

CHANONRY SAILING CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Friday 23 November 2012

Present: Richard Jenner, Helen Jenner, Jeremy Astill-Brown, Marisa Astill Brown, Laurence Gunner, Helen Rowson, Mike Wilson, Janice Illingworth, Peter Illingworth, David Pocock, James Burns, George Hogg, Sandra Hogg, Susan MacLennan, Mairi Macleod, Dave Hewitt, Pam Hogan, Mike Burns, Joan Maxwell, Richard Evans, Lee Thomson, Diarmid Hogan, Helen Cherry, Richard Cherry, Sam Macmillan, Tim Lloyd, Dominic Lloyd, Natalie, Dunton, Charlie Wilson, Angus Wilson, Malcolm Wilson, Mike Wilson (Rosehaugh), Calum Urquhart, Shona Urquhart, Ross Urquhart, Cole Chandler, Donnie MacLeod, David Bell, Careen Gurlan, Ken Ferguson, Joanne Johnson, Alan Munro, N. MacN ?, Bill Lee, Alan Hardie, Thomas Hardie, Helen Robinson.

Agenda Item

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies have been received from: Rodney Timson, George Taylor, Steve Bramwell, Jack Evans, Jack Evans, Bill Burgan, Helen Morgan, Callum MacIver, Gordon McPhee, Niall Ferguson.

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 25 November 2011

The minutes were proposed for agreement by Marisa Astill-Brown, seconded by Richard Evans and approved by those present, although Helen Rowson requested that an additional note be included. There were no matters arising.

2. Commodore's Report

Helen presented her report to the AGM.

2012 has been an exceptionally busy year for Chanonry Sailing Club. The year started with the Club being awarded the 2011 RYA Scotland Club of the Year award at the RYA Scotland Big Weekend in February. The trophy has been on display as part of the Harbours Heritage exhibition in the Groam House Museum – the museum has had over 5500 visitors during the exhibition. Apparently what separated us from other clubs was our husbandry of the harbour, our involvement with the local community through open days and the harbouring heritage project, our sponsorship of the Avoch Sea Scouts and our extensive training and coaching programme. These were obviously things we had to live up to in 2012!

Lifeboat day was once again a successful fundraiser for the RNLI, new this year were junior novelty dinghy races and the Harbours Heritage Trail. As usual the Invergordon and Kessock Lifeboats were in attendance, making a dramatic departure to attend a boat in distress. Thanks in particular to Steve Bramwell for planning and coordinating the day.

On the domestic front the gents changing room has undergone some major work, necessitated by structural damp but resulting in an overall improvement. Both changing rooms have also been redecorated. We now have new cookers in the galley and thanks to David Cameron the sail store has had a makeover, so hopefully frustratingly slow cookers and sails strewn over the sail store floor are things of the past.

We have changed our insurance provider, saving over £2000 a year , many thanks to George Hogg for his work on this.

The Dinghy Park was fuller than ever this year. The rough plan was broadly adhered to, and members generally cooperated in the tight spaces, labelling their boats and being flexible when we had to juggle spaces to accommodate events.

As ever, nevertheless, there is a small number of unlabelled boats. We strongly encourage owners to label their boats or remove them.

The training & coaching team have had another busy year. Dinghy & powerboat courses have continued much as in 2011 but the real news has been a massive ramp-up in dinghy coaching aimed mainly at the juniors.

Building on 'Chanonry Champs' Richard Evans and Kevin Holliday introduced 'Race Team'. 28 club juniors have benefitted from this. Kevin also arranged 3 days of coaching during the school holidays. This has been a fantastic effort by Richard Evans, Kevin Holliday, Jack Evans and Miles Mack.

Formal dinghy courses followed the norm of an adult level 1 & 2 course with 6 adults, a stage 1 junior course with 6 juniors and the stage 2 & 3 junior week with 11 juniors.

We ran 9 Dolphins sessions. Dolphins numbers were down on last year but this shows that many have progressed to Champs or Race Team; nevertheless up to 8 attended on any one evening. We also ran dinghy refreshers for adults.

Many thanks to the instructors – David Bell, Steve Bramwell, Colin Chandler, Miriam Fisher, Caireen Gourlay and Richard Jenner. At this point I'd like to congratulate Niall Ferguson on his recent qualification as a Dinghy Instructor and hope that he will find time to help the club next year.

Helen also highlighted the fact that 'parent power' and junior volunteers have been key in supporting junior training & coaching and she expressed her gratitude to Ross Slater and Malcolm Wilson for all their help with junior training.

