

Chanonry Sailing Club
Main Committee meeting Minutes
26/01/2015

Present: P Illingworth (PI), D Hogan (DH), M Wilson (MW), M Macleod (MM), H Cameron (HC), R Jenner (RJ), H Jenner (HJ), S Bramwell (SB), D Finlayson (DF)

Apologies: D Mcleod, A Hardy, T Lloyd, J Witheridge

Minutes of Meeting of Monday 8th December 2014 were approved subject to minor correction:

Item 6 final para "setting subs in 2015" amended to "setting subs for 2016".

Item 5 Matters Arising

Moorings PI

a Mooring maintenance is currently delayed due to poor underwater visibility and availability of our diver- work will be done when conditions allow.

Pioneer dinghy currently in Sea Scout hall for maintenance and not available for lifting/ inspecting/ removing strops. A number of other possible solutions were discussed- for further exploration by PI- but it was agreed that this would be a topic in the Newsletter so that cruiser owners are aware of ongoing difficulties. Noted that we also need to get cruiser owners involved pre-season to help with inspecting/ changing strops. Action PI/ Committee

b RIBs:

Maintenance.

MW had spoken with Ken Ferguson prior to the meeting. Ness was recently back after hull repairs

Caley were still waiting for parts for the gearbox repair on Ness and this will be carried out along with engine maintenance as soon as possible.

Beaully needs work on its steering and the key switch mechanism changed to an isolator switch- also waiting for parts but both are uncomplicated jobs. RJ further pointed out that the RIBs are required for an event on the 7th and 8th March so it's essential to get work completed before then.

The Committee expressed our appreciation for the work that David Cameron has already done on the RIB trailer.

c Website:

Website update is ongoing. HC confirmed that any further changes/ updates should be sent to webmaster@chanonry.org.uk when ready and they will be uploaded online in due course.

Frost Protection

Although not officially on the Agenda, it was noted that all necessary precautions for switching off stopcocks have been adhered to and there have been no incidents of damage due to frost so far.

d Grenvilles Sail Saturday 25/07/2015

SB agreed to contact Helen Robinson to clarify the catering arrangements for the event which we understand are to be organised through the Beach Café at Rosemarkie. SB subsequently spoke to Helen Robinson who confirmed the above and will arrange catering through the beach café.

Item 6 Membership (HJ)

a New Membership David Guthrie has applied to become a Full Ordinary Member

b Membership Renewal

The following members had resigned from membership of CSC: Bill Burgen, Richard Taylor, Anna Badger, Janice Illingworth.

The committee noted the recent death of one of our long term senior members, JK McLeod at the age of 85.

There have been 120 renewals to date of whom 37 have updated details in Dutyman- mostly on line. The committee agreed that HJ should update membership and CSC cards as payments come in to spread the workload. This should not affect the Club discount at Gaelforce and Caley Marine.

HJ stated that the Gaelforce Club discount would remain but members would be informed that they will have to take their card with them and undergo a registration process with their first purchase- for marketing purposes- after which the cards can be used as before. Membership to be informed.

HJ stated that there is the issue of the lack of a signature on membership forms renewed on line and that this could have implications for any legal issues that might arise. She suggested that the keeping of the original membership application document which is signed would be sufficient to act as a proxy signature for all future electronic renewals/ alteration to members details. The committee agreed that this would be a sensible precaution.

MW highlighted the need to ensure that as members move through from junior to adult membership or progress within a family membership, that their status is updated on Dutyman. This is to ensure that they are then flagged up as eligible to perform appropriate duties.

c Senior Membership

HJ stated that the definition of the age at which members could legitimately apply for Senior Membership rates was not currently clear and all agreed that it should be standardised. This had been queried by two Members who are approaching seniority status.

The current situation is unsatisfactory where some members have renewed on this basis but do not actually qualify whereas others who are of senior age continue to pay full membership – presumably as a charitable gesture. DF pointed out that the age for concessions varies within other organisations- usually related to the State Pension age (60-65)- but of course the rules for State Pension are changing. It was accepted that reaching State Pension age usually results in reduced income and change to senior status should be linked to that.

The committee agreed that for 2015 and until further reviewed, "To be eligible for Senior Membership of CSC on 1 January of the year of membership renewal, members must be age 65 or over or of State Pension age if they achieve this under the age of 65".

One couple had asked for clarification of what happens when one of them reached senior age- would they both qualify for senior membership? The decision was taken that "Couples in a Family Membership are eligible for a Senior Family Membership once the older of them is eligible", in line with the age criteria above.

