



Main Committee Minutes 9 November 2020 at 7pm by Zoom

	Topic	Information	Action
1	Present and apologies	Apologies – PI Present – JW, HJ, DV, JD, RJ, RE, CP, RW, DH, CL, SH, DF,	
2	Minutes of Meeting of 31 August 2020	Proposed JD, seconded DV, approved.	HJ
3	Matters arising from the Minutes.	<p>DV reported that CPR resus masks had arrived for inclusion in first-aid kits for Covid compliance, a national shortage had delayed their delivery.</p> <p>DV reported that he had a quote for the cleaning of the Clubhouse guttering and roof from a trusted local trader. The quote was £420 for the gutters only or £660 for the gutters and roof. Agreed - to have the gutters cleaned and to ask that any loose moss easily accessible could also be removed.</p> <p>RE asked for a decision on whether the Cold Turkey event should go ahead. Agreed – that the event would go ahead but with no social function.</p> <p>Other matters were addressed elsewhere in the agenda for the meeting.</p>	<p>DV</p> <p>RE</p>
4	Treasurer's Report	See note to item. DF reported that Cliff Sim would be content to sign off merged accounts for the CASC and SCIO. The CASC accounts need to be approved by the membership at the AGM, the SCIO accounts need to be "signed off" by the trustees. DF undertook to produce merged accounts and will arrange for these to be signed by the SCIO trustees before they are placed on the website in preparation for the AGM.	DF
5	SCIO process update	<p>See note to item.</p> <p>RJ reported that the SCIO Asset Register had now been finalised and was available on the Club One Drive.</p> <p>DF felt that the length of time being taken in the transition process from CASC to SCIO produced a state of "limbo" which was far from ideal. RE queried whether the Council Ward Committee has the authority to take the</p>	

		necessary decision. RJ and JD reassured the Committee that the ward Committee does appear to have that authority and that, although not ideal, there was nothing further the Club could do to hasten the process.	RJ
6	Covid measures	RJ reported that the Scottish Government's 5 Level system of COVID19 restrictions was now in place and that RYA Scotland had produced a matrix explaining how the system relates to club activities. RJ was preparing a new document, informed by the RYAS matrix, clarifying how club activities are affected in each level. It was noted that Highland region is currently in level 1 which makes no practical difference to current activities.	RJ
7	Club development plan	JD reported that the Club Development Group (himself, Sandra Hogg, Oliver Bull, Chris Taylor, Richard Jenner and Marisa Astill-Brown) had already held 2 meetings on Zoom and were working to the RYA framework for Club Development. They had in place an assessment of "where we are now" and were now working on the questions for a preliminary survey of the Club membership. It was planned to have this open for responses from 20 November to 4 December so that the initial membership engagement was complete before the AGM following which a further survey was planned.	JD
8	SCIO Constitution	SH had proposed changes to the SCIO Constitution clauses 46, 50 and 88 to allow for "virtual" meetings of members and the Board in future. This would require approval by a two-thirds majority at the AGM. It was noted that, if passed, OSCAR would have to be notified of the changes but were not required to give their approval. Agreed – that the changes be proposed at the AGM. The relevant "old" and "amended" clauses would be made available on the Club website and an explanation and link provided in the AGM calling notice.	SH/ HJ
9	Harbourmaster update	PI had phoned to say that he could not join the meeting as he had no internet access. He undertook to provide harbourmaster update info to JD by email on 11 November. Agreed – that JD would call together a group (himself, PI, DF, DH) to discuss and decide on a proposed way forward on harbour and moorings matters and report back to the Committee.	JD/PI
10	Meikle update	RJ reported that some damage had been done to the launch wheels on Meikle during a recent storm. In practice the wheels had proved not satisfactory as the boat is not stable on them and they are difficult for one person to raise and lower, even in calm water.	

		<p>The wheels had been removed and a "sling" type Topaz trolley was being used instead as a trial. CL and family planned to use Meikle on Friday 13 November and would report back to RJ. If the trial was successful the Committee agreed to buy a similar trolley which CL and family had for sale at a price to be agreed, providing that trolley is a good fit.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Club should try and sell the wheels as damaged items.</p>	RJ
11	Membership update	Noted - Ordinary members Elizabeth (Lisa) Pattenden and Charlie Mainland	HJ
12	Discretionary awards	<p>To decide whether to award Endeavour awards this year and who to award them to if yes. Decided – to award the Senior Endeavour award to Gordon Robinson who had taken on the role of Grounds Maintenance effectively and with enthusiasm and the Junior Endeavour to Oli Bull who had been improving and widening his own sailing skills at a time when participation has not been easy. He was also contributing to the Club Development Group. Both awards to be announced at the AGM in the Commodore's report.</p>	HJ/All
13	AGM 2020	<p>AGM is scheduled for Friday 11 December at 7pm. Agreed that it would be held using Zoom as allowed by the RYA and OSCAR.</p> <p>The timeline leading up to the AGM is as follows;</p> <p>20 November - Calling Notice sent out.</p> <p>27 November – Reports, accounts and any other required documents to be available on the website.</p> <p>4 December – closing date for nominations and matters for decision from members.</p> <p>Reports from Committee members to go to JD in good time to inform his Commodore's report.</p> <p>As a change to the SCIO Constitution is proposed a vote would be needed – HJ and RJ had tried out polling on Zoom which worked well. It may be necessary for members of family memberships to use different login details to be able to vote separately – HJ to investigate whether this is necessary.</p> <p>Agreed that a newsletter would be sent out to members in advance of the AGM calling notice. This would contain an update on the Club Development process and advance warning and information on the AGM, encouraging members to participate and to volunteer, in particular for Committee roles which are becoming vacant – Social Convenor and Sailing Secretary. RE</p>	

		would provide information on the duties of the Sailing Secretary. RW was also standing down as a general member and his role as safety Boat Convenor would need to be filled, although this did not need to be a Committee role. HJ and RE to provide some wording for JD to include in the newsletter.	HJ
14	AOCB	Decided – to hold membership subscriptions at the current rates for 2021.	HJ/DF
15	Date & Location of next meeting	Monday 18 January 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.	HJ

