

PENTLAND CANOE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 November 2009 at Pentland Hotel, Thurso

Present: K Nicol; K Cleminson; M Cleminson; B MacGregor; I Muir; m grain; E Rowan; S Muller; N Groves; R Groves; G Smith; G Stronach; B Laidlow; I Ford; A Ford; J Amy; C Irvine; A Cundall; A Squier

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

I Stronach; E Stronach; N Speirs; J Speirs; D Auld

2. Minutes of the 2008 AGM

The minutes had previously been sent out to members prior to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary. These were then approved by I Muir and seconded by E Rowan.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chair (A Squier) presented her report. A copy is given in Appendix 1.

4. Treasurers Report

A copy of the Annual Accounts was circulated to those present. A copy is attached in Appendix 2 (copy attached). As of 1 April 2009 the Cub had £7093.49 in funds.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, K Nicol, stated all the main topics had been covered by the Chairman. Additionally, the following items were mentioned

- The SCA are looking to revise the fees paid by Clubs. This could result in a levy payable from 2010 onwards
- He suggested that more club members should volunteer to be mock clients on SCA assessment courses. This was a good way to get free coaching.
- Coaching: The secretary reported that individuals had attended the following SCA Course:
 - Coastal Navigation & Tidal Planning (15)
 - BCU 2 Star (7)
 - BCU 3 Star (Sea) (3)
 - BCU 4 Star Leader Training (Sea) (4)

The secretary reported that subject to demand, he would look to organise a Coastal Navigation & Tidal Planning and an Open Water Navigation Course.

Thanks to everyone who organised events, trips etc for the Club.

- Equipment: K Nicol stated that as everyone will be aware of the potential reduction in Government Funding to agencies. As most grant awarding bodies are funded directly or indirectly by Government there is likely to be a reduction in the funding available to Clubs. This will result in the Canoe Club be unable to secure grants to purchase equipment. Therefore the Club will need to consider how new equipment will be funded.
- Thanks were recorded to DSRL for the support given in the purchase of an open canoe.

Following a question, K Nicol explained that the purchase of an open canoe had been necessary to allow individuals to gain their 2 star.

6. Election of Committee

Prior to the election, a discussion took place on the make up of the Committee. E Rowan put forward a proposal to increase the size of the Committee from 3 Executive and 5 non Executive members to Executive and 6 non executive members. This was to assist with the duties but also involve more members with the organisation of the Club. M Grain stated that he felt that there was merit in the suggestion.

The proposal was accepted following a vote (For: 16; Against 0; Abstain: 2)

The suggested non executive posts for 2009/10 were Club Store Officer; CPO; Coaching Pool Users Group Rep; New Paddler Rep; Minute Secretary; Publicity)

A number of individuals had been nominated for the Committee. The members agreed to the following serving on the Committee:

Post	Name
Chair	I Muir
Secretary	K Nicol
Treasurer	I Stronach
Non - Executive (Club Store)	A Squier
Non - Executive (CPO)	N Groves
Non – Executive (Coaching / Pool User Group)	E Rowan
Non – Executive (New Paddler Rep)	M Clemison
Non – Executive (Minute Secretary)	B MacGregor
Non – Executive (Publicity)	I Ford

7. **Membership Fees**

The Committee proposed that there should be no change in the membership fees for 2010:

- Adult £30
- Family £40 (limited to 2 adults and 2 youths under 18)
- Youth £20
- Associate £15

8. **Awards**

a) **Broken Paddle**

The Clubs first award and dates back to 1984. This is given to the most interesting mishap which has occurred whilst canoeing.

This was awarded to John Speirs for his exploits at seal launching , loosing his paddle and hand rolling down the hill.

b) **Improver**

The award is given to an individual whom is considered to have improved their canoeing skills during the year. The recipient of the award is decided by the Club coaches. The award was first presented in 1991. The recipient for the award had previously been agreed by the Coaching Scheme Members and was presented to Mark Cleminson

c) **Sea Voyager**

A Trophy denoted by Terry Jones (one of the Founder members of the Club). This is awarded annually to the person, who in the opinion of the Committee was responsible for the best sea kayaking expedition of the year. In considering which expedition, the Committee considers the number of people who took part, the number of days that the expedition took and distance covered. There were no suitable nominations for the award.

9. **AOCB**

A Squier closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report (2008 to 2009)

We began the year with very encouraging attendances at the pool sessions with new youth and adult members and of course the return of many old faces. The winter months also saw members developing their skills undertaking training in Coastal Planning and Navigation and obtaining VHF radio operators licences. Thanks to Ken (Nicol) and Simon (Copsey) for running the navigation training and organising the VHF course, respectively. I understand there was some river paddling too....

Come April we had lots of people keen to get paddling outside and lengthy committee debates about how to get the most out of the summer sessions both for our numerous beginners and the old hands.

We started with a "fun" day at Loch Watten which was made all the more "fun" by a fairly stiff breeze blowing down the loch. But, for the record, "fun" was had by all. (Some people even sounded convincing when telling me they had enjoyed themselves...). At the summer evening sessions we tried a new system of alternating between just paddling and coaching. There turned out to be good and bad aspects to this, but by the end of the season we had 7(?) new 2 stars achieved. Congratulations to all.

In amongst the regular club paddling there were also a few special events: a number of club members participated in the Caithness Cruise with trips up by Duncansby Head and across to Stroma. The same weekend was the club's 25th Anniversary Party. Thanks to the Stronachs for hosting this event, and to everyone else who helped. A sizable flotilla of paddlers from both sides of the county was amassed for the Harbourfest in Wick. And when the Spirit Dancer Canoe and her crew came to Scrabster lots of club members saw the trip around Holburn Head and Clett Rock from a new (slightly higher) vantage point.

I have already mentioned some of the training and awards achieved during the year, but there was also a weekend of 4 star training during which Ben (MacGregor) and John (Speirs) also got their 3 stars. Congratulations. Thanks again to Ken for running this course. I'll take this opportunity to point out that without Ken the club would not be able to do half of what we do, so thanks very much for all your efforts.

While I'm at it I'd like to thank the committee and all the coaches who have given their time this year. Thanks to Ishbel (Ford), Elaine (Rowan), Ken and Nancy (Speirs) for organising this evening's festivities. Thanks to the whole club for putting up with me and I will finish by encouraging everyone to keep getting involved. It's your club and can be as good as you want to make it.

Appendix 2: Accounts



Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2009

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Balance b/f	6,458.97	CDSC	20.00
Subscriptions	754.00	SCA	50.00
Pool	278.00	Equipment - New	1520.00
		Maintenance	775.99
Equipment - Hire	633.00	Insurance Beach Hut	344.77
Sale	250.00		
Grants - Coaching	494.00	Repaid Grants: Coaching	493.99
Equipment	373.00		
PCC Clothing	238.00	PCC Clothing	324.09
Personal Equipment	1060.80	Website	37.95
Interest	120.51	Cheques - in hand Bank	7093.49
	<u>10,660.28</u>		<u>10,660.28</u>

Isobel Stronach

Isobel Stronach
Treasurer