

Minutes of the 34th AGM of West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association held on 30th November 2019 in the Corran halls, Oban at 10.30 a.m.

1 Present

J Traynor (Chair)	THA	T Bennett	Bidwells
Rob Adam	Bidwells	D Bannatyne	Airds Bay MA
Val Coghlan	Bidwells	C Corlett	L Moidart MA
K Coghlan	Observer	C Davidson	Learagoligan MA
I Dewar	Fort William Marina and Moorings	F Gillanders	Kames Bay MA
D Hitchin	Achnacree MA	K Gardiner	Airds Bay MA
R Jowett	Ardentallen MA	R Kincaid	Mid Kerrerra MA
P Jowett	Ardentallen MA	J Kent	Bidwells
H Loudon	Achintore MA	D Martin	Oban Bay CB
J McArthur (Treasurer)	Tayvallich MA	D Ritchie	Luing MA
J Rhodes	DMOA	R Rhodes	DMOA
R Thwaites	South Shian MA	D Wilkie	RHYC
D Wilkinson	West Connel MA	J Wilkinson	West Connel MA
D Vass (Secretary)	RHYC		

2. Apologies

Camas a'n Salainn MA, S of Ulva MA.

3 Minutes of the 2018 AGM

These were approved.

Proposed by Colin Davidson. Seconded by Roger Rhodes

4. Matters arising not already on the Agenda

None

5 Chairman's Report

I would like to welcome everybody to the AGM of WHAM.

This summer has again given us a mixture of weather with the majority of days being good days to be on the water.

The West Coast of Scotland continues to be THE sailing destination for boats from all over Britain and Europe.

This year WHAM has finally joined the 21st century with our new website up and running. Many thanks to Derek and the other committee members giving their time and knowledge to make this happen and thanks also to Crown Estate Scotland for their technical and financial support.

We may talk more about the website under AOCB.

Your committee continues to be involved with CES in all mooring matters, attending tourism meetings, assisting mooring associations and with developments in Oban becoming a harbour Authority.

Lastly I would like to thank all our committee members for their help and input throughout the year.

6 Secretary's Report

Secretary's Report 2019

I hope you have all had the opportunity or rather taken the opportunity to use and assess the new web site. Such feedback as we have had ---not a lot---is very positive and we have expressed our thanks to Crown Estate Scotland for their support and funding of this work. There has been a steady flow of information to put on it and later in this article you may well see some items from the web site appearing here too. In that sense it seems to have filled the gap mentioned last year.

Marine licence applications were down again a bit this year. There have been about 65 to date and there really was nothing exceptional to note. What is striking is the size of some of the circular tanks being installed by fish farm operators. In one instance, in L Skipport, the secretary really did not grasp the size of the new tanks and let an application pass which should perhaps have been objected to simply because it compromises an existing anchorage by its spread. The lesson has been learned!

Mention was made of our concern about the position of a seaweed farm last year. A very constructive discussion was held with New Wave Foods in the early winter and an excellent understanding reached about future intentions. So much better than objecting!

While the Crown Estate Bill is now well past members will be interested to know that the surplus from the CE revenues has been distributed to Local Authorities for use 'in coastal communities'. I do not have all the figures but A&BC got £1.2m, Highland about £1.3 and Western Isles £1.5m. Distribution was on the basis of coastline length. Even Clackmannan got a wee bit. If you have projects which might qualify/would benefit from a boost better get in the queue.

The Crown Estate Business plan is out for consultation though there is not much on marine matters. The plan can be accessed at www.crownestatesscotland.com/maps-and-publications/download/260 and consultation closes on 25 November.

