



SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A CHOIMHEARSNACHD

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

In March 2008 we met for our second AGM, reviewing the year 2006 to 2007.

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 trustees. At June 2008, our trustees were:

J H Warner
M Bremner
N J W MacIntyre
R MacPhee
A Campbell
S MacAulay

For 2007-2008 we set ourselves the following objectives:

1. Tree planting maintenance including tree thinning
 2. To decide whether to take on the upgrade of the pitch at Lochdar hall
 3. Keeping user groups involved in our projects
 4. Website maintenance
 5. Development strategy for the next five years.
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1. Tree planting maintenance
We successfully applied for a grant of £8052 from Awards for all to improve fencing and tree planting maintenance around the Lochdar area. This was supplemented by a small sum of £300 from the council. The project was not complete by the financial year end.

2. Lochdar Hall Football Pitch

We agreed to make a start on the big project of upgrading the pitch at Lochdar hall. A business plan has been drawn up, and we have identified a project team to produce plans up to tender stage. At the financial year end, we were still to resolve the issue of ownership of the site and to prepare a lease document.

The football pitch project will include a new changing facility with solar-powered hot water for showers, additional public parking, and an improved septic tank for both the hall and the changing rooms.

3. Involving user groups

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 2007-8:

- Lochdar Junior Youth Club
- Croileagan an Iochdair
- Creagorry residents association
- Lochdar Saints Football club

In addition, we have maintained links with:

- Griminish residents association
- Sgoil an Iochdar
- SUBAS (South Uist and Benbecula Annual Show)
- SNH
- Storas Uibhist
- Griminish residents association
- West Gerinish amenity trust
- Lochdar Hall Committee
- Grazings committee

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.

4. Website maintenance

The website continues to be our main public record of our activities and has been kept updated through the year.

5. Strategy for the next five years

Following the last AGM, we agreed to make developments at the pitch at Lochdar hall our first priority. Other projects remain on the list awaiting the completion of the pitch project.

- Interpretative signage for walks
- Sculpture / outdoor art installation
- Griminish Play Park
- Creagorry Play Park
- Adventure trails through the trees once established
- Walks and footpaths database

- Sports development
- Senior youth club

6. Other activities through the year

- Maintenance and strimming of the footpath between Bualdubh and the old road.
- Monitoring and snagging Lochdar School Play area project, including replacing the play area under the roundabout, improving drainage, replacing fencing.

Financial review:

At the balance sheet date the trust held unrestricted funds of £6,632 (2007 - £7,229). As funding is sought for projects before they commence, the trustees consider the present level of reserves to be sufficient given the nature of their activities.

The year ahead:

Our main activity for the year 2008-2009 is to prepare plans for the football pitch, including resolution of the land ownership issue, adoption of lease with the owners, applying for planning permission and securing funding for the planning stage of our project. MacIver Consultancy will act as consultants to the project, with John MacIver of MacIver associates acting as project manager.

Conclusion

In our third year, we started the work required to upgrade the pitch at Lochdar hall. This has consisted of reviewing the ownership of the land, and identifying a team who could draw up suitable plans. Our other activities have chiefly been targeted at maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Dr Kate Dawson, Secretary