

PENTLAND CANOE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 November 2016 at Community Education Offices, Miller Academy, Prince's Street, Thurso.

Present:

Ken Nicol	Sam Robinson	Nancy Speirs
John Speirs	Gerald Urquhart	Neil Parkin
Ben MacGregor	Gary Youngson	Marcella Thompson
Fiona Watson	Richard Bolton	Emma Summers
Christine Deighan	Mike Grain	Anne Grain

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Gary Dunlop; Gary Stronach; Sue Rainbow

2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

The minutes had previously been sent out to members prior to the meeting. The minutes were proposed Neil Parkin and seconded by Mike Grain.

3. Chairperson's Report

The Chair (N Parkin) presented his report. A copy is given in Appendix 1. There were no questions.

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 2016 the Club had £10166.15 in funds. The accounts were accepted by those present.

Following a question, the Secretary stated that it would be reasonable to expect the available funding from the Caithness Sports Council to decrease in future years.

It was noted that at 25 October 2016 the accounts totalled £9933.84.

5. Constitution Revision

The Secretary stated that there were no revisions to the Club Constitution proposed. The meeting noted that the current version of the Constitution was Issue 11 dated 21 November 2016.

6. Election of 2016 Committee

A number nominations had been received by the Secretary prior to the meeting. These were: Christine Deighan; Ben MacGregor; Ken Nicol; Neil Parkin; Sam Robinson; Nancy Speirs; John Speirs; Gary Stronach; Emma Summers.

The members agreed to the following serving on the Committee from 1 January 2017:

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

For the remaining 5 vacancies, 5 nominations had been received by the Secretary. Consequently, all 5 were elected onto the Committee

To achieve this one would be co-opted as per the Constitution

Post	Name
Non – Executive	Ben Macgregor
Non – Executive	Sam Robinson
Non – Executive	Nancy Speirs

Non – Executive	John Speirs
Non – Executive	Christine Deighan
Auditor	To be agreed by the new committee

It proposed that Christine Deighan would act a “new paddler Rep.”

The suggestion was made and accepted to approach Neil Uprichard to be a Co-opted member acting as the Rep for North Sutherland Members.

7. Membership Fees and Equipment Fees

Membership Fees

The meeting was informed that the 2016 Membership were

- 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

The Treasurer had proposed that the Adult and Family Memberships were increased by £5, in order to cover the annual running costs (insurance and membership fees). Following a discussion, those present agreed the 2017 Membership Fees as:

- Adult: £50 (SCA members: £45)
- Family: £75 (limited to 2 adults and 2 youths under 18) (SCA members: £65)
- Youth /Full Time Education /Unemployed: £25 (SCA members: £23)
- Associate: £13

Equipment Fees

These are currently set at £5. The membership agreed that for 2017 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 Ken Nicol

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 Emma Summers.

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 Ken Nicol

9. AOCB

A question was raised on when the winter pool sessions would resume. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Swimming Pool Management were expecting the refurbishment work to be completed by the end of December 2016 with the intention of reopening to the public on 16 January 2017. Any delay to the completion work would impact on the reopening date.

Neil Parkin closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report (2015 to 2016)

The club has been very active over the last year. With positive numbers attending sessions, with at least one evening session with 21 boats on the water. The club is in a good position and the finances are in a buoyant state. There is a good core of active paddlers who have participated in Club activities. The Club also has a healthy stock of paddling equipment.

The club also made Murray Watts an Honorary member as recognition for his generous hospitality for the use of the idyllic setting of Freswick Castle again this year.

The Secretary does a massive amount of work to keep the club running so smooth, from arranging funding to organising the majority of the trips and keeping everyone informed by sending out the numerous emails.

Equipment

This year the Club purchased equipment valued at over £1500. This was to purchase a second-hand Nordkapp sea kayak and four storage racks to be used in the new pool store. The money collected at the evening and pool sessions contributed towards these purchases.

The Club also sold three old general purpose kayaks for which the Club received £300.

Thank you 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, but hopefully this will be made easier by the new pool storage area once the pool reopens.

A special thanks to Sam Robinson for maintaining the kayaks throughout the year.

Funding

Again our Secretary has been working tirelessly to secure funding for the club throughout the year. Funding was successfully secured from the Caithness Sports Council for the purchase of the sea kayak and storage racks. Our appreciation for their support is appreciated by the Club.

