

PENTLAND CANOE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 November 2020 held be via video conferencing

Present:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Ken Nicol | Thomas McAlonan | Nancy Speirs |
| John Speirs | Ian Borland | Neil Parkin |
| Bradley Morrell | Louise Litchfield | Emma Summers |
| Mark Cleminson | Iain Baikie | Anne Grain |
| David Shand | Mike Grain | Ishbel Smith |
| Ben MacGregor | Christine Deighan | Gary Stronach |

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Carolyn Castle; Paul Castle; Gary Youngson

2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The draft minutes had previously been sent out to members prior to the meeting.

The minutes were proposed Gary Stronach and seconded by Iain Baikie

3. Chairperson's Report

The Chair (N Parkin) presented his report. A copy is given in Appendix 1. A special thanks was given to Gary Stronach for continuing to manage the Club finances

There were no questions.

4. Treasurers Report

The Treasurer gave an overview of the accounts. A copy is attached in Appendix 2 (copy attached). As of 31 March 2020, the Club had £18529.45 in funds.

The accounts were accepted by those present.

It was noted that at the time of the AGM, the accounts totalled £17,486.09. It was noted that the funds were distributed as follows:

- Pool Equipment Fund: £ £4,115.96
- General Equipment Fund: £ 8,057.02
- General Fund: £ 5,313.11

In early 2021, a claim to the CNSF will be made which should result in an income of approximately £2400 with a net income of £1750 after payments.

5. Constitution Revision

The Secretary stated that there were no proposals to amend the Club Constitution.

The meeting noted that current version of the Constitution was Issue 12 dated 28 November 2017.

6. Election of 2021 Committee

A number nominations had been received by the Secretary prior to the meeting. These were: Neil Parkin (Chair); Sam Robinson; Gary Stronach (Treasurer); Emma Summers (CPO), Gary Youngson, Louise Litchfield, John Speirs, Nancy Speirs and Christine Deighan. All agreed to serve on the Committee.

The members agreed to the following serving on the Committee from 1 January 2021:

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

| Post | Name |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Non – Executive | Gary Youngson |
| Non – Executive | John Speirs |
| Non – Executive | Nancy Speirs |
| Non – Executive | Christine Deighan |
| Non – Executive | Sam Robinson |
| Independent Accounts Examiner | To be agreed by the new committee |

Louise Litchfield to be on the Committee and was co-opted on.

7. Membership Fees and Equipment Fees

Membership Fees

The meeting was informed that the 2020 Membership Fees were

- 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

Following a discussion, those present agreed the 2021 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 (under 14)

However, due to the COVID restrictions during 2020, those present agreed to extend individuals 2020 membership to 31 December 2021.

Equipment Fees

These are currently set at £5. The membership agreed that for 2020 this would be £5 and double rate for non-members (£10).

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.

Nominations:

Gary Youngson

For his flying paddle board! Couldn't ever have envisaged such an outcome. He just managed to miss Ken Nicol but landed the board on Ken's Board

Gerald Urquhart

The group had packed their kayaks for an overnight trip up the East Coast of Skye. All everyone was ready. All that had to be done was the van shuttle. A 2-hour event. After the shuttle, everyone was ready to go – oh dear Gerald had left his spraydeck in his which was now at the end of the trip. Never mind, Neil Parkin has been getting ready for his SKL assessment and had a spare and saved the day.

Ian Borland

On the Freswick paddle, there was in a narrow slot near Bucholie Castle. Ian went to go through the gap and reached out to the cliff wall to push himself along with his hands. Unfortunately, the wall was a little further away than Ian thought, and he fell in. He was towed out and rescued by John Speirs.

Gary Youngson

Gary and most of his small paddling group were capsized by a big breaker near Brims, which they didn't see it coming. Detail on the event is "scarce" but the wave ripped the radio off his buoyancy aid and he was lucky to recover it floating in the water.

Neil Parkin

After spending months preparing for his sea kayak leader assessment, the big day arrived. The group met at Talmine and time to get ready and pack the kayaks. Neil found out that all his equipment (Buoyancy aid, drysuit etc) was not in his van. He had left all at home. Stress levels increased. Fortunately, he had a spare drysuit and managed to borrow equipment of others. At least the assessment was successful

The recipient for the award was Neil **Parkin**

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 **Lauren Disbury**.

c) **Sea Voyage Trophy**

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 his Freswick Castle trip

9. **AOCB**

Ken Nicol reminded those present

- that funding was still available from the Paddlesport Coach and Leadership Development Programme. Following a question, K Nicol confirmed that funding for first aid was available under the programme.

- The SCA Club Volunteer Conference should be in April 2021 (depending on COVID) and those interested in attending may be eligible for support via the Paddlesport Coach and Leadership Development Programme.

There was no other business

Neil Parkin closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report (2019 to 2020)

Chairman's Report (2019 to 2020)

The club's winter pool sessions were well attended, with numerous new people attending. Then just as we were in the transition from Pool sessions to the open water sessions, the country had to go into lockdown.

