and active environment highly beneficial. It was stressed by several members that the Club may, in future, wish to seek grant funding for improved disabled access and facilities for general activities as a community facility. It was also noted that grants had previously been awarded for heritage projects relating to Fortrose Harbour and

environs with no reference to sport and that heritage-related grants may be appropriate again.

It was the decided feeling of the meeting that it would be inappropriate to limit grant applications in the way requested – the proposal was rejected.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.