

PENTLAND CANOE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26 November 2011 at the Pentland Hotel, Thurso

Present:

G Stronach	I Stronach	B MacGregor
R Stuart	I Borland	N Speirs
S Muller	C Cameron	K Nicol
I Ford	S Guthrie	I Muir
E Rowan	J Speirs	L Muller
N Uprichard	A Ford	S Robertson

In the absence of the Chair, M Cleminson, I Muir chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: A Smith (Hon Member); M Cleminson; K Cleminson

2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM

The minutes had previously been sent out to members prior to the meeting.

The minutes were proposed Elaine Rowan and approved by Gary Stronach.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chair (M Cleminson) had moved away from the area in August. He had submitted a report. The report was read out by I Muir. 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 2011 the Cub had £7805.72 in funds.

The current funds were reported as £7730.00.

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

- Thanked Mark for his work as Chairman. Ivor Muir for organising maintenance on the Club Store. Also thanked Elaine Rowan for her work in organising the coaches and representing the Club at the Pool Users Group.
- The Club introduced an Honorary membership during the year. This is awarded to key Past Founder Members; Past Committee members who put significant input into the Club and have left the area or Individuals who made a significant and valuable donation to the Club and have left the area. There are currently 15 Honorary members, These being:
 - Roger Stuart
 - Terry Jones
 - Rowland Shallcross
 - Paul Doherty
 - Alan Smith
 - Iain Robertson
 - Paul Dixon
 - Nigel Warren
 - Angela Squier
 - Ray Crompton
 - Chris Duff
 - Chris Dowling
 - Ian Ritchie
 - Mark Cleminson
 - Kim Cleminson
- K Nicol noted that whilst he had been unable to attend a number of the Summer Evening sessions, they appear to have been successful. All the coaches who helped at these are to be thanked but in particular Elaine Rowan and Ivor Muir.

- The weather had an impact on the weekend trips. Though there were a few enjoyable trips. This was an issue which appeared to affect a number of Clubs organising weekend trips
- The SCA is going to revise the fees paid by Clubs. This will result in a scaled membership fee depending on membership numbers, in particular non members.
- The SCA now required a list of Club members for insurance purposes. This will need submitted to the SCA on a regular basis
- Coaching: The secretary reported that individuals had attended the SCA Courses coaching and star test courses.

The secretary reported that subject to demand, he would look to organise a Coastal Navigation & Tidal Planning and an Open Water Navigation Course in 2012.

The plan is to run a series of introduction to river paddling courses in 2012

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

- With assistance from Awards for All and the Highland Council Wards Discretionary fund, the Club purchased an additional 4 Open Canoes and a trailer along with associated equipment. The Club was also able to purchase 3 new kayaks for the swimming pool.

R Stuart, the founding Chairman of the Club, stated that he was delighted to see the Club continuing and thriving. He reported that he still paddles but in the warmer waters of the South of France.

6. Election of Committee

On behalf of the Club K Nicol recorded of thanks to those retiring from the Committee in particular:

- Elaine Rowan: For all her hard work in organising the coaches for the pool summer sessions, but also as a Coach. Elaine will be moving away from the area in the near future
- Ivor Muir: A past chairman and organising maintenance and repair to the Club store and equipment but also a coach. Ivor will be moving away from the area in the near future
- Ishbel Smith. Again helped in the Club organisation and publicity. Ishbel will be rather busy next year with a new addition to her family.
- Isobel Stronach. Isobel has been the club's Treasurer for a number of years, and is the only the second in the Club's History.

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

Post	Name
Chair	Ben Macgregor
Secretary	Ken Nicol
Treasurer	Gary Stronach
Non - Executive	Gay Draper-Rickards
Non - Executive	Sophie Muller
Non – Executive	Sam Robinson
Non – Executive	Nancy Spiers
Non – Executive	Lawrence Muller
Non – Executive	Shona Guthrie

It was agreed that the roles of the non-executive members would be decided upon at the first committee meeting.

7. **Membership Fees**

Those present noted that the current Membership fees are currently: £45 (family), £30 (full, adult), £20 (full, youth/unemployed etc) and £10 (associate, pool only)

K Nicol stated that the SCA was in the process of revising Club membership Fees. This would be a tiered system based on the number of non SCA members involved with a Club with a minimum fee of £50 year (2012). The main reason for any increase in fees is to meet the cost of SCA benefits to non SCA members in particular insurance. It was determined that the extra cost is equivalent to roughly £2 per person.

I Stronach stated that insurance would also increase in cost but this was unknown at present.

B MacGregor suggested increasing fees by £5. K Nicol suggested increasing all fees by £2, and taking into account extra insurance during the following year.

The membership proposed that the membership fees for 2012 should be:

- Adult £32
- Family £47 (limited to 2 adults and 2 youths under 18)
- Youth £22
- Associate £12

G Stronach confirmed that new members who had joined at the winter pool sessions would not be asked to pay the additional fee.

8. **Awards** (*These were presented after the meeting at the dinner*)

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 Stewart for his first sea trip from Dunbeath to Lybster. He started the trip with a lot of wobbles, was punctuated by a lot of alleged boat malfunctions and ended with a swim in sight of Lybster harbour and a tow to avoid becoming

intimately acquainted with the rocks! Thankfully he got the hang of this paddling malarkey very quickly after that and is actually quite good at it now!

