



# HIGHLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB [SCIO]

CHARITY NUMBER SC047400

**AGM MINUTES**  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

ITEM	Minute
1.1	<p><b>HIGHLAND RFC (SCIO)</b> <b>Introduction by Graham Findlater, President-</b> Short summary: Welcome to the AGM and it is good to be present together rather than via ZOOM.</p> <p>For the season 2021-22, the 1<sup>st</sup> XV consolidated their place in the top half of National Division 1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV once again won the Caley Division 2, while the newly formed 3<sup>rd</sup> XV finished a credible third in Caley North Division 4. Ladies training has again started and many thanks to the DO's for getting this going again. It is hoped that they will soon be able to take part the national leagues.</p> <p>In the Junior sections it was a hard start to the season for the boy's teams but the second half of the season was more successful. The girls section has done very well in recruiting players and have players at U14, U16 and U18 levels. The minis/micros had upwards of 140 boys and girls at some Sunday morning sessions.</p> <p>Half-way through the centenary year and we have already organised food parcels for the elderly and had the Inverness City 7s. Events coming up are the Civic Reception, Centenary Dinner, Connoisseur's Whisky Night and the Pro match between Glasgow Warriors and Worcester Warriors. The auction site has just gone live, with great items including the remaining whisky from the cask the club bought. Thanks to all who have and will help out.</p> <p>Financially we have faired extremely well with an increase in turnover and reserves.</p> <p>Thanks go to our sponsors for all their help and the supporters as well. Due to this increase we have also recruited a Business Operations Manager in David Wilson. David will focus primarily on sponsorship, bar and hospitality.</p> <p>We are losing two long term trustees in Geoff Begg and Gavin MacDonald and would like ot thank them for all their work over the years.</p>

	<p>Finally, I am standing down as President and would like to thank the Trustees and volunteers who have put in time and effort to make the club the success it is today.</p>
1.2	<p><b>Apologies</b> – Andy Little, Graham MacKenize, Gus MacPherson, Claire McGonigal, Craig Findlater, Sean Blair and Richard McDonald.</p> <p>Members present in the room: Graham Findlater, Owen Cochrane, Gavin MacDonald, Andrew Ward, Shona Fraser, Geoff Begg, Alan Milton, Ian Nixon, Colin Ballie, Roy Sinclair, John Budge, David Hume, Andy Brown, Graham Chisholm, Roy Dinnes, Brian Bell, Davie Carson, David Titterington, Kevin Brown, Callum Carson, Rory Carson, Scott Fraser, David Wilson, Cammy Cochrane, Fraser MacDonald, Ruaridh MacDonald, Lewis Kerr Sinclair, Grant Jamieson, Scott Don and Andrew Russell.</p>
1.3	<p><b>Minutes of meeting of AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b> The minutes have been posted to the website for review and no amendments were asked for.</p> <p>John Budge proposed that the minutes of the previous AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved. This was seconded Geoff Begg.</p>
1.4	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report –</b> Andrew Ward presented accounts for HRFC (SCIO) and Canal Park Sports Club 2021-22.</p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>A significant increase in rugby training and playing activities during the year has increased expenditure greatly. The club erected a small cabin outside the main building, which has been used for the sale of club merchandise and an entry point for spectators to the facility. The sale of merchandise is another significant area, where the club has surpassed all expectations</p> <p>The Club trading company, Canal Park Sports Club 2017 Limited, achieved turnover of £121,179 (2021 - £14,192) and Covid grant funding of £6,950 (2021 - £37,800) and a surplus of £30,706 (2021 - £32,052) before a donation of £32,900 (2021 -£33,046) from the trading company to the Charity.</p> <p><u>Plans for future periods</u> The Club's centenary year is 2022 and straddles this reporting period. Much of the past year has been dedicated to planning and delivering Centenary events. This continues to be a focus for the rest of this year and there are a number of legacy benefits from these activities. It is undoubtedly raising the profile of the club both locally and nationally.</p>

The club intends to purchase floodlights for one of the grass pitches, when funding becomes available to allow for more players training, for longer periods, especially during the winter months. It is also hoped that, as a result of continued sponsorship, that a small stand may be built, allowing for a greater spectator experience.

To continue and enhance the work we do with our key partners, including Scottish Rugby Union, Highlife Highland and The University of the Highlands and Islands.

The club appointed a Business Operations Manager in June 2022 with the assistance of funding from SRU. This is a significant development and investment for the club and will benefit the club in the day to day operations of the club including health and safety, customer care, financial procedures, leading and managing the bar team and liaising with our catering partners and landlords. It also growing community engagement through marketing and brand development and assisting with strategic fundraising and grant applications, as well as hospitality and sponsorship. This role has the potential to take the club to the next level commercially and will help raise the profile of the club in the community.

