

PENTLAND CANOE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 November 2015 at Station Hotel, 54 Princes Street, Thurso.

Present:

Nancy Speirs	Isobel Stronach	Iona McLachlan
Ben MacGregor	Paul Gaffney	Emma Summers
Neil Parkin	Mike Grain	Anne Grain
John Speirs	Ken Nicol	Sam Robinson
Thomas Robinson	Gary Stronach	

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Gary Dunlop; Rowland Shallcross (Hon Member); Simon Copsey (Hon Member); Roger Stuart (Hon Member), Fiona Watson and Neil Uprichard

2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM

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

3. Chairperson'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 31 March 2015 the Club had £6627.12 in funds. Since this date, a number of outstanding grants had been claimed and paid.

The accounts were proposed by Ben MacGregor and seconded by Mike Grain.

K Nicol highlighted that in future years, obtaining funding may become more challenging, especially from those sources supported by the Highland Council. There was a short discussion on fund raising, and the it was agreed to reissue the note on how members could support the Club through easyfundraising.

5. Constitution Revision

Proposal 1: Secretary Suggestion – Insert Signed declaration

Proposal to Insert a Signature sheet into the Constitution

Justification: Some Funders are now looking for this.

The meeting accepted the proposal

Proposal 2: Secretary Suggestion – Insert New Paragraph Chairperson Appointments

Proposal to Insert New Paragraph (after Paragraph 5f)

“The Chair would normally be eligible for appointment of upto 3 consecutive years.”

Justification: This was suggested by the Chair at the 2014 AGM

Following a discussion, proposal was revised to:

“The Chair would normally serve a maximum of 3 consecutive years.”

The meeting accepted the revised proposal.

Proposal 3: Secretary Suggestion – Insert New on Chairperson Duties

Proposal to Insert New Paragraph after Section 7

“Chairperson’s Duties

It shall be the Chairperson's duty to chair both Club and committee meetings. The Chairperson will normally be the spokesperson of the Club and shall prepare a report of the of the Club's activities for the AGM. "

Justification: the Constitution has duties for the Secretary and the Treasurer but not the Chairperson.

The meeting accepted the proposal.

A question was raised about ensuring that individual were aware of the most the Constitution. K Nicol explained that the most recent version was available on the website and they were all dated along with the version number. After a short discussion, it was agreed that an Agenda item would to the AGMs to record the current version of the Constitution.

6. Election of 2016 Committee

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

The members agreed to the following serving on the Committee from 1 January 2016:

Post	Name
Chair	Neil Parkin
Secretary	Ken Nicol
Treasurer	Gary Stronach
Non - Executive (Child Protection)	Gary Dunlop

For the remaining 5 vacancies, 6 nominations had been received by the Secretary. It was agreed that all 6 should serve on the Committee to ensure that there was a sufficient attendance at meetings. To achieve this one would be co-opted as per the Constitution

Post	Name
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Non – Executive	Neil Uprichard
Non – Executive	Sam Robinson
Non – Executive	Nancy Speirs
Non – Executive	John Speirs
Non – Executive	Emma Summers
Non – Executive (Co-opted)	Ben Macgregor
Auditor	Agreed to ask Gary Youngson

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 2015 Membership were

- 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

Those present agreed the 2016 Membership Fees as:

- Adult: £40 (SCA members: £35)
- Family: £60 (limited to 2 adults and 2 youths under 18) (SCA members: £55)
- Youth /Full Time Education /Unemployed: £25 (SCA members: £23)
- Associate: £13

Equipment Fees

These are currently set at £5. The membership agreed that for 2016 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 Ben MacGregor

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 Gary Youngson.

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 awarded to Ben MacGregor

9. AOCB

A question was raised on the erosion at the esplanade, adjacent to the club store. Those present were informed that this was the responsibility of the Council and as such the Club did not want to take on the repair of this in case

of liability claims which may be made by members of the public who could be injured at a later date.

B MacGregor closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and to S Robinson for organising the venue.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report (2014 to 2015)

A lot has happened in the club over the last year. The club is in a healthy shape, the finances are sound, we have around 30 members perhaps half of whom are active members. We could certainly do with more but we have a good mix of ages from youngsters to pensioners. We have an excellent stock of equipment and boats, largely due to Ken's effort in securing funding so that the costs to the club of acquiring this has been small.

Thanks to all those who worked hard on Thursday evenings and trips especially Ken & Sam - who always goes the extra mile. Some keen new beginners coming on as well as improvers. A huge amount of work has been put in by Ken in encouraging new paddlers. We do need more coaches and leaders to take the load off Ken.

Equipment

This year we acquired four new kayaks, 2 Pyranha karnalis and 2 Pyranha fusions. The karnalis are river boats which are used in the pool for larger paddlers, the fusions can be used for larger paddlers for sea-kayaking in relatively sheltered water. Ken applied for and received £1846 from the Bailie Wind Farm Community Fund, £500 from the Dounreay Communities Fund and £450 from the Caithness Sports Council.