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 Sam Robinson

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. This was awarded to Ben Macgregor for his trip around Duncansby Head

9. **AOCB**

R Stuart asked who was the owner of the club hut was. K Nicol responded that the owner is the Highland Council and the current Club lease expires in March 2012. K Nicol stated that he was in discussion with the Highland Council over a renewal of the lease.

E Rowan said it was great to see so many people keen to help at the beginner's session, and that it was good to have a busy first coach's session. However, since not many people join for the last session, paddlers' enthusiasm was obviously flagging towards the end of the final session. She said that it was important that the club makes the most of the pool time (since pool time is in short supply) and, very importantly, are seen to be making the

most of the time. It was agreed that everyone is responsible for suggesting and initiating activities. It was also agreed that, depending on numbers attending, the time when the beginner's session ends and the final session starts could be flexible.

K Nicol reminded everyone of the Easy Fund-Raising website is an easy option to raise money for the club when shopping and searching on line. R Stuart stated that fund-raising activities should also be satisfying and useful. He reminded members that in the early days of the Club, most funds were raised cleaning beaches.

K Nicol asked for volunteers to attend the Boxing Day charity 'Dip and Nip' for Clic Sergeant.

I Muir closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report (2010 to 2011)

I'm sorry I can't be with you tonight, but I hope you're all having a great evening. I'd like to start by saying that I genuinely miss being an active member of the club. I had a great time during my 2 ½ years with you and found your friendship, sense of fun and spirit of adventure to be inspiring. For those that don't know, the Navy decided it was unfortunately time for me to move on from my posting at Vulcan and I'm now on a year-long course near landlocked Swindon. Interesting though learning about international relations and politics is (well maybe that's just me then), I'm not currently able to do any kayaking or canoeing, which is very frustrating.

I had a great time with the club and if I'm given the opportunity, I will happily come back to Thurso for another posting and will launch myself back into the club. Whether that occurs or not, I intend to come back when I can to hopefully join in with whatever the club may be up to.

I think the club had a good year and I would like offer my gratitude for all those who made this possible. Firstly, thanks to the support of the club committee who have all contributed really positively and given up their time to make things happen. In particular, I have to mention Ken Nichol whose continued efforts as Secretary and ability to raise funds is extraordinary and enabled us to purchase new canoes. He even got the club featured in Scottish Paddler magazine with a number of us pictured with John Thurso on the front cover. I nearly fell off my chair when I saw the picture and was grateful the photograph made my physique look somewhat more toned that it actually is!

This is not to belittle the input of the rest of the committee and I would like to thank Isobel Stronach for her sterling long service as treasurer.

The club's coaches have collectively continued to give a lot of their time and to see their success you need only look around at how well some of our

newest members have progressed. For me personally, coaching is immensely fun and rewarding, so for those of you who are up to 2 star standard, have a think about it because I was nervous about being up to the grade when it was first suggested that I become a coach. However, the instruction courses are really good and you won't regret getting involved – seeing someone progress from nervously putting on a spraydeck for the first time to seeing their glee at achieving their first T-rescue is priceless. You also get the opportunity to take part in some genuinely fantastic subsidised training and trips organised for volunteer coaches by the Scottish Canoe Association. Some of the highlights of the year have been the trips over the summer which have covered much of the Caithness coast and have extended at least as far as the Kyle of Tongue. Those who have organised and led them have not been limited to committee members and coaches, so thank you all for making the effort, I think it has shown what can be achieved against the odds of the weather! Keep it up next year – I hope to join you for a trip at some point.

I loved all the coastal voyages for the magnificent scenery and wildlife of the far North of Scotland. However, my favourite trip was undoubtedly the last where we went canoeing down a stretch of the River Thurso. The screams of my wife as went over small weirs, sorry precipitous waterfalls she tells me, were hilarious. And as for the antics of John Speirs capsizing just about everybody's boat – well it took us all back to the carefree days of our youths. Those new canoes were certainly broken in with some serious instructional activity –if by that you mean emptying them, towing them to the side and manoeuvring to avoid another swim!

A short and sweet chairman's summary I'm sure you're all glad to here. I wish you all the very best for the coming year and hope to be able to join many of you in a paddle sometime next summer.

Thank you for your friendship and support.

Mark Cleminson

Appendix 2: Accounts



Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2011

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance c/f	7,626.17	CSC	20.00
Subscriptions	965.00	SCA	50.00
Pool	392.00		
Boat Storage	30.00		
Equipment Maintenance	137.95	Equipment Purchase	10,084.20
Hire	723.32	Maintenance	274.90
		Hire	30.00
Club Clothing	236.00	Club Clothing	258.17
CSC Training Grants	1,253.13	Course Fees	430.00
CSC Equipment Grant	500.45	Repaid Training Grants	903.11
DSRL Donation	430.00	Insurance	327.72
Awards for All	5,381.00	Website	52.95
Highland Council Grant	2,526.00	Events	51.95
Events	60.00	AGM Awards	47.00
AGM Donation	30.00		
Interest	44.70	Misc	
		Cash	501.00
		Bank	7,304.72
	20,335.72		20,335.72

I Stronach

I Stronach
Treasurer

G Stronach

G Stronach
Auditor

K Nicol
Secretary