



SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A CHOIMHEARSNACHD

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

In March 2012 we met for our sixth AGM, reviewing the year 2010-2011 and setting our aims for 2011-2012. Our main aim in the year was to sort out the lease for the pitch. Since then, we have had a quiet year, but the lease is close to completion. Two smaller projects are also in development.

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

1. To promote interest and participation in sport, and related recreation in the catchment area of Iochdar 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 Iochdar school, both generally and in relation to specific projects.
3. To examine the available sports and recreation facilities in the Iochdar 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 2011, our trustees were:

M Bremner (Chairwoman, individual member)
Peter Bird (Vice chairman, Iochdar School Parents' Council)
J H Warner (Treasurer, Individual Member)
R MacPhee (Junior Youth Club)
A Campbell (Iochdar Saints)
S MacAulay (Iochdar Saints)
Vacancy (co-opted member)

During the year, we were also delighted to receive 'Organisation of the year' award at the Volunteer Awards 2012.

For 2011-2012 we set ourselves the following objectives:

1. General maintenance of benches and tree planted areas.
2. To finalise the lease of the pitch at Iochdar Hall
3. Liaison with the school, pupils and parents' council concerning the maintenance and development of the school playground.
4. Liaison with third parties with reference to footpaths
5. Liaison with Lochboisdale amenity trust, especially with reference to tree planting.
6. Involving other groups especially potential user groups
7. Fundraising

1. **General maintenance of facilities, benches and tree planted areas:**
General funds and volunteering were used to continue to trim around the trees and paths. The path around the playing fields at the school is not used during the school day, because of worries about pupils getting muddy.

The trees at Rubha Chlachain were thinned and cut back.

Fencing and seating in the Croileagan play area was partly painted, and we also cleared litter around the playground and roadsides as far as Iochdar Hall. We liaised with Julian Lane at the council concerning removal of derelict and broken fencing, and general maintenance of play equipment in the area.

We have also costed out getting new benches installed, and tried to ascertain who owns a suitable site at Ardivachair. We have drafted an application form for third parties who might wish to apply to us for funding to set up their own public seating. This has not been launched, as we do not currently have funding to implement this scheme.

2. **To finalise the lease of the pitch at Iochdar Hall**
By the end of the financial year, a draft lease had been drawn up, subject to a few points of clarification. The lease is yet to be agreed with the Hall Committee.

We also participated in a lottery funding consultation event, where the issue of supporting the local football teams with suitable facilities was raised by Mrs MacQuarrie, CNES sports development.

3. **Liaison with the school, pupils and parents' council**
The secretary has met with the parent council and pupil council over the year. The pupil council have provided a wishlist of developments that could take place around the playing fields at the front of the school. This has been discussed with the school and the parent council.

This list has been passed on for further development so that we can look at costing out some of the proposals. The school have installed a bridge over the ditch at the start of the path around the playing fields.

We have also written to the council to support the school's calls to improve road safety around the school, including the introduction of speed limits and road safety signs.

4. Liaison with third parties with reference to footpaths:

We have kept in contact with Mr Campbell, with a view to running a co-operative project to do with footpath development and cycle access with QR code access to online walk leaflets. We have also kept in touch with Diane McPherson at the council, concerning the long-range footpath, and any consultation that this might involve.

5. Liaison with Lochboisdale amenity trust, especially with reference to tree planting:

We have kept in contact with Ann McCuish of the Lochboisdale amenity trust, and passed on details of the Oxfam shelter-belt tree planting program to interested parties. We have not undertaken any tree planting ourselves.

6. Involving other groups and user groups

The following groups were members of our organisation in 2011-2012:

- Iochdar Junior Youth Club
- Iochdar Saints Football club
- Lionacleit School Board

In addition, we have maintained links with:

- SUBAS (South Uist and Benbecula Annual Show)
- Storas Uibhist
- Iochdar Hall Committee
- Grazings committee
- Iochdar School & Iochdar School Board

In 2011-12, we remained members of:

- Uists and Barra Sports Council

We continue to maintain a website and have set up a facebook page. One of our trustees sits on the Local Advisory Group for the council's development office. Another trustee is a member of the board of trustees for Storas Uibhist.

7. Fundraising

During the year, we planned a fundraising licenced dance with Sandie MacIver. We continued to have regular charitable donations from private individuals. We also received some funds from the Iochdar Junior Athletics club, which has now ceased to operate.