

PENTLAND CANOE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 November 2012 at the Dounreay.com conference Room, Thurso

Present:

Stuart Coulden-Smith	Sophie Muller	Lawrence Muller
Gary Dunlop	Colin McKenzie	Gay Draper-Rickards
Tony Draper-Rickards	John Amy	John Speirs
Nancy Speirs	Calum Stronach	Isobel Stronach
Gary Stronach	Eilidh Stronach	Neil Uprichard
Ben MacGregor	Rob Grace	Sam Robertson
Ken Nicol	Lynne Cardosi	

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: R Stuart; (Hon Member); E Rowan (Hon Member); I Muir (Hon Member); M Grain; C Cameron; M Hayes; I Ford; A Ford

2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM

The minutes had previously been sent out to members prior to the meeting. The minutes were proposed I Stronach and approved by G Stronach.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chair (B MacGregor) presented his 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 2012 the Club had £9410.88 in funds.

The current funds were reported as £7907.62.

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 Ben for his work as Chairman and for all members both on and off the Committee for their support in the running of the Club. In particular he noted all who were helping at the pool sessions.
- The Committee had awarded an Honorary Membership to E Rowan; I Muir; D Mowat and S Copsey all who had moved away during the year and had made a valuable contribution to the club. There are currently 19 Honorary members,
- 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 individuals who helped at these are to be thanked.
- The weather had an impact on the weekend trips. Though there were a few enjoyable trips.
- The SCA has revised the fees paid by Clubs from 1 January 2013. The fee will depend on the number of non SCA members. From 1 January 2013, the Club Membership will be
- Coaching: The secretary reported that individuals had attended the SCA Courses coaching and star test courses.

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

- With assistance from the Dounreay Communities fund and the Caithness Sports Council 2 new river kayaks had been purchased and 2 new kayaks for the swimming pool. Additionally 2 sea kayaks had been purchased.

- The Lease for the Club Store expired in March 2012. There has been various discussions with the Highland Council Councillors agreed the Club could agree to continue using the store. There was an option to draw up a new lease at the Club's cost which could be expensive. However the Council agreed that the existing lease could just be extended on a yearly basis by an exchange of letters.
- The Secretary is working on a funding application to support an implement a 5 year Coach Development Programme.
- A response has been made to the proposed Pentland Firth renewable energy project proposed by MeyGen.
- The Club had received support from a variety of Funders. These being DSRL Communities Fund; Caithness Sports Council and the Highland Council. All were thank for their generosity and support.

6. Constitution Revision

The Scottish Canoe Association and Sport Council have suggested a number of revisions to Club Constitution and rules. By adopting the changes will ensure that the Constitution is not a barrier to current funding opportunities

Proposal 1: Secretary Suggestion - Amend 2.OBJECTIVES

Change

The objectives of the Club are to promote the sport of canoeing in the Thurso area.

To

The objectives of the Club are to promote *paddlesport (kayaking & canoeing)* in the Thurso, *West Caithness and North Sutherland* area.

The proposal was **accepted**.

Proposal 2: SportScotland /SCA Recommendation - Amend Section 3 MEMBERSHIP

Insert a new paragraph

Membership is open to all and no application for membership will be refused on other than reasonable grounds. There will be no discrimination on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex; sexual orientation, political or other opinion.

Change paragraph b

From

Membership classes are:

- i Full membership open to individuals aged 18 and over;
- ii Youth membership open to individuals under the age of 18 but over 13;
- iii Associate membership open to individuals under the age of 13 but over 12;
- iv Affiliate membership open to youth organisations, see Section 15 of The Constitution;
- v Family membership open to a complete family;
- vi Unemployed membership open to any individual who is unemployed.

To

Membership classes are:

- i. Full membership: open to individuals aged 18 and over;
- ii. Youth membership: open to individuals under the age of 18 but over 13;
- iii. Associate membership: **open to individuals aged 12 and 13 only;***
- iv. Affiliate membership open to youth organisations, see Section 15 of The Constitution;
- v. Family membership: open to a complete family;
- vi. Unemployed membership: open to any individual who is unemployed

Amend paragraph c Cessation of membership

Insert a new paragraph

An individual who has not renewed their membership within 6 weeks of the renewal date will be classed as a non member.

The proposal was **accepted**.

