



SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A CHOIMHEARSNACHD

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

In January 2007 we met for our first official AGM, reviewing the year 2005 to 2006. At the end of 2006, we were starting our first really big project, and by the time we met, work was underway, during a spell of really wet weather.

Just to recap, our main object remains to support recreation and sport in the catchment area of Lochdar School. We do this as follows:

1. To promote interest and participation in sport, and related recreation in the catchment area of Lochdar School, especially in the interests of education, social welfare and health.
2. To assist in the coordination of various sports clubs and recreational organisations operating in the catchment area of Lochdar school, both generally and in relation to specific projects.
3. To examine the available sports and recreation facilities in the Lochdar area as against current and anticipated need and to make applications to the local council, local enterprise company and any other appropriate body in this connection.
4. To liaise with the councils sports development staff in furtherance of these objects.
5. To raise funds for such charitable purposes as the association may deem appropriate.

The people responsible for the company are the directors. These are currently Mrs Mairi Bremner, Mrs Norma Macintyre, Mr Howard Warner and Mr Ronnie MacPhee. The company secretary is Dr Kate Dawson.

For 2006-2007 we set ourselves the following objectives:

1. Completion of improvements at Lochdar school and playing fields
 2. Keeping user groups informed of our activities
 3. Completion of cycle rack project.
 4. Maintenance of future project list
 5. Review of Lochdar Saints football pitch, involvement in pitch review
 6. Develop strategy for the next five years
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1. Completion of the improvements at Sgoil an Iochdair.
The project around Sgoil an Iochdair was completed in June 2007, although some final fencing is still underway. The project was funded by Children in Need, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Awards for All, ACE, Western Isles Enterprise, The Robertson Trust, The Gannochy Trust, Lloyds TSB foundation for Scotland, The Hugh Fraser Foundation, Lochdar Junior Youth Club, Sgoil an Iochdair, Croileagan an Iochdair, and assistance from J J MacDonald and local residents. The project includes tree planting, an environmental studies area, a

ball court and two play areas, with equipment to suit children from ages 1 to 16. The facilities were opened in June 2007, broadcast on De a Nis, BBC.

2. Keeping user groups informed of our activities:

Maintenance of links with other groups, including informal meetings with members of other groups, invitations to our meetings, and offers to attend their meetings. The following groups were members of our organisation in 2006-7:

- Iochdar Junior Youth Club
- Croileagan an Iochdair
- Lochboisdale Amenity trust
- Griminish residents association
- Curracag

In addition, we have maintained links with:

- Iochdar Hall Committee
- Iochdar Saints
- Sgoil an Iochdar
- SUBAS (South Uist and Benbecula Annual Show)
- SNH
- Uists and Benbecula amenity trust
- West Gerinish amenity trust

We are members of:

- Uists and Barra Sports Council
- UCVO

We have also maintained the website, and kept the public informed of our activities by providing press releases to the local press. The website went live in October 2006; see www.iochdar.co.uk

3. Installing cycle racks:

We achieved the final installation of the cycle racks with the help of the council, in February 2007. There are now racks at Creagorry post office, Lovats shop in Carnan, West Gerinish bus stop, and at the foot of the path to the Statue. These have not seen heavy use over the winter; perhaps we need to publicise them more! We are not intending to install any more cycle racks at present, unless there is evidence of need. We have passed information about how we installed our racks to the council and to another community group.

4. Maintaining future projects list:

The future projects list has remained static over the last year.

5. Iochdar Saints football pitch review

Over the year, we have produced a business plan for improving the pitch and facilities beside Iochdar Hall. This includes improving the pitch itself, stock proofing the pitch, and adding small shelters for spectators. We have also got generic plans for changing facilities and storage behind the hall. The plan has been drawn up in consultation with the secretary of the Hall committee, the manager of Iochdar Saints, and Emma MacSween, principle officer for sport

and health at the council. Her bid for capital funding for the next five years has included the information we submitted to her.

6. Strategy for the next five years
We have not firmed up our strategy for the next five years, because the council's decisions about the pitch at the hall will have a very big effect on our activities over the next few years.
7. Other activities through the year
 - Continued distribution of the updated walk leaflet
 - Maintenance and strimming of the footpath between Bualdubh and the old road.
 - Completion of footpath between Griminish and Torlum in October 2006.
 - Maintenance and replacement of windbreak netting around tree planting areas.

Financial review:

The trustees have £7229 free reserves at the end of the accounting period June 2007. Funding is sought before projects commence, and this present level of reserves is sufficient for the nature of the activities of the company.

The year ahead:

1. In 2007-8 we need to continue to maintain the tree-planting areas, including thinning some of the larger trees at the older tree planting areas.
2. We need to decide whether we wish to start on another major project, the pitch at lochdar Hall. We have a business plan, and need to identify a project manager.
3. We need to continue to keep user groups involved in our forward planning and current activities
4. We need to continue to maintain the website, and develop the walk leaflet part of the site. We have a millennium volunteer who is keen to undertake this work.
5. Development strategy for the next five years.

Conclusion

In our second year, we have successfully completed a large and ambitious project at the school. We are still in the process of reviewing and troubleshooting the project. We are now looking ahead to the next big challenge, the football pitch beside lochdar Hall. We need to make sure that we continue to identify suitable objectives for the future.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Dr Kate Dawson, Secretary