Chanonry Sailing Club
The Harbour, Fortrose, IV10 8TP
Minutes of AGM on Friday 8 December 2023

Welcome and chairing of meeting by Chris Taylor due to Sandra Hogg's absence.

1. **Apologies for absence**:
   Sandra Hogg, David Vincent, Ann Love, James Moir, Laurence Watkins, Genevieve Cassidy, Mandie Cran, Helen Urquhart, Cliff Furlong, Mike Martin, Colin Chalton, Janet Witheridge, Robin Witheridge, Joan Maxwell, Steven Guthrie, Jeremy Astill-Brown, Emilia Astill-Brown, Rodney Timson, Gail Robertson, Cheryl Campsie

   Present:
   Lisa Pattenden, Paul Briggs, David Finlayson, Chris Taylor, Marisa Astill-Brown, Dave Allan, Pam Macintyre, Susy Macaulay, James Dargie, Richard Evans, Mike Wilson, Helen Jenner, Richard Jenner, Gavin Campsie, Charlie Brecknell, Diarmid Hogan, Allison Elder, Lorraine Watt, Liz Duncan, Jon Bailey, Laurence Gunner, Janet Amos, Edith Robertson, John Stephens, Steve Bramwell, Margaret Clyne, Tim McKeggie, Shay Hammock, Trine Brazier, Ali Taylor, Coca Tenorio, Adela Yeats.

2. **Minutes of 2022 AGM** (available on the Club website) – proposed by Richard Jenner, seconded by Tim MacKeggie, approved without amendment.

3. **Commodore's report**. Chris Taylor presented Sandra Hogg's report (at Note 1 and available on the Club website).

4. **Treasurer's report** (available on the Club website). David Finlayson introduced his report and accompanying documents.

5. Election of office bearers of the Club and General members of the Board of Trustees (at Note 2)

   The following members volunteered and were duly elected:
   Commodore – Sandra Hogg
   Treasurer – David Finlayson
   Club Secretary – Marisa Astill-Brown
   General Members – Lisa Pattenden, Chris Taylor, Mike Wilson, David Vincent, James Dargie, Allison Elder and Paul Briggs.

6. Chris thanked everyone for coming and closed the AGM.

Notes

Note 1 – Commodore's report 2023

Chanonry Sailing Club continues to go from strength to strength, with a growing membership and high levels of activity across our water sports activities. We are a friendly, volunteer led club with many members freely giving their time so that all can enjoy their time on the water.

Here's my review of 2022-23. We hope you enjoy it!

Membership

Our membership continues to grow and is probably the largest it has ever been, and 12% more than 2022. The club continues to be attractive to families and, with our multi activity membership model we can offer something for everyone.

	2023	**2022**
Family	129	95
Individual	76	68
Junior	18	22
Student	6	6
Senior family	15	12
Senior individual	33	45
Club	1	1
Honorary	8	6
Life	1	1
Total	**287**	**256**

Whilst we have welcomed many new members in 2023, we were also saddened by the passing of Marjorie Taylor. She was a long-standing member and the wife of George Taylor who was the Harbourmaster for 44 years. She enjoyed her sailing, was a stalwart of RNLI fundraising and was always ready to help at the club.

Development Plan

This year we are continuing to follow a development planning process to help us improve our club. Our goals of increasing membership and widening our activity base are already bearing fruit. Our focus this year has been on volunteering, member engagement and financial planning. And we have an ongoing safety review to ensure we can run our wider range of activities as safely as possible.

The Chanonry Conversation, held in March and facilitated by the RYA Scotland Development Officer North Brian Pahlmann was a relaxed, member's evening, with purpose. It gave members a chance to catch up over some coffee and cake and for us all to share ideas that could help improve our club.

Members had loads of positive things to say about the club including its friendliness, great facilities, and outstanding training. However, there are always things that could be better, and members felt improvements could be made to the slipway, changing rooms and toilets, greening the club, provision of Wi-Fi, more social time after activities, a web cam and weather station and comfier seats in the clubhouse. There was also consensus that an introduction session for new members would be very well received.

We have also had a club survey open which shows a very high level of satisfaction at 90%. It showed training was important to members and there was an interest in volunteering although people were unsure how to start.

I'm pleased to report that we have already made progress on some of the items listed. We now have Wi-Fi available in the clubhouse. This has also enabled us to get a mobile Point of Sale device for cashless paying at events. We also held our first Induction event for new members in May. The session covered things like access to the clubhouse, where to find things, how to borrow and rig club dinghies, club kit, what to wear, how to book and anything to do with membership and volunteering opportunities. It was very well received and will be repeated regularly.

John Paul Stevens led volunteers on the external painting of the ground floor and balcony. It's looking so much better. Huge thanks to all that helped.

Some of the items on the list like slipway repairs and changing room upgrades are not so easy to fix and require financial and other resources from the club. So, the board has embarked on an Initiative Prioritisation Process to identify the most important and deliverable projects and help us plan projects over the coming years.

