

FINAL REPORT FOR SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A CHOIMHEARSNACHD
TO WIND UP THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION
AND HAND OVER THE WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION TO THE NEW COMPANY
LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Since the last AGM, there has been a lot happening, mostly to achieve the objectives that we set ourselves in 2003. The chief of these has been to become a company limited by guarantee. Technically, we are now a new organisation, although we remain registered as a charity, and have the same name. This report serves to wind up the activities of the old, and to set the scene for the new organisation.

Since our last AGM the islands have been severely damaged by the hurricane of the 11th January, with the loss of 5 people from our community. This has had an impact on us all, on the school and the community. It has, as a consequence, impacted on the work of this committee.

Just to recap, we exist for the following reasons:

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.

Company limited by guarantee

As stated in the introduction, we are now a company limited by guarantee, company number: SC285959

The playing fields

We were not successful in securing funds for a sports facility at Iochdar School, in part because the council's main priorities for sports are aimed at secondary schools and full-size football pitches. As a consequence, we were unable to gain support from SportScotland and other major funders. As a knock-on effect, we have lost the funding for the upgrade to the school's changing facilities.

However, a positive outcome of our applications was to get a long lease of the playing fields at the school, giving us plenty of scope for future developments. We are in the process of transferring this lease over to the new company.

Indemnity

We now have full indemnity insurance, as well as having limited liability for all of our facilities.

The 'footpath' plot

The completion of the purchase of the plot took place over a year ago. We are in the process of transferring the deeds of the plot to the new company. We have also undertaken an environmental survey of the plot. There are no important environmental features present; the plot would benefit from being grazed. We identified an area where we could incorporate seating in the future.

Forming and supporting clubs

Clubs with whom we have maintained links during the year include the junior athletics club, junior youth club, the croileagan, the senior youth club, the junior football clubs, and Iochdar Saints Football Club. We have also kept the Uists and Barra sports council up-to-date with our activities.

School playground

Following the hurricane, the school and the community were bereft. Part of the process of rebuilding ourselves has been to focus on providing good facilities for the children at the school. To this end, we have been fortunate in securing the support of BNSF, who have worked with members of the community and the school. We now have a draft plan for the playground, and have secured £50,000 from our MSP and a further £66,000 from children in need. We are still seeking the balance of £45,000; funding applications for £20,000 have been submitted, and plans for applications worth a further £25,000 are in hand.

It is very likely that work will start on the playground in the coming year, welcome news indeed.

Memorial

Following the storm, we were asked to manage funds coming in to the school, with a view to creating a memorial to the family that were lost. Although it was originally envisaged that this would be part of a project at the school, this now seems unlikely. At present, we are in discussion with the bereaved families to ensure that this money managed in a way with which they are all in agreement.

The year ahead

1. How do we keep user groups involved in the development of the school project? Potential user groups currently include the junior football club, the junior youth club, the athletics club, the croileagan, and the school. Should we develop a website?
2. Our main priority in the coming year will be to raise the balance for the development of the playground. We will continue to use the services of BNSF and the council to manage the project on a day-to-day basis.
3. We will cost out the possibility of installing benches and cycle racks in preparation for a future series of mini-projects
4. We will look at developing the access between Griminish and Lionacleit.
5. We will reprint our walk leaflet, with the support of the health promotion department.

6. We will also transfer the money for the memorial fund to whichever group emerges to manage this project.
7. One of our strengths has been our ability to identify suitable projects as opportunities arise. We have done this by keeping a list of potential projects, ready for development, either by ourselves or by other organisations. We will continue to keep a list of possible projects.
8. In the year ahead, we should make use of the sports development budget that we were awarded in 2003-2004, and support sports clubs in the area.

Conclusion

As a new company, we are already facing exciting times, with the school playground project set to start in the near future. This is a great responsibility and a wonderful opportunity for us all.

We are also well-placed to realise the route between Lionacleit and Griminish, and the reprint of the walk leaflet. We will also be preparing ourselves for other projects for the future.