

# PENTLAND CANOE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 November 2014 at Station Hotel, 54 Princess Street, Thurso.

## **Present:**

Nancy Speirs	Isobel Stronach	Henry Robinson
Ben MacGregor	Gary Stronach	Emma Summers
Neil Parkin	Ian Borland	Gary Dunlop
Marcelle Lockhart	Iona McLachlan	Roger Stuart
Thomas Robinson	Mike Grain	Sam Robinson
John Speirs		

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from: Ken Nicol; Rowland Shallcross (Hon Member) and Ken Nicol

## **2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM**

The minutes had previously been sent out to members prior to the meeting. It was noted that Roger Stuart's apologies should be added to the minutes. The minutes were proposed Nancy Speirs and approved by Ian Borland.

## **3. Chairperson's Report**

- The Chair recorded the passing away of one of our Founder members and Hon Members – Terry Jones. His contribution to the Club will continue through the Voyager Trophy.
- The Chair (B MacGregor) presented his report. A copy is given in Appendix 1.
- A query raised at this point re the age restriction on access to the coaching development fund and as to whether it was an external

restriction or club and if latter could it be changed. Chair/Treasurer unable to clearly ratify, so it was agreed it would be passed to 1st committee meeting to discuss.

#### **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 31 March 2014 the Club had £8411.22 in funds.

The current funds were reported as £8411.22 but the Club was due £1400 in grant aid for the Coach Development & Leadership Project bring the balance to approximately £9400.

The accounts were proposed by Mike Grain and seconded by Ian Borland.

Roger Stuart raised question as to why given clubs financial position that Club should consider an activity for the community, like sponsored beach clean in support of RNLI. There was a general feeling that this was a good idea but finally agreed that matter would be passed to committee.

#### **5. Constitution Revision**

##### **Proposal 1: Committee Suggestion - Amend Safety Rule 3a**

At a SCA Paddle-Ability Foundation training module the course tutor suggested that club constitutions should adopt the term personal floatation device rather than Buoyancy aids. This would then give Club's flexibility to use a lifejackets if this was more appropriate for an individual with a disability.

Change

- a. Buoyancy aids of a design approved by the BCU/SCA MUST be worn at all times at club events, except pool sessions.

To

- a. **Personal Floatation Device (Buoyancy Aid or Life Jacket)** MUST be worn at all times at club events, except pool sessions. **The preference is**

for the use of buoyancy aids but recognise that for some individuals with an impairment a lifejacket maybe more appropriate.

The suggestion was made that for clarity “water based” should be inserted before “club events.

The meeting accepted the proposal

**Proposal 2: Secretary Suggestion - Amend 3. Safety Rule 3b**

The club has both kayaks and canoes. The suggestion is to amend the rule to refer to kayaks. The use of helmets whilst canoeing is variable (like sea kayaking) and should be left to the desecration of the coach / leader.

Change

- b. Crash hats of a design approved by the BCU/SCA MUST be worn whilst surfing and canoeing on rivers.

To

- b. ***Helmets*** of a design approved by the BCU/SCA MUST be worn whilst surfing and ***kayaking*** on rivers. ***The use of helmets whilst canoeing or sea kayaking) will be decided by the coach / leader taking into the risks associated with the activity.***

I was noted that the word “account” should be inserted before “the risks...”

The meeting accepted the proposal.

## 6. Election of Committee

A number nominations had been received by the Secretary prior to the meeting.

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, 5 nominations had been received by the Secretary.

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

Nominations for committee were accepted. It was agreed to co-opt the following onto the Committee:

- Ian Borland difficult to get full attendance with shift patterns/location of various members.
- Thomas Robinson as a youth representative was

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

The meeting was informed that the 2014 Membership were

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

Those present agreed the 2015 Membership Fees as:

- Adult: £38 ( SCA members: £34)
- Family: £55 (limited to 2 adults and 2 youths under 18) (SCA members: £50)
- Youth /Full Time Education /Unemployed: £25 (SCA members: £23)
- Associate: £13

### Equipment Fees

These are currently set at £5. The membership agreed that for 2015 this would be £5 and double rate for non-members

## 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.*

The recipient for the award was Thomas Robinson

### b) Improver

*The award was first presented in 1991 and is given to an individual whom is considered to have improved their canoeing skills during the year. The recipient of the award was decided by the Club Committee.*

The recipient for the award was Iona McLachlan

c) **Sea Voyager**

*The trophy was 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 / trip of the year.*

*In considering the recipient, the Committee considers the number of people who took part and the “enjoyment” due to weather, exploring, scenery and distance*

This was award to Ben MacGregor for the Club 30th Anniversary trip to the stacks of Duncansby. The trip had a mix of past and present members of the Club.

