Chanonry Sailing Club
The Harbour, Fortrose, IV10 8TP
Minutes of AGM on Friday 6 December 2024

1. **Apologies for absence**:
   Viv Hill, Laurence Watkins, David Vincent, Jeremy Astill-Brown, Emilia Astill-Brown, Genevieve Cassidy, Tamasina Cassidy, Joan Maxwell, Jon Bailey, Liz Duncan, James Dargie, Lorraine Watt, Steven Guthrie, Karen Rhodes, Donny Mcleod,Steve Bramwell, Paul Briggs

   Present:
   Sandra Hogg, David Finlayson, Marisa Astill-Brown, Mike Wilson, Chris Taylor, Allison Elder, Neil Brotherstone, Therasia Brotherstone, Joshua Brotherstone, Brian Pahlmann, George Hogg, Richard Evans, Helen Jenner, Richard Jenner, Margaret Clyne, Grant Andrews, Janet Amos, Cheryl Campsie, Edith Robertson, Gavin Campsie, Alister Clunas, Diarmid Hogan, Pam Hogan, Adrian Bruce, Ivan Brazier, Sandie Evans, Sue Evans, Richard Cherry, Helen Cherry, Charlie Brecknell, Jo Brecknell, Anna Bell-Higgs, Laurence Gunner, Marcus Wheel, Victoria Richards, Jonathan Richards, Tom Richards, Katie Richards, Mandie Cran, Tim Lloyd, Jon Scales, Kirsten Morris, James MacArthur, Rachel Coonan, Molly Coonan-Wright, Torin Coonan-MacArthur, Ben Yeats, Adela Yeats, Tim McKeggie, Colin Blyth

2. **Minutes of 2023 AGM** (available on the Club website) – proposed by Richard Jenner, seconded by Richard Evans, approved without amendment.

3. **Commodore's report**. Sandra Hogg presented her report (at Note 1 and available on the Club website), and thanked the outgoing Board, along with all members that had volunteered in various capacities during the year.

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 –Mike Wilson, David Vincent, Allison Elder, Paul Briggs, Stuart Davies, Anna Bell-Higgs, Tim Lloyd and Roddy Henry.

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

Marisa Astill-Brownesew34ew2w
Club Secretary
secretary@chanonry.org.uk

Notes

Note 1 – Commodore's report 2024

Commodore's Report 2024

It's been a good year for Chanonry Sailing Club with lots of water sports activity to enjoy, when the weather played ball! We continue to provide great activities for water sports in a fabulous location and attract members from across the Highlands.

We hope you enjoy the review of 2023-24.

Membership

Our membership numbers are slightly down on last year but after three years of strong growth we are still in a great position. Interestingly we have gained senior individual members, showing that water sports are attractive at all ages.

	2024	**2023**
Family	110	129
Individual	73	76
Junior	15	18
Student	3	6
Senior family	16	15
Senior individual	53	33
Club	1	1
Honorary	8	8
Life	1	1
Total	**279**	**287**

Whilst we have welcomed many new members in 2024, we were also saddened by the passing of former members Gib Weir, Derek Young and Robert McIndoe, and members Nigel Friedrichs Braun and Stephen Crockett.

Development Plan

The club has adopted a development planning process to help us continually improve our club. This year we have started to progress some of the bigger projects identified by our Project Prioritisation Process.

This year we have:

- installed an online weather station at the starters box so that members can check conditions before setting out for the club. With a membership from a wide geographical area this has proved very popular
- installed a stairlift to the upper floor meaning that all members and visitors can access all parts of the building
- purchased our second RS Quest dinghy to improve our delivery of training

We are working on some more major projects that will take more time and resources to deliver and includes some challenges for the club. These include:

- Repair of the slipway - A project team is working towards a specification and identifying funding opportunities
- Lounge/galley refurbishment - A project team has identified improvements that could make the space more useful and comfortable. We hope that much of this can be done by members over the next year.
- Changing Rooms - these are in much need of improvement. We have some outline plans to re-configure these to improve privacy, accessibility and comfort. However, human and financial resources need to be identified to take this further
- Harbour bar – removal of the growing shingle bar at the harbour entrance is complex and involves licensing to undertake any operations. We will need more human resources and funding to take this forward

In September we held our second Chanonry Conversation. It was an opportunity for members to meet the board, hear about our plans and provide member feedback to help shape the club.