Currently top of the list is the purchase of a second Quest dinghy to replace an ageing Wanderer. Grant applications are in progress to help fund this and members have been generous with donations.

Repair to the slipway is a critical project as it is important to all water users at the club. We have started scoping the project so we can better understand what's involved and the costs. It will not be cheap, and we will likely require external funding support.

Improvements to the changing rooms are also on the radar and we need to do work to understand what we need to do to make them suitable for the wide range of users we have. Again, this will have significant resource implications for the club.

Other projects being scoped out are a web cam/weather station, internal and external painting and interior improvements, storage improvements, accessibility, and removal of the harbour bar.

The Board want to continually improve the club, our equipment and our facilities. Member views remain very important in deciding how we go forward and we aim to progress projects in line with the prioritisation process and when financial and human resources are available.

Quest Dinghy

A priority for the board was for replacements for our two ageing Wanderer dinghies to support our training programme and as club boats. The training team chose the RS Quest as a spacious, durable, stable and low-maintenance dinghy which will enable us to deliver more advanced RYA sailing courses with more efficient instructor to student ratios, and with dinghies with more advanced technical set-ups. They also provide safe, stable dinghies for family groups and trapeze excitement for more experienced sailors.

With some funding allocated from club funds we applied for several grants and were grateful for funding from the Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation and the Highland Council Ward Discretionary Fund. Members were also very generous with their support and donations. However, we only managed to secure enough funding for one dinghy, which was delivered in July in time for the junior courses.

The Quest has more than met expectations and we are hoping to secure funding to purchase a second Quest by the end of this calendar year.

Events

2023 had the most active winter programme we've had for years with something for everyone. The annual Burns Supper was great fun and raised funds to buy new oars for our St Ayles Skiffs. We had several film nights with various themes including swimming, paddling, and rowing. Members also shared their interests and skills in a series of evening sessions including reading charts, youth sailing, racing rules, local weather and tides and life jacket maintenance. A three-part programme looking at the harbour's heritage was well received by both members and the public alike.

We had a two very successful Fun Days this year in June and September. These events gave members and the public an opportunity to try different water activities including coastal rowing, dinghy sailing, swimming and paddle boarding. A great team in the galley made sure everyone was well catered for. It was also an opportunity to raise money towards the two Quest dinghies and we are grateful to members and the public for their support and donations.

The annual Grenville's Sail/Paddle/Row Swim to Rosemarkie was, as always, a great day out and saw over 40 members sail or row round for a lovely lunch at

the Beach Café. Many thanks to Helen Robinson for her continued support for this event.

Sailing

2023 was a good season for dinghy sailing with a full racing schedule and plenty of opportunities for recreational sailing and learning.

The Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon dinghy racing series were well attended but not yet back at the numbers of some previous years before the pandemic. But nevertheless, there were some great tussles on the water, especially in the emerging Solo fleet. Initiatives like the Improver sessions and race coach led Skills Development sessions will hopefully lead to more members racing next year.

Some of our sailors have also been travelling further afield. Club junior Ali Taylor put in a very creditable performance at the Scottish Laser Radial (ILCA) Championships and Ollie Bull attended the Scottish Musto Skiff traveller circuit and the World Championships in Garda, Italy; and Charlie Brecknell regularly showed good form on the Scottish Solo Dinghy Circuit.

The 2023 Chanonry Dinghy Regatta and Musto Scottish Skiff Traveller in August was a big success with 15 Musto skiffs and nine dinghies in the handicap fleet taking part. This was followed by the Ness Cup which saw nine dinghies and cruisers competing together.

Cruiser events included the Black Isle Challenge Cup and Cruiser Regatta. Congratulations to Chanonry skipper Gregor Fisher who won the overall MYA series in his boat Carefree. Several members also attended West Highland week and took part in the Round the Isle (of Wight) race.

You can check out all the series and regatta winners at https://www.chanonry.org.uk/2023.html. Well done to all that took part.

Recreational sailing on Wednesday and Sundays (alongside the racing) and Friday evenings have been hugely popular. It's a great opportunity for members to get together on the water, have fun and improve their skills. Many thanks to the volunteer safety boat crews and race officers who allowed these events to take place and to the sailing sub-committee for organising things so well.

Stand Up Paddle Boarding

This year our club coaches Graham Bull and Claire Scott offered Beginner, Recreational and Intermediate SUP courses.

The beginner courses were aimed at those not yet confident on SUP, covering all the basics needed to get you up, standing and paddling. The block of four sessions led by Claire were fully subscribed but the weather did not always play ball.

Graham led some recreational Club SUP sessions on Friday nights as well as intermediate sessions focussing on coaching support for more experienced paddlers.

We also provided beginner SUP training at the September Fun Day which was popular.

Due to pressure of other commitments Claire stood down as SUP lead in August.