This to be mentioned in a Newsletter (Action MW and HJ)

Item 7 Sailing Subcommittee (SSC) Business Update HC

The first meeting of the Sailing Subcommittee had recently taken place and a list of the members is as follows:

Diarmid Hogan (cruisers), Ian Cameron (GP14), Kevin Holliday (Musto Skiff), Magnus Henry (Laser Radial), Michael Gough (RS100), Mike Wilson (Buzz), Richard Evans (Solo), Ross Slater (Laser Radial), Tim Lloyd (Laser), and Hanako Cameron (Chair).

This represents a good mix of all dinghy sailing interests. The SSC aims to get more people sailing and to have more fun on the water, and the sailing programme will reflect that.

HC was concerned that the number of duties performed by members did not always reflect their frequency of sailing which could be a source of dissatisfaction to some. RJ pointed out that there had been very few people complaining about this, however the committee agreed it would be good to recruit more members to duties.

HJ stated that there were a number of associate members who just enjoy powerboating, helping out and the opportunity that safety boat duties gave them to do that. There was an opportunity to recruit more family members and RJ stated that they could be given powerboat training as an incentive. More people able to do Race Officer Duty were also needed and training would be provided for that.

New courses for Sailing Skiff racing to be set on race days to encourage skiffs to participate in Club racing activity.

HC also planned to use Sunday am sessions for a mix of fun, training and competitive activity. RJ confirmed that Powerboat training will take place on Sunday mornings when no sailing activity is scheduled.

The committee welcomed all the new SSC proposals and look forward to an excellent year of sailing. It was felt important to emphasise that all scheduled CSC dinghy sailing events must have appropriate safety boat cover organised and in place on the day.

Specific events discussed.

A Club Championships- to be held earlier. Date agreed 21st June

B Laser Scottish Championships to be hosted by CSC 18th and 19th July 2015

The Club are excited to be hosting this prestigious event particularly as we have several Laser sailors based in CSC.

This will take considerable organisation with 40 or more boats expected. The following points were flagged for organisation: Safety Boats (minimum 4 needed, to consider possible sources outwith CSC eg RNLI, Coastguard,

Sea Scouts), Accommodation (parking, caravan parks, lodgings, campsites etc), All aspects of race organisation (committee boat/s, RO, personnel- seek Richard Evans advice). Action SSC.

Early liaison with Janet Witheridge advised re substantial catering commitment. HC expects parents of juniors in club and attending event to offer help- MW agreed to approach parents with this in mind.

8 Race Marks (MW)

All the race marks (some of which had come ashore during the gales) had been retrieved to the harbour storage. Some of these need replaced and 4 anchors have been lost. Michael Gough was obtaining estimates for replacement and looking at better methods of securing marks.

It was agreed to purchase sufficient additional marks and ground tackle for competitions. RJ pointed out that there are 2 inflatable marks with long ground tackle in the loft and these could be used eg for longer skiff courses but are more difficult to deploy. He would be able to use any additional larger portable marks purchased for training, but storage for marks could become tight. HC made the point that green marks are poorly visible for racing and that large size inflatable marks are awkward to handle but could be used if necessary.

It may be useful to purchase additional inflatable marks which are smaller than the two we already have.

DF requested full costings prior to purchase.

9 Cruiser Update DH

MYA and CSC Cruiser events are now published on the website.

Winter workshops being run by Cromarty are going well and we are grateful for the financial contribution towards electricity costs.

The Spirit of Affric talk on 27/3/15 should be mentioned in the Newsletter. No catering required, but a bar facility may be sought- DH to contact JW

10 Rowing Skiff MM

MM reported that CM was being used well despite the weather conditions with crews regularly out for racing practice and recreational rowing and training. There is a strong social element to this activity with new people trying out rowing, and 20 members have so far signed up the the skiff group email.

Racing will take a while to develop but CSC hope to field teams for forthcoming weekends hosted by Avoch

There are still plans for CSC to hold a spring regatta towards end March/ early April either from the Club or Rosemarkie beach which has suitable access and facilities. Organisation of rowing events is shared between clubs.

11 Child Protection MM and RJ

MM had attended the first CSC PVG training session on 25/1/15 which went well. A further session is planned for those who need it but could not attend the first session.

RJ is redrafting the Club Child Protection Policy as part of the Club Safety Policy and he and Mairi will bring it to the committee subsequently. The RYA require that all instructors/ coaches must complete PVG by 1st October 2015. MM will arrange to do the Child Protection Welfare officer course/ certificate.

