

Lochcarron Sailing Club AGM 20 February 2025

Present

Dave Murray; Ori Woods; Steve Patch; David Johnson; Jenny Baker; John Murphy;
Angela Goodman; Storm Ing

Apologies

Douglas Baker Patch; Steve Smyth; Peter and Elaine Holmes; Ann MacLennan; Vivienne Goodman; Lorna Lory; Seonaid MacPherson Raffell; Teri Stewart; Julia Smith.

Acceptance of 2024 minutes

With addition of date of meeting

Approved Ori; seconded Steve

There were no matters arising.

Commodore's report

Overall It has been a relatively quiet season in terms of attendance at sailing sessions, but many other organisations report the same. We were not helped by poor weather and low temperatures for most of the season.

The issues with access to the bank account reported at last year's AGM were resolved early in the year and matters are now running smoothly. This has made life much easier with regular updates from John.

Training week was very busy again - at max capacity. It was agreed that we will need to introduce limits to numbers this year and also encourage people to book early.

We are grateful to Kishorn Mechanical for the loan of the Steady boat for training week.

We had another successful Highland Games running children's games and races.

The dayboat was sold locally and has joined in some of the sailing sessions during the season.

The club acquired another Wayfarer and Comet Trio and several boats have been refurbished. We are grateful to Steve for work repairing club boats over the winter.

Racing was again limited to the Regatta and an informal Laser race series on Thursday evenings over the summer, but there were some keen racers in attendance.

The regatta was very well attended with lots of visiting sailors as well as club members, Congratulations to Tristan S who was our overall winner.

The Gunn Trophy was narrowly won by Lochcarron against Portree again this year.

The club is grateful to David Johnson for refurbishing the racemarks.

Club members visited several other regattas in the Highlands over the summer. Congratulations to Vivienne on winning our Traveller Series.

Electrics have been an ongoing problem, but there has been work over the winter and ongoing to rewire the shed, and bring things up to current code standards.

We are delighted to have received a grant to upgrade the current topper fleet with some new/nearly new toppers from Scottish Sea Farms and Steve is working to source suitable second hand boats.

The season concluded with a lively and enjoyable laying up supper.

Matters arising

David Johnson outlined his desire to see more organised opportunities for group cruising in the area. DJ expressed a desire to see a North Minch Cruising Association; it was noted that any such organisation would need people able and willing to run it.

It was suggested that he might work with interested parties to set up a whatsapp group similar to that of the dinghy owners whereby individuals can contact each other to arrange joint outings.

Treasurer's report

The financial position of the club is healthy.

Income from membership and training week is broadly stable, we were grateful to receive a generous grant from the Lochcarron Highland Games of £1500.

Angela is currently applying for a grant which would enable us to buy a new outboard engine for the Pioner, if unsuccessful we will look to buy secondhand.

It was noted that the Humber may need to be replaced in the next year or so.

Insurance and Electrical supplier; Agreed to continue with current providers as little advantage in trying to switch.

The accounts will be audited – suggestions were offered as to who might do this for us.

Action JM to seek auditor for accounts.

The desirability of buying a low cost online package to facilitate the running of the club, particularly in terms of financial payments (membership, courses and miscellaneous items) and managing membership was agreed.

Action OW is to look further into the options available.

Skiff report

The skiffies are continuing to operate but would welcome more members. They would also appreciate the opportunity to do more joint activities with the sailing club. Ori has invited them to join us on the water on any Sunday at high tide – when we sail typically. It was also resolved to invite them to our annual sail-away picnic on Attadale beach.

Action Secretary to invite

Election of Officers

Position: post holder – proposed; seconded

Commodore: Ori Woods – Steve, Angela

Vice Commodore: Douglas Baker-Patch – Steve, Angela

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: John Murphy – Ori, Storm

Training Principal: Angela – Ori, Storm

Secretary: Storm – Jenny, Angela

Minute Secretary: Lorna- Jenny, Angela

Welfare Officer: Teri- Ori, Jenny

Juniors' rep: Vivienne- Jenny, Storm

It was agreed that although there will still be maintenance work to be done there is no need for formal positions of Buildings manager and Bosun to be maintained.

Election of Committee

Jenny Baker , Steve Patch, Seonaid MacPherson-Raffell, Steve Smyth, David Johnson, Dave Murray; Ann MacLennan.

Membership Fees

The annual membership fees were considered. Key considerations were deemed to be accessibility for members while enabling the club to maintain healthy funds and reasonable boats and facilities. It was noted that the club is a member of the RYA with the benefits that brings – notably training courses, that members may store their boats on club grounds for free, can use the club house freely and have free drinks after sailing sessions in addition to unlimited use of club boats during club sailing times.

It was agreed that membership fees would go up by a small amount to:

Individual membership £70

Family membership (whole family but no more than two adults over the age of 18) £110

Junior membership (under 18 on 1st March) £35

Non-sailing supporter or yacht membership £15

Associate member (i.e. parent/guardian of any junior members who are not otherwise members themselves) £ no fee

Short term membership – half the relevant full term membership

Action SI will communicate this to members in an update letter.

Dinghy Instructor Training

There are five, probably six candidates for this course which will take place in June. The appropriate charge which could cost up to £500 in many centres was discussed. It was noted that it is important that the club recoups the cost of the course and it would be good to make a modest profit. We noted that the successful completion enables participants to work (ideally for us at least) as instructors. We are mindful however that participants tend to be students – a group not known for its large disposable incomes.

Due to support/subsidy from RYAScotland for this course: A fee of £250 per person was agreed.

Discussion of possible grants/support available including Ross and Cromarty Sports Council, led to the conclusion that we could signpost but candidates would have to apply themselves.

AOCB

Dates for the diary 2025

March 1st-2nd Work party: mostly tree cutting

March 29th-30th Work party: rigging and moorings

Committee meeting: Thursday 6th March 7:30pm

Start of Season Easter Sunday 20th April

Training week 7-11th July

DI course 2-6th June (preassessment 24th May)

Regatta August 23rd-24th

Gunn Trophy September 13th

Yacht Sailaway suggested: TBA

Charity registration

The club needs to update registration with HMRC as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC). A form needs to be completed with the following named as responsible people:

Ori Woods; Angela Goodman; Douglas Baker-Patch; John Murphy; Storm Ing.

John Murphy will be the authorised person.

Existing Authorised person, George Hendry, and Responsible person, David Murray to be removed.

In order to Storm to complete this, those named above need to supply her with their name; national insurance number and date of birth.

Action: OW; AG; DBP; JM to inform Storm of the necessary information.

SI to complete form, print off and circulate for signatures.

Try out sailing sessions

We will continue to offer these on Thursday evenings when there is a high tide.

Action: SI to advertise

Meeting Concluded