The club also continues to host HMS Race Coaching and January & February are the only months with no dinghy training or coaching going on.

In powerboat training, fifteen students achieved PBL2, 8 from Chanonry SC and 7 from Nairn SC. We have continued to offer training opportunities to other HMS clubs which are not powerboat training centres, to promote safety not only for their own sailors but also of course for our sailors when they travel to other clubs.

Safety skills sessions were again offered on Sunday mornings early in the season, providing a refresher opportunity for experienced safety drivers and crews and familiarisation for newcomers.

Helen gave her thanks to John Crossley and David Bell who again have given their time as volunteer instructors.

Shorebased training over the last 12 months has covered First Aid, VHF SRC and Essential Navigation & Seamanship. We also hosted a Regional Race Management Seminar and

benefitted from 3 places on this major weekend course.

We remain indebted to the Avoch Sea Scouts for the continued use of their 4 Topaz Uno + dinghies. Our own fleet has performed well although the GP14 remains in need of repair.

This has been an abbreviated training report, the full report is available on the website

The following is a resume of our racing season in calendar order:

New this year was the Scottish Youth Series Regatta

On 30th June and 1st July youngsters from as far away as Arisaig and Annandale travelled here for the fourth event of the Scottish Youth Series. 69 boats entered. Although the event was held here it was co-hosted by Nairn SC. The event was a great success and as an added bonus provided a profit to both clubs. Many thanks to everyone from Chanonry and Nairn who gave their time.

Our August Dinghy regatta was well-attended. Seven visiting boats competed with in total 12 entries in the Fast Handicap class and 19 in Slow Handicap. There were separate prizes for the best juniors. This was a good decision as no fewer than 14 of the slow handicap boats were helmed by juniors.

Congratulations to Ian Ellis of Royal Findhorn Yacht Club who won the Fast Handicap class and Niall Ferguson of Chanonry Sailing Club who won both the Slow Handicap and Junior Classes.

The CSC Cruiser Regatta had 12 entries, a record number compared to recent years. After waiting for the wind, once racing commenced the breeze strengthened and there was some great close racing.

The winner of the Fast handicap class was John Prentice of IBC, and of the Slow handicap class Robert Taylor of CSC. The "Taylor Trophy", kindly donated by Steve Bramwell, was awarded for the first time for the Slow Handicap section. The feedback from visiting competitors on the one day format was positive.

The Ness Cup had a mixture of 15 cruisers and dinghies in all over a course between Chanonry point and Kilmuir. First overall was Iain Morton, and the first cruiser was Mike Burns. The Nessie Trophy was a new event run around the club race marks for those who wanted to race but did not feel confident to complete the longer course, this was rewarded by an entry of 15 dinghies. The winner was Georgina Lloyd.

Black Isle Challenge Cup - 7 cruisers entered this final event on the MYA calendar. Entries were down with strong winds forecast. 4 boats started and finished, two boats in the Fast and Slow handicap sections respectively. Fast Handicap was won by John Prentice IBC and Slow Handicap by Mike Burns CSC. Racing was followed a prize giving for the BICC and MYA Overall prizes.

Congratulations to Mike Burns and his crew on Fram for bringing back the Overall MYA trophy to CSC for 2012 following a couple of seasons in the hands of IBC sailors. IBC won the MYA team prize.

The Club Dinghy Championships. Fifteen boats started in a F2-3 breeze which rapidly increased to a F5 and above so only 1 race was completed. The Club Dinghy Champion 2012 is Jack Evans, the Ladies Champion is Marisa Astill-Brown, the Cadet Champion is Ross Urquhart and the Novice Champions are Mike and Malcolm Wilson.

Dinghy series racing – up to 42 boats competed in any one series, although not all at the same time! We had turn-outs in the high teens or even low 20's in some cases – reflecting the

success of the junior coaching programme

Friday evening recreational racing was also popular this year.

Helen expressed her thanks to the whole Club and to the members of the Committee in particular. She acknowledged that they give of themselves not out of any sense of service, not self-importance and she thanked them for their help and support.

Helen also gave her thanks to those who have sponsored the club this year, Ross and Cromarty Sports Council, AWS Ocean Energy and Comfort Foods. For commercial reasons Caley Marina has had to withdraw its direct sponsorship but continues to give discount to club members and I understand that next year there will also be club discount at Gael Force.

