

PENTLAND CANOE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 November 2013 at Station Hotel, 54 Princess Street, Thurso

Present:

Ben MacGregor	Sophie Muller	Lawrence Muller
Gary Stronach	Mike Grain	Ian Borland
Ken Nicol	Nancy Speirs	John Speirs
Sam Robertson	Henry Robertson	Gary Dunlop
		Chris Curran

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: R Shallcross; (Hon Member); S Copsey (Hon Member); Angela Squier (Hon Member); John Amy; Grant Kay; Eilidh Stronach; Neil Uprichard; Isobel Stronach

2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM

The minutes had previously been sent out to members prior to the meeting. The minutes were proposed Gary Stronach and approved by Nancy Speirs.

3. Chairman's Report

- The Chair (B MacGregor) presented his report. A copy is given in Appendix 1.

On behalf of the Club, Ken Nicol thanks Ben MacGregor for all his hard work during a difficult year

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 2013 the Club had £8917.00 in funds.

The current funds were reported as £6517.34 but the Club was due £1200 in grant aid for the purchase of 2 sea kayaks bring the balance to £7717.34

The accounts were proposed by Chris Curran and seconded by Mike Grain.

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

- Thanks were given to all members both on and off the Committee for their support in the running of the Club.
- Summer Evening sessions, they appear to have been successful. All the individuals who helped at these are to be thanked.
- The weather had again had an impact on the weekend trips. Though there were a few enjoyable trips.
- Coaching: The secretary reported that individuals had attended the SCA Courses coaching and star test courses.
- With assistance from the Dounreay Communities fund and the Caithness Sports Council 2 new Sea kayaks had been purchased and 1 new kayaks for the swimming pool.
- A funding application for a 5 year Coach Development Programme was successful.
- The Club had received support from a variety of Funders. These being DSRL Communities Fund; Caithness Sports Council and the Caithness & North Sutherland Fund. All were thank for their generosity and support.
- Thurso Community Hub was being established in Thurso to bring a closer working relationship between clubs

6. Constitution Revision

No revisions were proposed.

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 (Child Protection)	Gary Dunlop

For the remaining 5 vacancies, 7 nominations were made and a ballot was held. The following were confirmed as Committee members

Post	Name
Non – Executive	Neil Uprichard
Non – Executive	Sam Robinson
Non – Executive	Nancy Speirs
Non – Executive	John Speirs
Non – Executive	Ian Borland

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

8. Membership Fees and Equipment Fees

Membership Fees

Those present noted that the current Membership and agreed that there would be no change to these. The 2014 Membership Fees were confirmed as:

- 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 2014 this would remain at £5

9. 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.

There were no nominations.

[Secretary's Note: The Award was later given to John Speirs.

The Club had been requested to provide "safety" cover at the Boxing Day Dip with a Nip. The club volunteers remembered the previous event in 2011 when the only person needing assistance was "rescued" was an individual from another organisation also providing safety cover.

Of the Club rescue team went with John Speirs being one of the volunteers on the water. John decided to have a bit of a surf prior to the event and capsized a swam ashore and was "rescued" by the other members of the club safety cover team. All of this in front of over 200 people. Why did he capsize in a

small wave? John had not put his paddle together and it split in 2 when trying to brace onto the wave.]

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 Lawrence Muller

c) **Sea Voyager**

A Trophy donated 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 award to Ken Nicol for his Club trip to Eilean Nan Ron.

10. AOCB

- The members were reminded that 2014 was the 30th Anniversary of the Club
- The suggestion was made to consider organising a loch session aimed at beginners at the start of the Summer

B MacGregor closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report (2012 to 2013)

General

The Club is in good health with sound finances and an excellent set of equipment, boats. The winter pool & summer sessions have gone well with good turnouts, enthusiastic helpers and coaches.

Unfortunately I have been out of action for much of year and I am grateful to those who bore with me and chaired meetings or deputised for me.

Thank You

There are lots of willing helpers but special tanks are due to:

- Sam Robinson: Store and boat maintenance.*
- Sophie Muller: Coaching*
- Ken Nicol: As the Secretary he does most of the work involved in running the club and one of Scotland's most experienced sea paddlers. He manages to obtains grants which means we can keep our subscriptions down, don't have to spend lots of time fundraising.*
- Gary Stronach: Our Treasurer. An important task.*

Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection

The most important thing is that we don't injure anyone but after that it is absolutely essential we get this right and look after the safety of children and vulnerable adults. Gary Dunlop has stepped into take on the role of Child Protection Officer.

Membership

There is always a need to to encourage more newcomers to the club. My experience is people would love to do that but can't. Bring along your friends to try the sport.

Equipment

The Club purchased new equipment during the year including

- A new river kayak (Wavesport) for the pool. This was supported by a grant from the Caithness Sports Council*
- 2 sea kayaks (P&H Scorpions) purchased from Glenmore Lodge. This was supported by a grant of £200 from the Caithness Sports Council and £1000 from the Downreay Community Fund.*

Our thanks are due to these organisations for supporting the projects and to Ken Nicol for applying for the Grants.

Paddlesport Coach & Leadership Development Programme

Ken Nicol has obtained nearly £30,000 of funding from the Caithness and North Sutherland Fund for development of coaches and leaders over next 5 years.

This means that if you go on a coaching or skills training course recognised by SCA you can get 50% of the cost paid for through this project.

It is important that members make use of this!

Activities

The clubs activities are not just sea kayaking. There are river kayaking and surfing. However during the last year thye rivers low in winter and winds high during the summer which impacted on activities

We also have a open canoes which could be utilised more for instance evening paddle on lochs.

Training is offered in all.

30th Anniversary

2014 is the 30th anniversary of the Club. Please come forward with ideas on how to celebrate this occasion.

Ben MacGregor

Appendix 2: Accounts



Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2013

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance c/f	9,410.88	CSC	20.00
Subscriptions	854.00	SCA	50.00
Pool	385.00		
Equipment Hire	1,230.00	Equipment Maintenance	666.05
		Purchase	1,082.00
		Beach Hut	492.79
Donations			
DSRL	350.00	Insurance	564.12
Misc	6.00	Misc	324.00
Easy Fundraising	124.43	Website	57.40
Events		Gifts	218.69
AGM	485.25	AGM Dinner	481.15
		Trophys	12.35
Interest	39.99	Misc	
		Cash	339.65
		Bank	8,577.35
	12,885.55		12,885.55

G Stronach
Treasurer

K Nicol