

## Maidstone Canoe Club AGM Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Attended by:46 members

Apologies: Catherine Dacey, Jacob Baisley, Leanne Jordan

### Agenda Item

Chairman's report:

So much has been achieved this last year

- Numbers of members has been great and over 200+ members for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Initially Covid helped our club however MCC have managed to retain their members in contrast to other canoe clubs
- Nearly everyday someone is paddling or using the club so that there is constant paddling by the various members
- The range of paddling and events is great from group paddles to touring and trips away to name a few. These have all been successful
- The club keeps progressing to go forward and retain membership

Here are a few of the he events that have happened over the year:

James Copeland – Wildlife talks; environmental events; litter picks and more

Touring – Quest fens, Thames, Chelmer Estuary, Bulgaria, Greece, Yalding down to the club, short and long trips from the club

Whitewater – North Wales, Devon, Lake District, Solvenia, Austrian Alps – WW is a growing group and it is great to see the next generation of WW paddlers coming through

Racing – Maidstone Marathon Hasler keeps us in the racing calendar and as we have such good river and facilities for racing here it is great to all the support the club gives for this event

Pool Sessions -These have run monthly and is great seeing new skills being learnt and progressed such as rolling

Sea paddling – Bute

Events – Open days which have been brilliantly attended, doggy paddle, Halloween paddle, Santa paddle, BBQs, Demo days, SUP & supper, Breakfast paddles

Community- Fun Sessions, Carers Day – thank you goes to Kathy, River Festival safety cover

Club courses – FSRT, Beginners, Yoga, Explorer, Leaders and much more

All these are made possible due to the Coaching Developing Group (CDG) which sits separately to the committee allowing to be successful and is very different to the format of other clubs as this gives a real depth to the canoeing instruction offered at Maidstone. This year the CDG have continued to encourage and train new PAAs/PIs/Leaders and coaches

MCC have had work parties to get the 'dive club' ready

Junior club - continues to be very successful and runs on a Tuesday evening from Spring through to Summer. There is now a good core group of younger/junior members who are now looking to progress in the sport

The club calendar is full and really successful and going forward we aim for more and bigger and better things

MCC is a friendly club

The chairman gave thanks:

- To the Committee Members for all the pressures and time put in

- To Catherine Ayling joint Racing Bosun and Welfare Officer in what has been a challenging year. Catherine is standing down due to a change in personal circumstances
- To Geoff Orford Treasurer and Membership secretary who has given service to the cause for 4 decades
- Catherine Dacey Secretary and joint Welfare Officer who has put massive effort into the organisation of paperwork for the club including updating Policies; DBS Checks and continuous work within what is required in a committee
- CDG – an amazing way where coaching is run by coaches keeping it out of the politics of the committee. All coaches have to do CDP and the CDG organise and put on all the courses. Mark Corti is the chair and it is astonishing how much he achieves and we are extremely grateful for this.
- A fantastic thank you to all the coaches/PAA's/PI and leaders
- Special thanks to Kathy S who ran and organised all the fun sessions along with helping at the Junior club
- Thanks to:
  - Trish who is always on the river running shorter trips and helping out
  - Mike Lambourne who constantly runs courses and trips
  - Alan Nevard always running trips and encouraging paddlers
  - Mark Harris works tirelessly around the club and helping out with events and with running courses
  - Jon L and Claire the social secretaries for taking on this new role
  - Bryn our race organiser who is always promoting racing
  - Darren a non-paddler for the enormous amount of effort he has put in with the New Build getting rid of rubbish and so so much of the hard graft
  - Mark Corti for the depth of what he does running the CDG ensuring that the coaches etc are up to date and current and runs the explorer award at the club; intro to white water paddling group; the website; newsletter and answers all the emails generated from the website
  - Paul Newman for his support, help and knowledge

And of course to all the members a big thank you for making the club such a successful and friendly place

The Chairman's aim for this year coming is:

1) the New Build – which is now happening

- ◆ Planning and Building Regs on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 got full planning permission through
- ◆ It is a priority for this year

2) Progression – in the club of over 280 members it is important for retention and to maintain the club's finances it is important to keep 100 membership