Helen also saluted those Chanonry sailors who have flown the flag away from home. Eight of our junior sailors represented Chanonry at the Volvo Club Championship, several also went to the Scottish Schools Championships and RYA events at Largs. Claire Holliday won the Scottish Junior Girls trophies for the season Optimist travellers and the Scottish Optimist Championships and has been selected for the Scottish Optimist Development Squad. Also our adult dinghy sailors travelled as far afield as Orkney and Weymouth!

Our cruiser sailors continue to compete in the MYA series and this year a Chanonry boat, Roxby Robson's Windflower, took part in West Highland week coming 2nd in her class in the Craobh to Oban Passage Race.

Helen particularly wanted to highlight that our club is both a dinghy and cruiser club, with members ranging from "retired" sailors including George Taylor who is a founder member through active cruiser sailors in their 70's, to our youngest dinghy trainee this year, Kyle Cameron age 7! Moreover we have 60+ year olds racing dinghies and juniors crewing on cruisers.

Helen also stressed that we have much to be thankful for in the range of age and experience in our club and must continue to value that range and foster our younger sailors if we wish to be as much of a thriving club in the future as we are now.

4. Treasurer's Report and Consideration of Accounts for 2011/12

Treasurer's Report – Year to 30 September 2012

In general it has been a good year for the Club financially. The Committee agreed a budget early in the year, which anticipated a surplus on the year of some £6,500, in the event an actual surplus on the year of some £11,800 was achieved. Whilst income has risen most of this surplus was attributable to a reduction in expenditure. I would draw your attention to a number of key issues:

- ☐ Membership numbers have reduced slightly this year particularly Family members – see Notes below for actual numbers. The reasons for this are not clear and it is something the Committee will have to reflect on in the coming year.
- ☐ Due to a change in insurer and a change in how premiums are paid there was virtually no insurance cost this year whilst a premium of £4,500 was anticipated. Through this change in policy we have effectively halved the cost of our insurance, although the new insurance is as good as the previous policy in all respects and better than it in some.
- ☐ A very successful Youth Regatta was run this year jointly with Nairn SC. Our share of the profit from this event netted c£1,000 which had not been budgeted for.
- ☐ Whilst works to upgrade the men's changing rooms cost more than anticipated, as a consequence a number of other areas of expenditure were put on hold, notably the upgrading

of equipment in the Galley.

□ Through prudent management maintenance of the Trot moorings came in below budget. The net effect of this is to increase further than expected the Moorings Fund.

□ The Committee took the opportunity of the surplus to review the Reserves policy agreed last year. The Safety boat reserve was increased by £2,000 to £8,000 in line with previous decisions. The General Reserve was increased by £3,500 to £10,000. Whilst giving more of a cushion this is still not a huge sum given the scale of the Club's assets and activities.

□ At £31 the interest earned on our reserves is negligible and reflects the almost non-existent interest currently being paid by banks on Treasurer's accounts.

□ The accounts have been examined by club member David Gibb and approved by him.

George then proceeded to answer questions about the accounts.

5. Election of Office Bearers for 2012-13 and Committee members for 2012-15

The following members were elected as office bearers to the Club on the nomination of the Committee:

Commodore - David Pocock

Rear Commodore - Helen Jenner ex-officio for 1 year

Secretary - Steve Wilson

Treasurer - George Hogg

Training Principal - Marisa Astill-Bown

General Committee members

Gavin Campsie, Kevin Holliday and Steve Bramwell

Joanne Johnson

Mike Wilson (the younger)

Diarmid Hogan

Mike Burns

Ken Ferguson withdrew from the nominations.

Murray Kirkwood was nominated for an Honorary Membership. He joined the Club 40 years ago and represented Chanonry around the Moray Firth. He also supported young sailors and served on the Committee. Richard Evans expressed his support for this nomination and shared some of his fond memories of Murray. Richard also wished to express his thanks for nominating Murray on behalf of his father.

6. Trophy Policy

Helen appraised the AGM on the progress of the trophy policy. The AGM voted and a majority of 35 voted in favour of adopting the policy with 2 against.

The AGM, therefore, adopted the trophy guidelines as official Club policy.

7. Other matters for which notice has been given

Joan Maxwell proposed the reinstatement of sub-committees to prevent any one individual carrying the full responsibility for any particular area.

David Pocock supported this idea and stated that sub-committees were already being assembled.

Vice-Commodore

Joan also proposed the reinstatement of the Vice-Commodore role. There was general agreement that this would be a good idea.