

Skye Sailing Club

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12th March 2020

Presiding	Mr Hugh MacDonald	
Present	15 members	
Apologies	Leslie Kirkwood, Elaine Ferguson, Tim Weir, Willie MacGillivray, Chloe Urquhart, Dave Liley	
Item	Description	Action
1	At 7.00pm the Chairman welcomed those present in the clubhouse	
2.	<p>The minutes of the previous AGM were circulated and duly adopted being proposed by Angus Ross, and seconded by Jasper Buxton.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	

3	<p>Commodore's Report</p> <p>Welcome everybody. It's good to see so many people here, especially given the weather. One day it might stop raining, you never know. There are times when I wish for a serious tugboat to tow this little island of ours a little further south.</p> <p>Last year as you all know was quite tricky; the weather was not in our favour at all and we managed very few of our normal fixtures, especially when it came to the bigger boats. We put the masts up on the 6th of April hoping for fair weather which never came. Our P7 taster days were a success and enjoyed by all, even those who got soaked. Our thanks are due to Sarah Ross and Highlife Highland.</p> <p>We pushed the boat out in mid-May on a strange day when there was too much wind at first and it was a little cold early in the morning, but by lunch time the sun was shining and all-told we had an exceptional good day before the wind died altogether.</p> <p>Our courses went well, and it was great to have a new batch of younger instructors. It was also good to see Jennifer getting involved in the committee. We need a younger influence. We tried to run a Gaelic course but unfortunately that did not go ahead; however, we are going to try again this year.</p>	
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Skye Sailing Club

	<p>Course dates for this year are already posted on our website so please encourage as many as you can to sign up. With Angus's encouragement we continued to try very hard to run club Saturday sailing sessions. Again, this was hampered by the weather. There was either too much wind, too little wind, or no-one available to run the session.</p> <p>The Skye Games dinghy races were held on the Monday before the games on a pleasant evening but with somewhat tricky conditions and not enough wind. My son-in-law took the honours with the senior trophy. Archie MacLean won the Sandy Rankine trophy for the best youth performance (by the skin of his teeth he would have been 16 the following week I believe). Incidentally one of the highlights of the year for me was watching Archie sailing one evening while I was attending to housekeeping on my own boat. His skill was a very obvious testament to the quality of Dave's teaching.</p> <p>We failed to run the Vice Admiral's cup until August, in fact the 24th. The race was convincingly won by Calum Matheson and Roxanne. We were lucky to have some of the boats from the South attend for that day and a number of younger cadet sailors from the club crewed over the three races held in the afternoon.</p> <p>All in All 2019 was not one of the better years for sailing in Portree. We only managed one big boat race with all of the other fixtures being cancelled either because of the weather or a lack of competitors. Numerous evening sessions had to be cancelled because of the weather. I hope that 2020 may be a much better year for us. It has to be since it has been raining since the beginning of December.</p> <p>I would like to thank all the parents, instructors, fellow committee members, and especially Dave, for their hard work over the year.</p> <p>Your committee have decided that the person this year who is most deserving because of his long-standing involvement and especially in helping getting this club house built is Steve Cox and it is to Steve to whom we wish to give the Leslie Kirkwood to cuach for 2019.</p> <p>Today we have a treat which I am much looking forward to. Ian's mother is going to talk about her family and their involvement with the J class yachts in the 1920's. I have an account written by my first cousin twice removed of his Fastnet win in 1926</p>	
4.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The draft accounts have been prepared by CSM for the year ending 31 October 2019.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cont'd.....</p>	

Skye Sailing Club

Treasurer's Report Contd.

Overall the accounts report income of £13,336 and expenditure of £18,670 with a net deficit of £5,334 compared to £4,750. This is skewed by the fact that income was received 2 years prior from Coastal Communities Fund and is only now being spent. In particular this is a new outboard motor that was purchased for one of the RHIBs.

Looking at unrestricted funds alone, we had a small deficit of £848 this year, compared to £3,193 the previous year. This is a better reflection of our operating costs. As usual our main costs are staff wages and insurance and income is from membership fees, sailing courses and commercial courses.

We have worked hard this year to ensure we generate more income (P7 tasters, weekend sailing, course places) but overall income from evening sailing sessions and big boat races was down, largely due to some very poor weather in the second half of the season. Expenditure is lower as we didn't run instructor training courses last year. The training of instructors is a cost that the club carries in the expectation that young instructors will remain with the club to deliver courses over 2 years.

Moving in to the next year we have a new approach for dealing with staffing costs for courses and hope to maximise the number of places filled and attendees at evening sessions to get the club on an even keel. This will be the first time that has been achieved in many years. The club is lucky to have had reserves to fund this situation.

We plan to organise a Coop bag-pack this year but we should also highlight the need to secure additional cash through grants / funding applications. Trustees have been speaking with MOWI and Calmac to secure funds for equipment and training costs. If any members have knowledge of or access to other sources of funding their help would be greatly appreciated.

5

Election of Trustees

The following were elected en bloc proposed by Andrew Shaw and seconded by Peter Urquhart:

Hugh MacDonald	Iain Galbraith
John MacKenzie (Bodach)	Angus Ross
Alexander MacDonald	Rob Forrest
Cameron MacFadyen	Elaine Ferguson

The chairman appealed to those present to nominate additional Trustees but none were forthcoming.

Skye Sailing Club

6.	<p>Appointment of Auditors</p> <p>It was agreed to reappoint Campbell, Stewart, MacLennan & Co., Portree Proposed by Rob Forrest and seconded by Andrew Shaw</p>	
7.	<p>Appointment of Welfare Officer</p> <p>Dr Kirsty Shaw was re-appointed and indicated that in the event of any conflict of interest arising from her daughter Jennifer being an instructor, she (Kirsty) would stand aside.</p>	
8	<p>Annual Subscriptions</p> <p>Following some discussion, there was a proposal from Andrew Shaw seconded by Peter Urquhart that £5 should be added to Adult and Family memberships with Junior remaining unchanged. This was duly agreed nem con. The 2020 subscription levels therefore would be:</p> <p>Junior £30 Adult £55 Family £85</p>	
9	<p>A.O.C.B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Rob Forrest advised the membership that he proposed to hold monthly practical sailing sessions backed immediately by some on-shore theory and discussion regarding tactics and finer points of sailing. The membership very much welcomed this initiative and it was agreed that the events should be advertised eg in the Tourist Office to broaden the appeal and also add a “social” dimension. This would also reflect our status as a community charity. ii. Dr Kirsty Shaw raised the issue of visiting instructors requiring PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Scotland enquiries to be carried out by the club PRIOR to courses taking place. The Commodore undertook to advise Kirsty at the earliest whenever external personnel were being involved in club activities so that Disclosure protocols would be correctly observed and in good time. 	Hugh
10	<p>There being no further business, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman at 1940hrs. Those present then continued to hear a fascinating illustrated presentation from Mrs Galbraith, our treasurer’s mother, about her family’s sailing heritage dating from the 19th Century.</p>	