**9. AOCB**

Roger Stuart suggested that the Club should build a formal link with Caithness Kayak Club. He spoke about historic links and how the PCC came into being.

General discussion was held on the need to create more trip leaders and action put on committee to encourage up take of funding to do this.

Vote of thanks given by Mike Grain to executive & committee/helpers for all their efforts in running club over last year.

B MacGregor closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

## *Appendix 1: Chairman's Report (2013 to 2014)*

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30th anniversary year. Sees club in good heart.  
Good year for paddling. Many sea trips mostly led by Ken.

A trip to Skye in excellent weather, paddled round the Ord area, from Kyleakin to Plockton & even round Eilean Donan Castle.  
Also Dunnet Head, Duncansby Head, Stroma, east coast, good paddles on Thursday evening including a rather high river Thurso at Halkirk & the choppy seas between Portskerry & Melvich. Requires more organisation but worth doing.

January river trip from Halkirk to Thurso.

Some members doing decidedly hair-raising river trips on west coast rivers in spate.

A highlight was the successful & enjoyable 30th anniversary celebrations at Freswick Castle, barbie organised by Nancy, presentation to Ken of Ian Pearson's glass sculpture & also to Isobel Stronach, several past members present, most also took part in and enjoyed a paddle up to the Duncansby Stacks and Ken took out the beginners for a shorter paddle & led 'come & try' sessions. Thanks to all who worked to make this such a success.

Very good that so many members are keen to encourage beginners who range in age from 12(?) or 14 to 74! Give up time to coach and teach on Thursday evenings in pool.  
Pool sessions going very well, seems to suit everybody that we have the whole evening from 7-15 till 9-15. We can lobby that the pool opening hours be kept the same in proposed council cuts.

Some very keen younger paddlers coming on, also older people. Good to see folk getting into & enjoying such a great sport.

Thanks especially to Sam & sons for so much work on the hut and looking after the boats and putting boats away/getting out on Thursday nights. Manning door. Thanks to all who help out with tasks such as washing & moving boats.

Thanks to Ken who runs the club, it would fall apart without him, don't forget that Ken can train and assess to 5-star level, one of Scotland's top sea-kayakers, also well qualified on rivers & open canoes. Continues to obtain funding for new boats & training. Ken looks after an enormous amount of admin and dealings with SCA and other bodies.

Thanks to Gary for the mundane but essential work of keeping the finances in good order & looking after the membership lists and documentation, quite a lot of admin is essential here in view of safety requirements.

Qualifications. Talk about star awards and need for more 4-star or 5-star qualified paddlers. Also coaches. Could organise level 1 training

locally IF could get a group of people willing to commit 2 weekends.  
There is a large pool of funding available - make use of it!

Club has excellent stock of equipment.  
Need more members. Advertise! Tell others!

Nominations. Please nominate chairman, a new chairman would be good for club after 3 years. Not a lot of work, secretary does most!  
Look forward maybe to some river trips, sea trips and another good year of paddling!

*Ben MacGregor*

## Appendix 2: Accounts



### Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2014

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance o/f	8,917.00	CSC	20.00
Subscriptions	614.00	SCA	115.00
Pool	286.00	Refund Subscription	48.00
Equipment Resale	400.00	Equipment Maintenance	655.86
Hire	749.00	Purchase	2,335.85
		Bench Hut	72.99
Club Clothing	338.00	Club Clothing	0.00
Grants		Repaid Training Grants	720.13
CSC	400.00		
Donations		Insurance	578.95
Dounreay Communities Fund	1,000.00		
SSKS	180.00	Gifts	44.96
Easy Fundraising	105.52	AGM Trophys	12.35
		Misc	15.00
Interest	40.79	Cash	
		Bank	8,411.22
	13,030.31		13,030.31

*G Stronach*  
G Stronach  
Treasurer

*K Nicol*  
K Nicol  
Secretary