Proposal 3: Secretary Suggestion - Amend Section 5.COMMITTEE

Secretary Suggestion to Amend Paragraph d To include additional potential roles

- i. Trip Co-ordinator*
- ii. Youth Representative*

The proposal was **accepted**

Proposal 4: SportScotland/SCA Recommendation - Amend paragraph d

From

From Nominations and volunteers to serve on the Committee shall be sought before or made at the AGM by members eligible to vote. A member may be nominated, by a member eligible to vote, to the serve on the Committee. This nomination must have the agreement of the person being proposed.

To

Nominations and volunteers to serve on the Committee shall be sought before or made at the AGM by members eligible to vote. A member (*aged 16 and over*) may be nominated, by a member eligible to vote, to the serve on the Committee. This nomination must have the agreement of the person being proposed.

The proposal was **accepted**.

Proposal 5: SportScotland/SCA Recommendation - Insert a new paragraph

Members eligible to vote are members aged 16 and over. Affiliated members are entitled to one vote.

The proposal was **accepted**.

Proposal 6: SCA Recommendation - To add a New Section

DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

- a. *All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be submitted in writing to the Secretary.*
- b. *The Secretary in consultation with the Chairman will convene the Disciplinary Committee*
- c. *The Committee will meet to hear complaints within 30 days of a complaint being lodged. The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.*
- d. *The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 21 days of the hearing.*
- e. *There will be the right of appeal to the Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The committee should consider the appeal within 21 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.*

The proposal was **accepted**.

Proposal 7: SCA Recommendation - To Amend Section 17.TERMINATION

From

- a. The Club shall not terminate except by a resolution of an EGM convened for the purpose and, in such an event.
- b. Any surplus assets shall be handed over to a body or bodies with similar objectives. The proviso will be made, however, that if a canoe club ever reforms in Thurso then similar assets to the same value will be handed back to this new Club. In affect, this body will be custodians of the assets.

To

- a. *A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.*
- b. *If, on the winding up of the Club, any property of the Club remains after satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the*

Club and the costs, charges and expenses of that winding up, that property shall be distributed

- i. to another Club having objects similar to those of the Club; or to the Scottish Canoe Association.*
- ii. for charitable purposes, which purposes, as the case required, shall be determined by resolution of the members.*

The proviso will be made, however, that if a canoe club ever reforms in Thurso then similar assets to the same value will be handed back to this new Club. In affect, this body will be custodians of the assets

Proposal 8: Secretary Suggestion to amend Rules Section 3

Delete the word Lifejacket

The proposal was **accepted**.

7. Election of Committee

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	Gary Dunlop
Non – Executive	Sam Robinson
Non – Executive	Grant Kay
Non – Executive	Neil Uprichard
Non – Executive	Mel Hayes

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

7. Membership Fees and equipment Fees

Membership Fees

Those present noted that the current Membership fees are currently: £47 (family), £32 (full, adult), £22 (full, youth/unemployed etc) and £12 (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 (2013). The SCA Club Affiliation fees in 2013 will be as follows:

- £50 for clubs with up to 20 members who are not individual SCA members
- £75 for clubs with between 21 and 40 members who are not individual SCA members
- £100 for clubs with between 41 and 100 members who are not individual SCA members
- £150 for clubs with over 100 members who are not individual SCA members

Therefore from 1 January 2013 the Club membership fee will be £75 based on the current membership

The membership proposed that the membership fees for 2013 should be:

- Adult £33
- Family £48 (limited to 2 adults and 2 youths under 18)
- Youth £23
- Associate £13

Equipment Fees

These are currently set at £5. The membership agreed that for 2013 this would remain at £5

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 an individual for a surfing event. Details are limited. The story goes that there was some big surf and an individual decided to go slightly further out then the rest something happened. Capsized and swam. People thought that the individual will be fine. Strong swimmer, water confident etc. However it became apparent that the individual needed some help. So another club member went to the rescue. So the Lifeguard had to be rescued. This was awarded to Stuart Coulden-Smith.

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 Gary Dunlop

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 Stroma

9. AOCB

There was a request for more open canoeing activities/ trips during the summer. The Committee agreed to take this request on board.

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.

B MacGregor closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report (2011 to 2012)

First I must apologise for having been an absentee chairman over the last couple of months. This has been due to illness, they've already eliminated TB and legionnaires and are now treating me for whooping cough.

As with other organisations in this part of the world, the club faces challenges with rapid turn-round of members. Experienced coaches and leaders move south but other keen people move into the area. I think it important that we encourage and train people however long or short their stay here will be, other clubs may benefit from our training input but likewise we reap the benefit of people who have been trained elsewhere.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Elaine Rowan, Ivor Muir and Simon Copsey all who have done a great deal for the club.