In growing the game of rugby in Inverness and the surrounding area; we will continue to place an emphasis on the ladies and girls game and targeting hard to reach areas. Additionally increased emphasis is being placed on mental health and well being. The club has 2 mental health volunteers and is to appoint a Club Padre in the near future.

Owen Cochrane asked about the vastly increased Depreciation expenditure. Shona stated this covered the new Merchandise Building and the speaker system which were installed this year.

Roy Dinnes proposed approval of the accounts. This was seconded Alan Milton.

1.5

#### **Appointment of Trustees –**

Two of the current trustees, Geoff Begg and Gavin MacDondald, are stepping down. The candidate proposals were received prior to the AGM were:

- Claire McGonigal: Proposed by Roy Dinner and seconded by Gus MacPherson.
- David Titterington: Proposed by Graham Findlater and seconded by Kevin Brown.

No other candidates were proposed at the AGM and the aforementioned were duly elected as trustees.

The Trustees are: Andrew Ward, Shona Fraser, Karen Latif, Alan Milton, Graham Findlater, Gus Macpherson, Roy Dinnes, Kevin Brown, Craig Findlater, Owen Cochrane, Claire McGonigal and David Titterington.

A question was raised about election of Office Bearers. Owen Cochrane answered that these will be confirmed at the Trustee AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and will be announced afterwards.

1.6	<p><b>Membership Policy for Season 2021-22</b></p> <p>Discussions took place around the creation of a Vets (rugby playing veterans) membership category. One reason was that it would better reflect playing numbers to the SRU/SCRUMS than having them defined solely as social members. Shona also stated that we are nearing VAT threshold limits and it was easier if we could distinguish between playing and non-playing members.</p> <p>It was proposed that there be a vets membership category. The vets could either have a Standard or Platinum Membership with the same benefits, and costs, as defined by the Social Standard and Platinum Membership.</p> <p>The Vets category was proposed by Roy Dinnes and seconded by Andrew Russell.</p> <p>Another item discussed what that of a Senior (18 and over) Ladies membership. This was thought to be a good idea as it also help identify playing members. A £60 fee was defined. This is cheaper than Men's as it did not include medical or physio cover, as well as them playing fewer fixtures.</p> <p>The Senior Ladies category was proposed by Ruaridh MacDonald and seconded by Andy Brown.</p> <p>Membership fees for 2021-22 will remain as they were for 2021-22.</p>
1.7	<p><b>Appointment of representatives to attend SRU AGM –</b></p> <p>The SRU AGM is scheduled for the same day as the Centenary Dinner on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and no volunteers were forthcoming. The Trustees will decide at the Trustee AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 as to how we shall attend.</p>
1.9	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>None</p>
2.1	<p><b>Canal Park Sports Club 2017 Directors Report – Gavin MacDonald presented his report.</b></p> <p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>Thanks to Andrew Ward, Shona Fraser and Alan Milton in the preparation of the accounts. Showing a profit of just over £30,000 is very good going in such a disjointed year and hope we can improve on this this year.</p> <p>We have had a resignation from Graham Findlater as Director on August 23rd, 2021. Our Club Manager Shona Fowler resigned in May and thanks to them both for their years of service.</p> <p>Covid 19 particular hit the hospitality sector with a lock down again at Christmas, which cost as 2 big dinners that were booked, we received grants of £7,000 in this period to offset losses for the 6 weeks non trading.</p>

	<p>We are also still not up to our pre Covid weddings bookings of 9 in the summer of 2020, with only 2 this year booked pre covid going ahead, this was due to the fact that Highlife was not taking bookings for this year.</p> <p>We need to get more parties and functions now for Friday nights and Saturday out with senior home games.</p> <p>We have signed up Highlife Highland to a new catering agreement for 2 years. I would Like to introduce David Wilson to our new position of Operations Manager, who will be the port of call for all enquires to do with Canal Park.</p> <p>On a personal note.</p> <p>I am stepping down as Director this year after 25 years in various roles in the bar, this means I will have nothing to do with running the bar in any form and I had it over to the safe hands of David.</p> <p>Hopefully fingers crossed we can get back to normality this coming season and the club will get back to normal with members coming back into the club and I would enjoy having a pint on the other side of the bar this time and enjoy the banter...</p> <p>Thank you very much for everything over the years.</p> <p>Gavin MacDonald also stated that he was stepping down as co-ordinator of the Vets team and a replacement needs to be found. Volunteers were asked for.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Financial Report and Trading –</b></p> <p>Details included in 1.4 above.</p>
2.3	<p><b>Appointment of Directors –</b></p> <p>No volunteers were identified. Trustees will have further discussions at the Trustee AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022.</p>
3.1	<p><b>AOCB –</b></p> <p>Scott Don asked if seating could be made available near the TV tower for some of the more senior members who found standing for a game increasingly difficult.</p> <p>This was accepted as a good proposal and David Wilson will ensure when needed, seating is available.</p>