Ken also took the opportunity to purchase some new paddles which are seconds at short notice. The paddles are 2 carbon sea paddles, 1 carbon / glass general purpose paddle. The RRP of these is about £250-£300 each and we obtained them for £60.00 each plus a free one which is suitable as a split paddle.

Protecting Vulnerable Groups

Thanks to Gary Dunlop our child protection officer for sorting out the disclosure of the committee and all the helpers, anyone who works with children or vulnerable adults must be 'disclosed' and this involves quite a lot

of bureaucracy and paperwork. Getting this right is absolutely essential in this day and age, thanks again to Gary.

Club Stores

Sam Robinson has put in a great deal of work in looking after our club hut as well as repairing boats, you may have seen a kayak taking up space in his shop for weeks while it was waiting for new skeg components. He has kept the shed painted, has painted the internal beams with anti-corrosion paint and did a lot of work clearing stones from around the hut after the storms. There is a threat though to the hut from undermining by waves and the council are not interested in doing anything about it. The committee decided that our best option is simply to keep an eye on things and move the boats out if need-be.

Thanks to all who help with the spring and autumn boat and equipment 'migration' between the hut, the swimming pool and Ken's store in Halkirk. Quite a lot of hard work is involved here, cleaning boats in the autumn, keeping an inventory of kit and moving boats around. Ken again is responsible for all the organisation.

The swimming pool modifications will allow us to store our boats in the main pool building which will be an enormous help, thanks to everyone in the meantime who helps with the difficult job of transferring them from the container to the pool and back on Thursday evenings. The pool though is likely to be closed for 6-8 weeks in the New Year which means we will lose much of our winter training session, we need perhaps to do an accelerated programme for the new beginners.

We have a number of keen new paddlers coming to the pool, of all ages, we must do our very best to encourage them and keep them keen.

Trips

On the paddling front, weather has meant some cancellations but quite a few good days out.

Season began with an icy paddle from Brough to Harrow on 28 December, fine sunshine but cold!

There were one or two short river days around Halkirk but mostly the weather was unsuitable for river trips.

A joint watersports open day event with Pentland Firth Yacht Club was very successful and this has encouraged some new paddlers.

Ken Nicol was almost the sole organiser of sea trips this year. Mostly Sundays, Saturday trips sometimes hopefully next season!

- 21 June: Paddle with NESKy club from Sarclet to Lybster.
- 27/28 June 2015: Scourie Trip
- 11 July 2015: Freswick Castle paddle, a joint event with the Caithness Kayak Club. from Freswick to John O groats round Duncansby Head in moderate seas with an easier paddle from Auckengill to Freswick.
- Cromarty Firth trip
- Canoeing (some sailing) in Loch Calder.

A Canoeing event in the boating pond provided good publicity and has attracted some new paddlers, thanks again to Ken and all who helped with this.

Several other short sea trips on the east and north coast were enjoyed were enjoyed by the club

Thursday evenings, people were keen in spite of some very cold weather in the spring. Ken has done tremendous work in coaching and bringing on the beginners.

My view is that in addition to the usual paddles to Holburn Head and round the rocks we need to put more effort into training experienced paddlers as

well as beginners and this year I hope a group of the more experienced people will be prepared to get wet practising skills in wind and choppy water!

Courses and Training

Ken put on, for the club, a BCU foundation module on swimming pools and paddlesport and a foundation safety and rescue course.

Ken organises & does most of the work involved in running the club, you realise this when you see the 100's of emails he sends out in the year. He also has produced very good club newsletters which let members know what is happening.

We do need more 4 & 5star paddlers and qualified coaches, I tried my hardest this year for my 4-star sea but failed! Congratulations to Neil Uprichard on achieving his 4-star whitewater.

I've been chair for 4 years which is too long, for the good of the club a new chairperson is needed, the amended constitution recommends no more than a three-year term., So I'll be looking to nominations for a new chairperson!

Ben MacGregor

Appendix 2: Accounts



**PENTLAND
CANOE CLUB**

Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2015

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance o/f	8,411.22	CSC	20.00
Subscriptions	720.00	SCA	122.50
Pool	225.00		
Equipment Hire	989.50	Equipment Maintenance	
		Purchase	2,975.00
		Beach Hut	82.80
Grants/Donations		Repaid Training Grants	1,110.09
Downreay Communities Fund	500.00	Training Courses	185.00
CNSF - Development Grants	1,439.84		
Scouts	10.00	Insurance	608.64
Easy Fundraising	55.19	Website	69.40
		Misc	
		Banners Banners	320.00
		30th Anniversary Celebration	271.92
Interest	41.72	Cash	
		Bank	6,627.12
	12,392.47		12,392.47

G Stronach
Treasurer

G Stronach

K Nicol
Secretary

K Nicol