We aim to be a friendly club. It's important to remember we are all volunteers. Many folk in the club have busy and stressful lives and come to relax by kayaking or canoeing. We all contribute and make things happen by working as a team.

Coaching and leadership qualifications are worth pursuing but are no substitute for real experience in the sea or the river, the club should encourage anyone who wishes to gain qualifications while recognizing that plenty of very experienced paddlers have few if any formal qualifications. Thanks to the coaches for all the hard work they put in, it's great seeing people progress from their first tentative paddle round the pool to paddling round Stroma!

We are appointing the Committee again, it's not an onerous task being on the Committee with only two or three meetings a year but a great way to help the club. If you'd like to be on the committee please put your name forward when we come to nominations. It is vital that we fully comply with the child & vulnerable adults protection legislation.

As always, the club depends most on the dedication and hard work put in by our secretary Ken Nicol. I hope there may be a pleasant surprise for him later in the evening as a token of our recognition of all he has done for the club. It is through Ken that the club has built up such an excellent stock of equipment, a wide range of boats and other gear, the latest additions being two new river boats suitable for taller and larger paddlers, currently to be used in pool sessions. Ken's ability to recognise the availability of grant funding and submit all the correct paperwork means that most of the equipment has been bought at only small cost to the club. Ken also made detailed comments on behalf of the club on the tidal renewable scheme in the Inner Sound south of Stroma and made sure these were taken note of. Thanks also to Ken for organising winter river training sessions on the Thurso at Halkirk.

It was a successful summer of paddling, perhaps the best year I've seen for club sea trips. A number of trips on the east coast were enjoyed between Wick and Berriedale, also a decidedly boisterous paddle from Reay to Melvich. The club enjoyed a paddle round Dunnet Head, a trip to Eilean nan Ron, a visit to the Duncansby Stacks and a circumnavigation of Stroma. Thanks to those who organised these trips and to those who came, a good trip needs participants!

We had good turnouts & mostly good weather on the summer Thursday nights, coaching sessions, surfing, several trips round Clett or exploring the Holburn Head cliffs and a trip to west Murkle Bay. Perhaps the best evening though was a 'wet' night, for all it should be second nature how to recover from capsizing – rescue others and preferably be able to self-rescue, I would add rolling! Most of us need more practice. It's all too easy just to go for a nice paddle but not only the beginners need training & practice. Thanks to all those who came down and helped, especially with things like getting gear and boats put away afterwards. Thanks to Sophie for her work with the beginners, she has done a lot of coaching beginners and open canoe work.

While not officially a club trip, a number of us enjoyed a February weekend at Newtonmore organised by Neil Uprichard and John Speirs, with two days of paddling on the Findhorn and the Roy. I will never forget the adrenaline highs of tackling one rapid after another on the Findhorn and then the sheer terror of attempting my first little grade 4 stretch... fortunately everyone was well prepared with throw lines to haul me out.

The dazzling appearance of the club hut on the esplanade is almost entirely due to the hard, and mostly single-handed, work of Sam Robinson, funded by a grant from Highland Council. Several councillors were proud to be photographed in front of the newly painted hut which, formerly, was such an eyesore.

We now look forward to the remaining winter pool sessions and maybe some river trips. When I'm fit again, I hope I can find some folk willing to shepherd me down Dirlot gorge, or how about a 'Thurso descent' from Loch More to the sea?

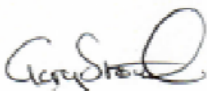
Ben MacGregor

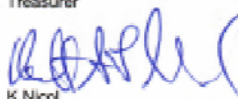
Appendix 2: Accounts



Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2012

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance c/f	7,805.72	CSC	20.00
Subscriptions	948.00	SCA	50.00
Pool	330.90		
Equipment Maintenance	50.00	Equipment Purchase	2,118.65
Hire	805.00	Maintenance	545.50
Club Clothing		Club Clothing	
Grants		Course Fees	
Sports Council - Coaching	200.00	Repaid Training Grants	200.00
Sports Council - Equipment	400.00		
Donations			
DSRL	810.00		
Highland Council	1,290.00	Insurance	341.96
Misc	65.00		
Easy Fundraising	49.40	Website	47.40
Events		Gifts	58.00
AGM	510.00	AGM Dinner	510.00
Interest	38.37	Misc	
		Cash Bank	9,410.88
	13,302.39		13,302.39


G Stronach
Treasurer


K Nicol
Secretary