

## Chanonry Sailing Club

### Minutes of 2017 Annual General Meeting

1 Members present and apologies for absence.

In the absence of a record of these it should be noted that the meeting was quorate with approximately 35 voting members in attendance.

2 Minutes of 2016 AGM were noted and approved.

3 Commodore's Report

#### **Commodore's report**

This is an opportunity to review the past year and look at the successes and the not so successful events over the past year.

Generally the club is in a good financial position' despite the challenges of coping with the concerning issues associated with our cruiser moorings. More of that with the Treasurer's report which is the next item.

We have carried out some improvement works to our building including some painting of the race office and the passageway through to the changing rooms and hopefully next year we will repaint the stairwell up to the lounge. We have a new bench out on the harbour to celebrate the bicentenary of the harbour and this was launched after a very interesting and informative talk given by our own Richard Jenner on the history of the harbour. We also had a busy day with Luke Patience who spoke about his journey into sailing and demonstrated some of his skills and techniques for better sailing to those that attended.

#### **Sailing**

Our dinghy sailing series and events winners were well spread among the competitors and the results can be seen on the club website.

We had successful open and annual events this year, the Ness Cup, our dinghy regatta which incorporated the Musto Skiff Scottish Championship and our cruiser regatta.

Not so successful were the 8 class racing events that we hoped would encourage competition within the various classes so this will be looked at again for 2018.

Approximately 80% of over 100 race events were actually completed, weather being the main factor for those that didn't happen. It takes quite an effort to organize these events and a huge thank you to all involved in supporting them. These events don't just happen they do require quite an input.

Our Musto Skiff fleet has also represented the club in competitions across the UK and further afield at Lake Garda in Italy with some good results.

For you fanatics out there please remember the last race of the season, the Cold Turkey on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December starting at Noon. Soup and rolls on coming ashore.

We are now looking at a programme for 2018 so if you have any suggestions please notify the club through our website or by contacting any committee member.

The Friday evening social sailing was a bit of a hit and a miss; again weather was a factor but we are also aware that we need to improve communication so to this end Helen Young has very kindly offered to take the lead in promoting better communication.

### **Training**

A number of RYA training sessions have been undertaken this year, ranging from Powerboat level 2 to Essential Navigation and Seamanship, with nearly 40 participants. A big thank you to all of you who helped with the various courses. The number of juniors taking part was slightly lower than in previous years, however ongoing participation, particularly with adult students, has noticeably improved.

### **Dolphins**

There were 9 sessions scheduled from May to August with some sessions lost due to weather, although these lost sessions were used to consolidate theory. There were up to 7 juniors on each session and 3 progressed to Sunday morning race coaching.

### **New Tera**

One of the older Teras expired and so we sourced a replacement at reduced cost thanks to the Eric Twiname Trust and Willie and Lizzie Campbell who helped with the delivery.

### **RYA Inspection**

Our RYA inspection took place in August and we were successful and so retain our Recognized Training Centre status.

Our continued ability to function relies on a small group of ageing volunteers. We do need a Chief Instructor - ideally from a senior dinghy instructor, or from a new, already-qualified senior instructor, or a member who is willing to undergo the appropriate training. The first step in training would be as an Assistant Dinghy Instructor; this is a course we can deliver in house and we plan to hold one in early March. Should you be interested or can suggest someone who may be interested then please let us know through our website or contacting a committee member.

### **Race coaching**

In addition to the Dolphin sessions the champs/race team programme led by Richard Evans delivered 13 morning sessions with a mix of 8 adults and 9 juniors. 6 participants were awarded an RYA Start Racing certificate.

As our sailors progress they become more involved in club and national racing and coaching. Special mention to Kyle Cameron who last year was in the RYA Scottish Optimist squad and

this year advanced to the UK development squad for Optimists and he has also competed in national Optimist events.

Again a big thank you to all of the support from the clubs race coaches Jack, Magnus and Thomas.