This proposed many new challenges to individuals and clubs alike.

The committee and coaches have put in a lot of work to try and keep the club active as possible in these difficult times. Unfortunately, this has had a big impact on what we were able to provide to our members. We are currently working with HLH and Thurso Leisure Center to resume the winter pool sessions. (I would just like to thank them both for their support)

In spite of the difficult year club is in a good position and the finances are in a buoyant state.

Ken (Nicol) The Club Secretary does a massive amount of work to keep the club running so smooth, from arranging funding and keeping everyone informed by sending out the numerous emails and communications. (Thank you for your continued efforts).

Equipment

The sea equipment is in storage for the winter season.

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

Funding

The Club still have some funding to help members with attending training courses from the Caithness & North Sutherland Fund to help individuals gain certain qualifications this is only open until the end of 2021.

Protecting Vulnerable Groups

Thank you to Emma Summers, our child protection officer, for sorting out the disclosure of the committee, coaches and all the helpers, anyone who works with children or vulnerable adults must be 'disclosed' and this involves a lot of work ensuring as a club we keep everything up to date. Getting this right is absolutely essential in this day and age, thanks again to Emma.

Club Stores

The Cub has 3 stores (the Beach Store, a container at Thurso Swimming Pool and the internal store in the renovated Leisure Centre. Sam Robinson has put in a great deal of work in looking after the Club stores and equipment. He has kept on top of the maintenance throughout the year and has identified that some work will need to be done on the pool container after the winter. (A big thank you to Sam Robinson).

Events

It has been a difficult year for organising group paddles. However, a few independent members did manage to get out on the water in pairs or small groups and the Government guidance allowed.

We did manage to get a few outdoor evening sessions. These unfortunately had to be restricted to members that had some open water paddling experience, due to the social distancing measures in place.

Big thanks to all who helped on Thursday evening's and those who assisted in all the behind-the-scenes production of risk assessments and keeping abreast of the ever-changing SCA COVID guidance.

A number of trips took place including:

- Armadale to Bettyhill.
- Portskerra to Armadale
- A favourite of mine Latheronwheel to Dunbeath

Just to name a few.

There was also the "annual" outing to Freswick Castle. Thank you to Ben MacGregor for organising this event again this year. Again, the format had to be modified this year, but it was still very enjoyable if a bit challenging trip on the water for some.

Courses and Training

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

- Sam Robinson, Mark Cleminson, Mike Grain, John Speirs, Ben MacGregor, Iain Baikie and myself for attending the Sea Leader Training course and to John, Iain, Ben & myself for passing their Sea Leader Assessment. Bradley Morrell attended an Advanced Sea Kayak Leader training.

A special thank you to Ben for all the organising of the training and Assessment.

- Ken Nicol, Christine Deighan, Gary Youngson, Nancy & John Speirs, Emma Summers, Marcella Thompson for attending the SUP (Stand Up Paddle boarding) Course.

- Numerous coaches carrying out the online COVID Officer Training and to Gary Youngson for taking up the role as COVID Officer for the club.

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

The club can always benefit from more qualified coaches and skilled paddlers. The Club has Funding from the Caithness & North Sutherland Fund to help individuals gain certain qualifications

As Chairman for the past year and would like to thank you for your support through such a difficult year and look forward to adapting and getting members back out on the water in the months to come.

Neil Parfin

Appendix 2: Accounts



Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2020

| Income | £ | Expenditure | £ |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Balance c/f | 16,319.70 | CSC | 20.00 |
| Subscriptions | 1,503.00 | SCA | 110.00 |
| Pool | 470.63 | Refund Subscription | 42.00 |
| SCA Discount | | | |
| Equipment Resale | | Equipment Maintenance | 501.36 |
| Hire | 1,065.00 | Purchase | |
| | | Beach Hut | |
| Club Clothing | 457.00 | Club Clothing | 378.79 |
| Grants | | | |
| CANSF - Training | 1,473.06 | Repaid Training Grants | 1,317.05 |
| SCA Course Fees | 490.00 | SCA Courses | 860.00 |
| Donations | 20.00 | Insurance | |
| | | Website | 95.40 |
| | | Gifts | |
| Easy Fundraising | 72.44 | AGM Trophys | 17.15 |
| Interest | 0.37 | Portskerra Harbour Fees | |
| | | Cash | |
| | | Bank | 18,529.45 |
| | 21,871.20 | | 21,871.20 |

G Stronach
Treasurer

G Stronach
29/10/2020

J Ridgley
Examiner

J. A. Ridgley
29-10-20

K Nicol
Secretary

Open Balance

| | £ |
|-----------|------------------|
| Pool | 3,655.96 |
| Equipment | 7,153.94 |
| General | 5,509.80 |
| | <u>16,319.70</u> |

Closing Balance

| | £ |
|-----------|------------------|
| Pool | 4,126.59 |
| Equipment | 7,917.02 |
| General | 6,485.84 |
| | <u>18,529.45</u> |