Swimming

There has been a considerable increase in swimming activity over the summer months from sailing club members, other local swimmers, and visitors. They all enjoy the good swimming conditions the shelter of the harbour offers.

Members benefit from the access to changing areas, showers and the clubroom to make a hot drink and have a blether. This is even more attractive over the winter months.

Rowing

Coastal rowing continues to be a very popular activity at the club with several rowing sessions taking place every week, summer, and winter.

This year saw a lot of work taking place to refurbish and improve both St Ayles Skiffs. Chanonry Maid was repainted, and new footplates fitted. The rowers organised the Burns Night festivities and the proceeds paid for a new set of commercially made oars from Northern Ireland. These are longer, well balanced and should be more competitive than the shorter oars. We also changed the rowlock system on both boats which have proved much more robust. Many thanks to Anatole Beams, Steve Bramwell, Richard Cherry and others who have put many hours into improving the skiffs.

As well as many local rowing sessions from the club, in all weathers, we also had a lovely mid-summer row to Rosemarkie, rowed on Loch Glass with Strathpeffer District Community Rowing Club as part of the Lochdown 2023 Challenge, took part in Avoch Regatta (with the newly formed North Kessock Coastal Rowing Club) and Strathpeffer Regatta.

Rowing sessions depend on having suitable competent coxes to be responsible for the safety of the boat. This year we trained six new coxes. Many thanks to Richard and Helen Jenner for supporting this training.

2024 sees the 10-year anniversary of the building of our first St Ayles Skiff, Chanonry Maid. Expect some festivities!

RYA Recognised Training Centre

Chanonry Sailing club is an RYA Recognised Training Centre (RTC). It delivers an amazing level of training for a small, volunteer led club. This year has been the

busiest on record, with the biggest instructional team for 20 years. We issued an incredible 58 RYA certificates (36 dinghy and 22 powerboat).

The club joined OnBoard, an RYA initiative aimed at 8–18-year-olds. It provides a framework and useful resources, and we received 2 days of free instructor mentoring.

A new Quest dinghy (Mara) has been purchased to replace one of the ageing Wanderers. This has been a great addition to the training fleet, and we hope to purchase a further Quest soon. We were also grateful for the donation of a Topaz dinghy.

Looking ahead, we have developed a one-day club safety officer course which contains the essential practical skills for dinghy rescue found in the RYA safety boat course but also includes modules on the responsibilities and management requirements of being a club Safety Officer.

Richard Jenner has announced he will stand down as the RTC Principal and Chief Instructor Dinghy in September 2024 at the conclusion of the dinghy training season. The club is indebted to Richard for all his years in this role. A continuity plan has been developed and we are sure that the RTC has a bright future.

Huge thanks to all our volunteer instructors for their time and enthusiasm delivering the following programme and bringing on the next generation of sailors. Their contribution to the club is immense because, as well as delivering courses and sessions, the instructors spend time on their own training, course preparation, administration and boat rigging and maintenance.

In 2023 we provided:

- 11 scheduled Dolphins sessions to 31 juniors
- 10 Improver sessions to 20 sailors
- 5 race coach led Skills Development sessions to 5 sailors
- 6 days of formal adult dinghy training
- 15 days of formal junior dinghy sailing
- 3 Powerboat Level 2 courses (6 days)
- 1 Safety Boat course

Delivered by the Volunteer Instructor Team of:

- 5 Senior Instructors, including RTC Principal and Chief Instructor Dinghy
- 4 Dinghy Instructors
- 1 Assistant Dinghy Instructor
- 7 Powerboat Instructors, including Chief Instructor Powerboat
- 2 Race Coach Level 2

Volunteering

Chanonry Sailing Club relies entirely on volunteers for leadership, management, and delivery of activities, and we have fantastic people willing to give time to do this. Thanks to you all.

With a growing membership, and to make the club work, we need to make volunteering a membership commitment and make better use of the skills of our members. The return of allocations for safety boat and race officer duties has worked well this year. We are considering how we can widen this to other volunteer opportunities such as catering and event management.

Defibrillator Campaign

Last year we successfully fundraised for a Public Access Defibrillator for Fortrose Harbour. The charity Lucky2BHere provided the defibrillator in February and in April delivered Emergency Life Support Training to 14 members and local people.

Looking forward

This is an exciting and challenging time for the club with new projects and activities on the horizon. For this we need to all come together to make sure that the club continues to provide the best water sports experiences possible.

I would like to thank all my fellow Board members for their time given to the management of the club. We can't function without them. During the year Claire Scott and Graham Bull left the board and I thank them for their contributions. We were also very pleased to welcome new member Paul Briggs on the board as Social Convenor.

Sandra Hogg

Commodore

commodore@chanonry.org.uk

Note 2

Office-bearers of Chanonry Sailing Club (SCIO), namely the Commodore, Treasurer and Club Secretary, will be directly elected by the membership at the AGM. Up to eight general board members can be elected.

Marisa Astill-Brown
Club Secretary
secretary@chanonry.org.uk