**Ocean Youth Trust Scotland**

**20th Annual General Meeting**

**Minute of Meeting**

**Location:** Virtual meeting

**Date:** 11th February 2021

**Time:** 17.00

**Present:**

Olivia Bennett, David Murray MBE, Fiona Greer, David MacKenzie, Barry Fisher, Iain Barbour, Norma Norris, Fiona Armer, Keith Simpson, Lewis Haig, Alistair Carter, Yasmin Price, Ollie Bowden, Peta Koczy, Malcolm MacArthur, Ross  Ritchie, Jonathan Stearn, Robert Hollingdale, Gavin Cameron, Bill Miller, John Baddeley, Anita Hamilton, Brian Eyres, Pete Bentley, Fiona  Jamieson, Sarah Marshall, Stuart simpson, Cath Coombs, Cameron Muir, George Hudson, Brian Robertson, Colin Boyd, Gary Macalister, David Roy, Josie Walbaum, Allister Boyle, Abbie  Stone, Mark Boggis , Ian Macpherson, Sarah Robertson, Alan Stewart, Alastair Burns, Caitlin Davidson, Hazel Wiseman, Sandy McNeill, Alan Mclachlan, Campbell Greer, Ian Rogers, David Anderson, Ashley Mabon.

**1: Chairman’s Welcome and Address:**

The Chairman, David Anderson, began by welcoming all to the “hopin” virtual 2019/20 AGM, and thanked everyone for attending.   15minutes after the AGM ends there would be an

informal member zoom update.  Members were advised to use the chat function for questions.  2019/20 was a good sailing year and huge thanks to staff and volunteers.  There were some staff changes during the year; thanks to Craig McNeill, James Hall, Molly Whitney, Christie McAlpine, Alistair Carter and Niall McBay who moved onto pastures new.  Also, thanks to the staff who have come through some very challenging times. Finally, I would like to put on record thanks to Laura Wiseman, Lucie Aitkenhead, Nick Fleming and Stephen Morrison for their contribution and expertise they brought to the trust.

**2: Apologies:**

Curly Mills, Barbara Mills, Ian Mathers, Eilidh Stewart-Harding, Nick Fleming, Andrew Gerrard, Chris Edwards, Alan Paton, Steph Robertson, Doug Angus, John Kearns, Catriona Kearns.

**3: Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM:**

Ross Ritchie proposed, Alister Carter seconded

**4: Overview of the Year 2019:**

Hazel Wiseman gave a brief overview of the year.

Thank you for attending our virtual AGM, although not quite the same as being able to meet you and chat in our usual manner.  It seems strange to be covering a successful year ending March 2020 without mentioning how awful the year continued not just for us here at OYT Scotland but for our volunteers, families and friends.

As I mentioned earlier, the 2019 season was successful, with 755 young people sailing a total of 2,847 berth days, and issuing 735 RYA certificates along with 1,276 SQA units.

We were lucky that our annual training seminar in March 2020 was able to go ahead, and although with reduced numbers it was as always, a very successful weekend.  A week later the country was in lockdown, and here we are nearly a year later in lockdown again.

Pushing back the start of the sailing season this year was not what we had hoped for, but the wellbeing of our staff and volunteers is as always foremost in our minds. We will hopefully be out on the water with you our volunteers in June and then back to delivering our youth work on the waves in July, Fingers crossed!

Iain Barbour asked if volunteer numbers where the same – HW answered that membership income was very similar

Fiona Armer asked how many repeat bookings we got.  HW replied 70-75%

DA then thanked Hazel for her work and time given to the Trust.

**5: To Receive the Financial Report:**

Sandy McNeill reported as follows:

You will see from the table that it was a good year for the Trust. Income grew and expenditure was strongly controlled, resulting in a net surplus of 73,423. The increase in income was largely down to a strong fundraising performance, and Ashley will give an overview on that shortly. I would like to thank the team for their hard work and the skill they bring to the task, but a big thanks to you our members for supporting the Trust and shouting it out from the rooftops - the work that we do and the difference it can make to a young person’s life.

For a range of reasons what the Trust does and how it does it resonates with an increasing number of people out there. We are very fortunate indeed to have the regular and longstanding support of many Trusts and Foundations, Scottish Government and numerous others.

Thanks to a healthy surplus we have been able to grow our reserves.

* The General Reserve which would cover 3 months of our running costs has been kept at the same level as last year.
* The Designated Asset Fund is the family silver, mainly our two vessels. We keep the valuation of Alba Explorer under annual review, and this year she was depreciated with a one-off charge of £16,500.
* Our vessel replacement Fund has grown this year to over £605k. While our vessels are fit for purpose it is right that we keep half an eye on the future.

David Anderson asked for questions regarding the finances:

Colin Boyd asked was the loss on investments a one-off valuation and has it recovered?  Sandy replied it was disappointing to see a year-end loss and up until lockdown the investment portfolio was performing well. However since then he was glad to report it had recovered strongly.

Ahead of the meeting Robert Hollingdale had posted questions:

1. What level of risk was being adopted with regards to the investment portfolio and what was the balance between income and capital gain:

Sandy replied the portfolio was based on a medium tolerance for risk, and that the investment objective was to grow the capital as well as generating some degree of income.

1. Are you able to give a broad-brush view of the income and expenditure figure to March 2021?

Both income and expenditure were well down but the year end should show a small surplus.

1. Are our long-term funders likely to keep supporting us?

Sandy thought yes, so long as we keep telling a strong story that demonstrates the value of the work the Trust does.

1. How prepared are we to start sailing again with regards to qualified sea staff?

A month before we can start sailing we will devote that time to training our volunteers and brushing up sea skills. Our annual training seminar will still go ahead albeit in virtual form.

David Anderson thanked Robert Hollingdale for his questions.

David then gave thanks to the Fundraising team for their hard work and to Sandy for his significant stewardship of the accounts.

**6: To Adopt the Accounts for the Period ended 31st March 2019, circulated by electronic mail and published on the Trust’s website:**

Colin Boyd proposed, Fiona Armer Seconded

**7: To adopt the Motion submitted by the Board of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland:**

Adoption of Motion submitted by the Board of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland: *“that in light of the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and it’s impacts, the incumbent Board remain in Office for a period of one year in order to provide consistency and stability.”*

A virtual poll was run, 27 for and none against.

David Anderson then advised that Sandy McNeill will retire at the end of April, however he has offered to stay on as honorary treasurer to which the board unanimously agreed.

**8: Authority of the Directors to appoint the Auditors, and to fix their remuneration:**

David Anderson noted that while we were happy with the work carried out by our auditors it would be good practice to review that appointment from time to time. However, in the present environment that was not easy to do, and he recommended we stay with Milne Craig for the time being.

Barry Fisher Proposed and David Murray seconded.

**9: AOCB:**

David Anderson announced that Peta Koczy had recently been appointed as the Sailing and Development Managerand welcomed her back to the organisation.

Iain Barbour proposed a motion thanking the Board and Hazel and the staff team for all of their hard work during this very difficult time.  Cath coombs (among many) seconded.

The meeting was then closed with David Anderson thanking everybody for their attendance.