



# SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A CHOIMHEARSNACHD

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

In June 2009 we met for our third AGM, reviewing the year 2007-2008 and setting our aims for 2008-2009. Since then, we have made quiet progress towards our aims for the year of upgrading the pitch, and maintaining existing facilities.

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 2009, our trustees were:

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

For 2008-2009 we set ourselves the following objectives:

1. Tree planting maintenance including tree thinning
  2. To resolve the legal position of the pitch at Lochdar hall
  3. To get planning permission for the pitch at Lochdar Hall
  4. Keeping user groups involved in our projects
  5. Website maintenance
  6. Future strategy and project list
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1. Tree planting maintenance

We completed the project to repair the shelter fences in the area, and the project funding was wound-up. We retain some fencing material for future repairs. We also applied for, and got, an additional £100 from MADL to spend on maintaining the benches in the area, including money for paint. The funding was received too late in the financial year, and has been held over to 2009-2010.

2. Iochdar Hall Football Pitch: Legal position & Planning permission  
In the year, the issue of pitch ownership was clarified. We also had plans drawn up for the area, and we applied for planning permission successfully.

The next steps include getting funding for legal fees for drawing up the lease, and examining alternative pitch location to avoid causing problems for the show committee.

We have already appointed an engineer/project manager team to take the work forwards once we have these issues resolved, and a source of funding to take it to the next level; a fully drawn up proposal for upgrading the pitch including costed works to be undertaken, and funding options.

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. We will not be able to link in to the existing wind turbines on the site.

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:

- Iochdar Junior Youth Club
- Croileagan an Iochdair
- Iochdar Saints Football club
- Lionacleit School Board

In addition, we have maintained links with:

- Griminish residents association
- SUBAS (South Uist and Benbecula Annual Show)
- Storas Uibhist
- Iochdar Hall Committee
- Grazings committee

In 2008-9, we remained 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.

#### Financial review:

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves which are those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed but do not yet have a formal policy in place. At the balance sheet date the trust held unrestricted funds of £6,378 (2008 - £6,977) of which £7,533 were invested in fixed assets (2008 - £8,043). The trustees plan to meet the balance by fundraising activities. At the balance sheet date, funds at the bank were £15,968

#### The year ahead:

We intend to complete the leasing agreement with lochdar hall for the pitch site. We need to identify funding to pay for the legal advice. We will also explore other options for the site of the pitch, in order to allow the show to continue as before. We will need to raise considerable sums of money to pay for the drawing up of the detailed plans. It will be easier to do this now that we have planning permission.

We also plan to examine how best to enhance the area at the front of the school, now that the trees are getting established. This will include re-engaging with the school.

We also need to continue to maintain a list of potential projects. This might be enhanced by contributing to, and developing ideas from the Local Outcome Agreement.

#### Conclusion

In our fourth year, we clarified the ownership of the football pitch at the hall, appointed a project team for drawing up plans for funding, and got planning permission for the project. We also identified a problem with the project in that it will disadvantage the show, which is traditionally held on the same site. We have proposals to try and resolve this in the year ahead. Our other activities have chiefly been targeted at maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Dr Kate Dawson, Secretary