The Board presented our priorities and updated members on various projects, followed by a lively discussion where members gave their views about the progress and reflections on activities this season. There were some great ideas for the board to consider, including encouraging volunteering and the possibility of re-branding to reflect our wider water sports offering.

We have a great clubhouse that is the perfect venue for social events and to allow members to come together. Although Paul Briggs stepped down as Social

Convener this year, we have managed to deliver catering at all our events. This has been a bit ad-hoc so in November we held a meeting to discuss improving the management of catering at our events. We now have a catering sub-committee and lead and hope to get on a more organised footing next year.

Events

This year our winter programme was very successful. It included two historical talks by Richard Jenner about the minelaying at sea in WW1 conducted from the Inverness & Cromarty Firths and the D-Day work-up based locally in the winter of '43/44.

We also had a fascinating talk from Dr Francis Williams about the historical distribution of oysters and seagrass locally and the project to restore them in the area.

Social events included our regular Burns Supper and quiz nights. Thanks to all those that helped deliver such great nights out.

We had a successful Midsummer Fun Day this year which, despite being curtailed early due to windy conditions, gave members and the public an opportunity to try different water activities including coastal rowing, dinghy sailing and swimming. A great team in the galley made sure everyone was well catered for.

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 the point for a lovely lunch at the Beach Café. Many thanks to Helen Robinson for her continued support for this event.

Sailing

This year was a successful year for dinghy sailing at the club. The club continues to run racing series on Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evenings through the season. There was a slow but steady increase in new faces joining the regular racers on Sundays. This indicates that the efforts put into race coaching sessions led by Charlie Brecknell and Ollie Bull are bearing fruit. All four Sunday series were completed with only a few days lost to weather. Unfortunately, Wednesday evenings have seen the weather play more of a role with either too much or too little wind possibly putting of a few from going afloat. Only seven races were completed out of a possible 20 evenings. Well done to all the series winners. All 2024 results are on the website.

2024 saw the club play host to two of Scotland's premier singlehanded dinghies, the Musto Skiffs and the Solo class, both as part of their traveller series, with the Solo Class visiting the club for the first time in early May. Both events went well with good conditions and close racing. Chanonry SC really has a good reputation for being a very friendly welcoming club and work is going on to encourage other classes to hold events here on our fantastic waters.

Chanonry dinghy sailors were also represented on the World and National stage. Three members competed at the Musto Skiffs Worlds held in Weymouth. Ollie

Bull finished a creditable 32nd also gaining Third in the youth class. Charlie Brecknell finished 20th in a fleet of 98 boats at the Solo Nationals at Brightlingsea along with several top three places at the Scottish traveller series events.

This year we added a Novice/Improver class to our Dinghy Regatta to the normal fast and slow handicap. There was low wind on both days, but congratulations to those who persevered.

The usual programme of Friday Evenings recreational sailing was generally well attended, with opportunities for new sailors to gain experience with our dinghy instructors.

Next year, we plan to run the usual Wednesday and Sunday dinghy racing series along with a Saturday one-day only Dinghy Regatta giving those from local clubs the incentive to travel to compete without the need for finding overnight accommodation.

The club continues to provide and maintain trots moorings for cruisers and keelboats. While numbers taking up moorings are down there are enough boats to remain viable.

Clubs based in the Inner and Outer Moray Firths are co-operating through an informal grouping called the Moray Yacht Axis to promote yacht racing. This year we hosted one event, the Black Isle Challenge Cup. In the overall MYA season series Ian Cameron in Ruach achieved a third in Class 2.

Thanks are due to all those who have volunteered to help on the water with the various duties and events and especially Safety Boat cover to allow the year's sailing programme to go ahead. A huge thanks must also go to those who have provided Baking for our open events and helped onshore, meaning much needed sustenance was ready when sailors came of the water.

Stand Up Paddle Boarding

For a few reasons, we were unable to provide any paddle boarding opportunities this year but are looking to see what might be possible next year.

Swimming

Swimming continues to be a popular activity at the harbour with a band of members meeting for a regular dip when the tide is high, and social afterwards. Swimming members have expressed an interest in becoming more involved with the club in a volunteering capacity.