Protecting Vulnerable Groups

Thank you 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

The Cub has 2 stores (the Beach Store, and a container at Thurso Swimming Pool. Sam Robinson has put in a great deal of work in looking after the Club stores. He has kept the shed painted, filled cracks in the masonry, has painted the internal beams with anti-corrosion paint, stripped and recoated the container by the Swimming pool and cleared a load of waste material from around the container none of which was the clubs. A big thank you to Sam.

The threat to the hut from undermining by waves is still a big issue and the council are not interested in doing anything about it. The committee decided that our best option is to create a natural sea defence out of beach boulders and stones. A request has been made to the Highland Council to look at this.

With the refurbishment of the Thurso Swimming Pool Complex, the Club has been given storage in the complex. This will save the transportation of the equipment in and out of the pool each evening. The Club is grateful to the pool management and Highlife Highland for this storage.

The plan is that the Beach store will be used mainly for the sea and surf kayaks; the container for the open canoes; and the box trailer for the river kayaks. With the pool kayaks being stored in the swimming pool complex.

Events

On the paddling front, the weather has been reasonably fair with very few cancellations due to bad weather.

Big thanks to all who helped out on Thursday evening's, day trips and special organised events. There have been a number of the newer members showing vast improvements and a few first timers attending over the summer season. Thursday evenings, people were keen in spite of some very cold weather in the spring. Ken and Sam do tremendous work in coaching and bringing on the beginners.

There was one river day. Canoeing down the River Thurso from Halkirk to Thurso, but mostly the weather was unsuitable for river trips during the Winter months

A number of trips took place including:

- A weekend over at Scourie
- Trips along the North and East Coasts
- A trip to Stroma
- Some members even tried a bit of canoe sailing on Loch Watten.
- A group went around Dunnet Head on an unusually calm day and even managed to touch the most northerly point on the UK mainland.
- And a slightly rougher trip from Melvich to Armadale.

There was also the "annual" outing to Freswick Castle. A paddle followed by tea in the Castle. The weather was mixed, but the group managed a short paddle. Thank you to Ben MacGregor for organising this event again this year.

The club attended a Family Fun Day ran by DSRL. It was very successful and this has encouraged some new paddlers to put their interest forward in attending the pool sessions. Thank you to all who helped out on the day.

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

Courses and Training

As the pool modifications continue we have lost a considerable amount of our winter training sessions, in light of this we will need a focused approach to get the new beginners ready for the start of the new open water season. 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.

Ken Nicol ran a number of British Canoeing (BC) courses for the club. These have included a Foundation Safety and Rescue Training course and a Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning course. An Open Water Navigational & Tidal Planning course is scheduled for December

A number of members completed a variety of BC awards these included:

- 1 Star: Sue Rainbow; Christine Deighan; Marcella Thompson, John Clough and Gary Youngson
- 3 Star (Open Canoe): Gerald Urquhart
- 4 Star Leader (Sea): Gerald Urquhart
- 4 Star Leader (Open Canoe): Ken Nicol

Additionally, Sam Robinson attended a UKCC L2 Coach Training course and will be looking for individuals to coach before his final assessment.

We hope that these individual will continue to gain further awards.

The club still needs more qualified coaches and higher star level paddlers. The Club has Funding from the Caithness & North Sutherland Fund to help individuals gain certain qualifications

I feel it would be good to look at developing the skill level of some of the newer members over the next year in more challenging conditions as this would give them the insight and flavour for possibly attending courses to gain a star grade or the confidence to look into coaching or leading roles.

Well I have been Chairman for the past year and would like to thank you for your support and patience.

Neil Parkin

Appendix 2: Accounts



Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2016

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance o/f	6,627.12	CSC	20.00
Subscriptions	818.00	SCA	135.00
Pool	173.00	Refund Subscription	34.00
Equipment Resale	400.00	Equipment Maintenance	272.22
Hire	895.00	Purchase	1,170.00
Club Clothing		Club Store Maintenance	177.78
Grants		Repaid Training Grants	2,075.13
CNSP - Training Fund	2,812.49	Insurance	630.31
Caithness Sports Council (Kayaks 2015)	450.00	Website	59.40
Baillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (Kayaks)	1,846.00	Gifts	
Spirit of Caithness (Buoyancy Aids)	600.00	AGM Trophys	14.40
Caithness Sports Council (Buoyancy Aids)	450.00	Misc	
Donations	27.00	Cash Bank	10,577.91
Easy Fundraising	25.35		
Interest	42.19		
	15,166.15		15,166.15

G Stronach
Treasurer
Gary Stronach
14-11-16

J Ridgley
Reviewer
Jackie Ridgley
13-11-16

K Nicol
Secretary
K Nicol
17 Nov 2016