### **Cruiser report**

Some, but not many, Chanonry boats competed in the Moray Yacht Axis Regatta series with some successes and we hosted our own cruiser regatta and Black Isle Challenge Cup. Once again a big thank you to all race officials and water taxi crews and a particular thanks to Janet Witheridge and her team of helpers for the hospitality and catering which is always appreciated by all and in particular by visitors to the club.

A programme of Cruises in Company was offered, but almost no interest at all was expressed by members. It would be good to get some feedback from cruiser owners as to what they would want from the club for 2018. Please send any suggestions to the club website or tell a committee member.

The crane in day for 2018 is programmed to be 16<sup>th</sup> April, weather permitting.

### **Moorings and harbour**

The number of mooring holders is still very worrying. The fewer numbers that we have, obviously increases the cost to those who do. I am pleased to say that we did not have any mooring failures this year and I am confident that we have now overcome that particular issue. We have built up a good relationship with the current diving team and hope to continue working with them for the future.

Once again the heavy lifting required when working on our moorings is carried out by the same people and further assistance would be greatly welcomed. It is difficult to plan this work in advance due to availability of a dive team and weather so often it is a last minute call. We will try and work out a better system, after all weather reports are getting better, for this coming year.

The harbour bar was not taken out this year and it is still being monitored; we will have to make a decision on whether we leave it again or remove it prior to the 2018 season. The end of the bar is buoyed.

Some of the mooring points were renewed this year and new chains attached.

### **Rowing skiffs**

We now have two rowing skiffs and certainly over the summer great use was made of them. Quite often both skiffs were out and more than 10 people actively involved in a social row. We have not reached any great level in our competitive rowing, mainly due to our age profile so hopefully some of the more youthful members will be encouraged to come along to give it a try. You cruisers should give it a try over the winter months, it's a great way to keep fit and enjoy the craic!

Over the summer we had a skiff at the Cromarty fun day, a series of races and also to the Findhorn regatta where we performed admirably if not terribly successfully.

All in all it has been a successful year despite the weather and I am sure that we are all raring to go in 2018.

Thank you

Donnie McLeod

Commodore

A query was raised from the floor regarding the status of Fortrose Coastal R

owing which was answered by the Commodore that they were an integral part of the sailing club and known as Fortrose Community Rowing to try and encourage more members from the local community.

#### 4 Treasurer's Report 2016/17

This year's accounts show a modest surplus due to lower expenditure on moorings and rescue boats.

Although there has been a slight reduction in membership dues this has been offset by the welcome refund of rescue boat fuel duty for three years coming to just over £1000.

In addition, the club has been generously supported by grants and donations most particularly from Caring and Sharing in respect of support for the second rowing skiff and from Ross and Cromarty Sports Council particularly with regard to supporting training. Once again I would like to record my thanks to Steve Bramwell without whose efforts these generous contributions to club funds would not appear.

I would also like to place on record my thanks to Rebecca Wilson who has acted as book-keeper since I took over as treasurer. This considerably eased my workload as I learned how to act as treasurer.

Rebecca is no longer able to continue helping with this but I remain very grateful to her.

I am also grateful for the help so generously given by David Gibb to inspect the accounts for me and for ensuring that I have recorded things correctly.

David Finlayson  
Treasurer

#### 5 Proposed amendments to the Club's Constitution – as follows:

Para. 2. Insert " and rowing" after "sailing"

Para 5. Insert "and rowing" after "sailing"

Para 7. After "student" insert " rowing, life"

Para 7. Replace " over the age of 18" with "18 years and over"

Following a brief discussion on the subscription rates for Rowing membership, which the Committee undertook to keep under review together with all subscription rates, the amendments were passed.

#### 6 Election of Officers of the Club and General Members

Having confirmed their willingness to stand and having been duly nominated and seconded the following were elected:

Treasurer – David Finlayson

Secretary – Helen Jenner

Training Principal – Richard Jenner

Sailing Secretary – Richard Evans

Social Convenor – Janet Witheridge

General Member – Peter Illingworth

Donnie McLeod, Commodore, having served one year of his two year term as Commodore, had one more year to serve.

7 There being no other matters for which appropriate notice had been given the meeting closed.