Officers of the Club:

James Dargie – Commodore - JD

Treasurer – David Finlayson – DF

Secretary – Helen Jenner – HJ (also Membership Secretary)

Sailing Secretary – Richard Evans – RE (also Coaching and Webmaster)

Training Principal – Richard Jenner – RJ (also Chief Instructor Dinghy & dinghy bosun)

Social Convenor – Janet Witheridge - JW

Committee General members:

Robin Witheridge – RW (also RIB Convenor)

Peter Illingworth – PI – (also Harbourmaster, Moorings and Craning co-ordinator)

Sandra Hogg – SH – (also Rowing Secretary)

Chrissie Lane – CL – (also Club Merchandise)

Calum Pearson – CP – (also Social Sailing Liaison)

David Vincent – DV – (also Health and Safety Officer and Building Custodian)

Diarmid Hogan – DH – (also Cruiser Liaison)

NOTES

Item 4 -Treasurer's Report November 2020

Membership: Membership income has held up remarkably well in spite of the inability to offer full activities. Income for 2020 is at £10,015 compared to £10,848 for 2019. With the likelihood of continuing restrictions into 2021 it should not be assumed that membership will be sustained. There is probably more risk to cruiser and full sailing membership than to rowing membership with obvious implications for income.

Moorings: The Covid lockdown has precluded the usual activity on moorings. This has not in itself posed any financial risk but there is a risk that significant expenditure will be needed for re-instatement after a fallow season but with inadequate mooring fees to offset this. The club must be careful about commitment to moorings due to low uptake, increasing age of the ownership and potential for further Covid restrictions.

As previously agreed, the club has paid for the Crown Estates fees this year. These were restricted to £120 on the basis of three ground chains. This expenditure will appear in the 2021 accounts as it was invoiced after the end of September.

Refuse: Refuse collection is now monthly giving a modest saving and this does not appear to have caused problems.

Anticipated expenditure: The only item pending is legal fees related to the SCIO transfer. Given the performance of the Highland Council to date, this may be more than had been anticipated at the inception of the transfer process.

Covid 19 Grant: The £10,000 Covid 19 grant has allowed expenditure on the additional rescue craft, cleaning supplies, Zoom account, writing off out of date catering supplies to be covered without risk to club funds. Approximately half the grant remains and should be directed towards those areas which will support all club activities until normal life resumes.

Balances as at 09/11/2020

Old account: £ 1,262.09

New account: £ 47,795.63

PayPal: £701.90

Total: £49,759.64

Item 5 - SCIO process update

At our last meeting I took an action to instruct our solicitor (Joe Duncan - JD) to make a formal offer to the council of the clubhouse in the hope that they would either not react or would decline. JD 'phoned me shortly after I had sent him the email to advise, most strongly, against that course of action. He had been told by the council's legal officer that the council would be duty bound to accept such an offer for the benefit of the common good fund. Joe informed me that the matter was going to go to a full council committee meeting.

HJ worked out that the council committee was most likely the Black Isle, Dingwall & Seaforth committee which was then due to meet just days later. HJ contacted the chairman (Cllr Gordon Adam) who responded by 'phone the same day. I prepared a briefing paper with input from SH and HJ sent this to all the relevant councillors and the ward manager. Our bottom line was:

If the pre-emption is not waived

- **The club will not continue with the dispolement of the assets.**
- **The club will have to wind up the SCIO, losing its charitable status or operate under a detrimental two tier structure.**
- **The club will have wasted much time and effort in attempting to modernise its legal status, protect its members from personal liability and provide wider community and charitable benefit.**
- **Much needed sport club funds will have been wasted in legal costs to no beneficial outcome.**

Unfortunately, the committee was not prepared to consider the item at its October meeting as the council officers had not prepared their advice. We received this response from Cllr Adam:

I have checked on this and the bad news is that we are not in a position to decide on this at the next area committee. The good news is that it is being actively pursued by several officers, so there will be a recommendation which I believe will be positive in the next few weeks. The problem is that there is a Common Good interest, which instantly makes things a lot more complicated. I think that the Area Cttee will have to sign off on this, so I am afraid

that will not be until February. But I expect you will have a firm recommendation long before that.

Best wishes,

Gordon

I wrote again to Cllr Adam asking if we could have some news about the recommendation for our AGM. I received the following today (which I have forwarded to JD):

Di Agnew [ward manager] is following this up. I am sure the necessary paperwork will be done, but it is a question of when – I am not sure it will be in time for your AGM unfortunately. But Di is liaising with other officers and knows to up to date situation.

Best wishes, Gordon

At this point, I think we have done all we can and will not help our cause if we push any harder.

RJ

Decision made by email between meetings:

9.11.2020

The Committee agreed by email that the Club Equality Policy be amended to bring it into line with Clause 4 of the SCIO constitution "Purposes" – to delete "sailing and coastal rowing" and replace with "water sports."