Several individuals and at least 1 MA expressed concern about the appearance of new moorings in Acarsaidh Mhor, Rona. The moorings are sited in shallow water close to the eastern shore and would not be preventing most boats from anchoring because of the depth. Nonetheless we have said enough is enough and CE has assured us that no more leases (hence no marine application) will be granted for this popular anchorage. News has just been received that Scottish Sea Farms do not intend to replace the perch on the mid-point of the reef in L Spelve entrance which fell off last winter. NLB felt it was not on their list of concerns. A Bradfield (Antares) chart or a plotter makes its avoidance relatively straightforward but it was a great comfort! Our thanks to L Moidart MA for their sterling work in identifying and removing an obstruction in South Moidart. With their help we were able to effect an astonishingly quick response to a member of the public's use of our reporting form. Very good publicity indeed. We have also managed to get the anchorage between Gighay and Hellisay cleared of old fish farm pontoons

The Crown has been lifting derelict moorings in Holy Loch as mentioned last year. They intend to continue this work in other areas where this problem exists. Activity is expected in at least one area on Mull.

At the AGM there will be an update on progress in the formation of the Trust Port for Oban Bay. The new buoyage for small craft appears to be working well. The same cannot be said for the Ch 16 announcements about the ferry movements. Some (not all) of the deck officers making them need lessons in elementary elocution and slower speech. What a visitor makes of some of them would be interesting to know! We have brought this to CALMAC Ferries attention. Meantime a lot of hard work is going on behind the scenes to bring the Trust Port about.

PLEASE tell me when your secretary changes!

7. Treasurer's report

The accounts having been circulated they were adopted.

Proposed by R Kincaid Seconded by R Rhodes.

The treasurer observed that presently we had a shortfall of some £170 with 7 subscriptions outstanding. Both expenditure and income were down a little. Provided that the laggards paid up we would have a modest surplus. We had also made a donation of £1000 to assist Oban Bay Community Development Association for which formal thanks were expressed at the meeting by F Gillanders. Finally, the treasurer confirmed his desire to retire at this AGM. The chair thanked him for his efforts

Some discussion about the annual subscription ensued after the Treasurer expressed the view that an increase was not yet necessary –subject to laggards paying their dues. An increase in membership would do no harm too. Bidwells offered to send out fliers for us when new applicants contacted them. The secretary accepted this kind offer and would supply material. The discussion was concluded by an observation from the floor that it was astonishingly good value at less than the cost of a coffee/mooring/annum.

8. Independent examiner

An independent examiner was not appointed being the choice of the incoming treasurer.

9. Election of Office Bearers.

The Chairman and Secretary were re-elected.

Proposed by C Davidson Seconded by D Wilkie.

There were no nominations for the Treasurer's post and this will be addressed by the Committee.

10 Election of the Committee

The committee were re-elected nem. con. There was no nomination for the vacant position and members were invited to nominate candidates later.

11. Address by the Crown Estate (T Bennett)

There were no increases in mooring fees proposed for 2020 but this situation will not last indefinitely.

The seeking out of unlicensed moorings would continue and the perimeter of Mull, including Craignure, would receive attention amongst other locations. The new tags will be orange and green and Val Coghlan will continue to be the source of tags, new and lost. The use of funds must be transparent and the Policy and Resources Committee will consider and dispense CE funds. There will be no grants as such but investments in land and/ or buildings would receive sympathetic consideration.

12. Oban Bay

Tony B gave a summary of the current situation in Oban Bay. A local committee, Oban Community Harbour Development Association, OCHDA, had been formed and was pursuing the objective of forming a Trust Port with wide representation from within Oban and users of the Bay. They have until March 2020 to show solid progress to satisfy the Management Group that they were capable of this. The legal situation is complex but better understood now and A&BC have recently shown signs of support following a positive meeting with Council Officers. The current situation is

encouraging but progress must be maintained.

13, AoCB

It is very likely that Welcome Anchorages will cease publication unless another publisher can be persuaded to take it over. Widespread concern was expressed by those present. The Chairman exhorted members to put pressure on Sail Scotland to become the publisher.

14. Talk by Corran Toibin.

The meeting concluded with an entertaining and informative talk by Corran on 'West Coast Waters 2020'.