Debbie Cole, RNLI North Kessock Water Safety Officer, delivered a sea safety session at the club, aimed at open water swimming. It included information on cold water shock, how to keep safe and how to look for dangers when visiting new places. The RNLI were grateful for the donations collected on the night.

Rowing

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

It was Silver Darling's turn to get some TLC this year. Many thanks to Avoch Sea Scouts for use of their shed and to the crack maintenance team.

As well as many local rowing sessions from the club, in all weathers, we also had a lovely mid-summer row to Rosemarkie.

We had a brilliant day rowing with 14 other clubs around the Black Isle from North Kessock to Storehouse of Foulis to support the Scotland the Wave Atlantic rowing team. Chanonry did the event proud providing rib support (thank you Richard, Helen, Mike and Chris) and fantastic baking in the galley at the crew changeover, which raised £180 for the cause.

Our cox training has been developed and delivered by Richard Jenner since we started rowing at the club. This year Mandie Cran has taken over this role and led cox training for four Chanonry rowers plus two each from Avoch and Alness/Invergordon. Richard and Helen Jenner supported in the rib.

2024 sees the 10-year anniversary of the building of our first St Ayles Skiff, Chanonry Maid. Due to diligent maintenance, she is still as smart as ever. We joined Avoch to celebrate with the 10th birthday of their boat Zulu.

RYA Recognised Training Centre

The formal RYA course training programme followed the pattern established over several years. Informal training also followed the previous Dolphins and Improvers pattern but included more race coaching this year. We ran 2 women only Discover Sailing sessions supported by an instructor paid for by RYA Scotland; the same instructor delivered an instructor continuous professional development (CPD) day. A powerboating first was the delivery of the in-house Safety Officer course (twice). The weather (mainly strong winds) disrupted the programme significantly. Good use was made of the 2 Quest dinghies.

We issued 25 RYA certificates this year; 13 junior dinghy stages, 8 adult dinghy levels and 4 Power Boat Level 2s (PBL2).

While the training centre element of the Club received a 'clean' RYA inspection the club training team have been considering the benefits and burdens of RYA Recognition. Recognition comes with a lot of work for a small volunteer team, however it also comes with a lot of crucial support from the RYA, so on balance we consider the benefits are worth it.

The RTC Principal Richard Jenner has been key driver for training at the club. He and Helen Jenner as Chief Instructor Power will retire from their roles at the 2024 AGM. At the conclusion of our AGM, Marisa Astill-Brown will take on the role of RTC Principal, Chris Taylor will take on Chief Instructor Sail and Mike Wilson will take on Chief Instructor Power giving us a strong team to take training forward in the future.

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.

Because activities and management are volunteer led and delivered, we can keep membership fees low. The flip side to this is an expectation that members will volunteer in some way. We will continue to promote a wide range of volunteer opportunities so everyone can do their bit for the club.

Looking forward

With some major projects on the horizon, we need to utilise all the skills and energy of our members to make things happen, while never losing sight of our purpose to provide great quality water sports and fostering the joy of being afloat.

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 Lisa Pattenden left the board. She took on the challenge of sailing secretary with much gusto. Chris Taylor and James Dargie will be leaving the board at the AGM. James has been a stalwart of the board for several years, including as Commodore. He has a great eye for detail and can be a dog with a bone! Thankfully he will remain as Harbour Master. The board valued Chris for his quiet, measured council. We retain his skills in his new role as Chief Dinghy Instructor.

I would also like to give a special mention to Richard (RTC Principal) and Helen Jenner (Chief Powerboat Instructor) who are stepping down from their respective roles this year. They have been part of the bedrock of Chanonry Sailing Club, since they first joined the club 21 years ago. They have served on the Committee / Board in various voluntary capacities over the years, but also notably in their (also voluntary) roles in the management and delivery of sailing and powerboat training to both adult and junior club. Richard's role in exploring and sharing the history and heritage of the club and Fortrose Harbour has also been much enjoyed by members of the club and the local community over the years. I'd like to thank them on behalf of all the club members for their service.

Luckily, they'll still be involved in sailing and delivering training at the club, and Helen as membership secretary. I'm sure they will be available for informal chats in the dinghy park!

Sandra Hogg

Commodore

commodore@chanonry.org.uk