12 RNLI Day 4/7/2015

MW has taken the lead for this year and opened a general discussion on how to make this event as popular and productive of funds for the RNLI as possible. In 2014 the event had clashed with another RNLI event and the Invergordon lifeboat was unable to attend CSC. The attendance was very disappointing despite the considerable efforts made by Club members to make the day a success. The following points were raised in discussion:

Improvement in advertising the event.

- a. Involve the RNLI Committee with more aggressive advertising
- b. More visible sign placing leading up to the event- eg rigged sailing dinghy at top of the road
- c. to club on the day
- d. Posters to multiple sites in surrounding community eg GPO, caravan sites, shops
- e. Use of Chatterbox to advertise event

Securing Lifeboats

- a. Invergordon have confirmed they will be there
- b. SB to ask Kessock to attend

Activities to attract crowds

- a. Contact to be made with the new SAR station to suggest joint demonstration with RNLI of helicopter rescue technique- MW (David Pocock?)
- b. Simon Paterson for RIB rides
- c. Rowing Skiffs- have a go event for public jointly with Avoch and others
- d. Possible demo race
- e. Sea Scouts- rowing, powerboats
- f. Nessie- dinghies on display etc
- g. Heritage exhibit (?)
- h. Lifeboat committee catering/ shop etc.

Action MW and Committee members and club volunteers

AOB**1 Newsletter MW**

MW outlined his plans for a 2 monthly Newsletter using contributions from all the sections. Methods of production / dissemination discussed- possibly via Dutyman as an attachment and mail for those without computers. Action MW/ HJ

2 HJ sought permission to notify the membership separately about the **Adam Bowers Coaching weekend**- in advance of the Newsletter- agreed. Action HJ

3 Harbour Master Business PI

PI outlined current issues within his remit as Harbour Master:

- a. Review of the Lease of the harbour from the Council underway
- b. SEPA oil/ fuel spillage containment (risk from fuel store)- recommended purchase of deployable barrage across harbour mouth. Will pursue with Donnie Macleod and get quote.
- c. Lifebuoys- Replacement of the 2 existing lifebuoys required- approx. cost £192 per buoy/ housing. Agreed in principle- quote to DF and review at next committee meeting.
- d. The lease of the moorings expires after 2016 season after which new fees may be set. The committee agreed with PI's proposal that all new lessees should pay £150 for a mooring with the maintenance fee remaining at £90 pa.
- e. The use of the concrete pad for drying out/ antifouling/ prop maintenance should be kept at £15 per day. This was not an activity associated with pollution but should only be seen as a short term arrangement by any cruiser.
- f. Use of the slip for occasional day launching for non-members- fee to be kept to £5 per day for launch and recovery. Accepted that we rely on honesty to collect the fees.

3 Harbour Heritage RJ

Richard brought a copy of the excellent augmented version of his Harbour Heritage history for the committee to view. This has been updated and is displayed on the website. It was noted that rowing skiffs appear in the old photos!

RJ stated that Joan Maxwell is currently working on the old Club documents and these can be obtained from her if needed but will eventually be returned to the clubhouse. He had appreciated the benefits in his historical research of having paper copies of the minutes of meetings and asked that paper copies be retained in a folder in the clubhouse for the future. Agreed.

4 Training purchases RJ

Five new covers and 4 new soft sails are required for Topaz Dinghies this season at a cost of around £1000. Although 4 of the Topaz belong to the Sea scouts, we have joint use as laid down in our sponsorship agreement. We have previously purchased trolleys and other equipment for them which is mutually advantageous. The income from training easily covers the purchase of such equipment. RJ had presented full costings to the Treasure and committee agreed to purchase these items.

5 Treasurer Business. DF

DF stated that he was getting to grips with the role of Treasurer and would appreciate a fixed slot on the agenda to regularly update the committee on finance. (This to be restored- action SB)

He raised the following points for future discussion.

- a. Charging for hire of club dinghies may not be necessary nor in the best interests of the club. Particularly if we are to be socially inclusive. As the income from this is very small we should consider abolishing charges completely- would people consider this for later discussion?
- b. In a time of recession, should CSC consider a lower rate for full membership for unwaged people wishing to sail/ row?
- c. DF noted the forthcoming expenses from the different sections of the club and requested that he should be approached with detailed costings at the earliest opportunity to enable good decision making.

DONM Tuesday 24th February 7.30pm CSC