- ◆ This is achieved by maintaining and improving progression of our paddlers and to get better we need to get the instructors now to also progress e.g. WW/Sea Kayaking/Racing

3) Website update – the current Website is of a high level and had been amazing but can be improved and is being revamped

4) To add another racing event within the calendar and therefore keeping MCC on the racing calendar. This year MCC were approached to see if they are interested in running a race event to be included within the Flat Water Winter Series due to the facilities here at Maidstone

John also stated that this year he hopes to be his last year as Chairman and that next year it is important that someone else takes on the task. A Club as big as MCC needs to have new people running it so as to get new ideas etc

And finally from the chairman – life is short – set yourself one new paddling goal this year paddling wise e.g. try out the K- boats

#### Treasurer & Membership Secretary's report:

A big thank you to John Simmonds for all his hard work over the year

- Membership a record year 285 – as per all previous years we lose about 60/70 members. But each year we are gaining more than we are losing
- British Canoeing consider MCC to be a pretty well organised club
- Catherine Dacey successfully bid for a 'She paddles Grant' and British Canoeing states that we need more photos of women paddling on our Website
- Currently the proportion of women in the club is 35% but this differs within the different age categories and is bigger within the younger cohort

#### Statement of Accounts:

##### Income

- Subscriptions increased
- Boat storage – constant
- Beginners course continues to be a good revenue source – thank you to Mark Corti and coaches for doing this
- Pool Sessions – run at a small profit
- Marathon – run at a profit

##### Expenditure

- Coaching courses – supporting coaches with part payments so as to invest in our future
- She Paddle grant – matched by club as a condition of receiving this
- Fees – building cost mostly as did not need to buy many boats this year
- Rent for 'dive club' – This was for 2 years worth as MBC kept sending £0 invoices and finally caught up with this despite them having been chased
- Thanks to Paul C for the auditing of the accounts

Accepting of the accounts – proposed by Jon Lock, Seconded by Bryn Price  
AGREED by the meeting

Membership – projections shown for different fees and how this will affect the income to the club

- Committee agreed not to increase boat storage for the year due to the increased capacity that the New Build will give the membership
- Committee suggested a 6% increase to fees to accommodate ongoing costs and increases
- Discussion held by AGM on differing amounts
- An increase of 7-8% (£90 for adult membership) was proposed

Proposed by Anj Hill and Seconded by Reece Nelms  
AGREED by AGM

#### Racing Team Report (Bryn Price):

- A great year
- Racing are a small part of MCC but are doing very well

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan 2022 Inese Buzzin competed in her first race which was a 20km race and was promoted</li> <li>• May 2022 the Hasler was run and many novices took part</li> <li>• The age of the racing group is lowering such as Joel Crampton reaching Div 4 whilst still under 18</li> <li>• Aaron and Leanne Jordon continue to do really well</li> <li>• There are good partnership within the Masters with other clubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Catherine with Kerstin from BSF</li> <li>◦ Bryn and Iain</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MCC was present at the European Master's Marathon Championships in Denmark</li> <li>• MCC were present at the World Master's Marathon Championships in Portugal where they achieved great results</li> <li>• However MCC need more youngsters and Bryn will be running Kent Police Cadet Training programmes from Easter with the hope of having the youngster race in the Maidstone Hasler this year</li> </ul>	
<p>Election of the Committee Members:</p> <p>Current committee was disbanded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catherine A, Jacob and Richard C all stepping down</li> <li>• Charlotte F stepped forward to become an adult member and Matt C</li> <li>• Holly S stepped forward to be Junior member</li> <li>• Chairman – John Simmonds</li> <li>• Secretary – Catherine Dacey</li> <li>• Membership Secretary – Geoff Orford</li> <li>• Treasurer – Geoff Orford</li> <li>• Committee – Vice Chairman Paul Fife; Bosun James Copeland; Racing Bosun Leanne Jordan; Young rep Holly; social secretaries Claire and Jon; general members Geoff L; Charlotte F; Matt C; Reece N</li> </ul> <p>Proposed by John S, Seconded by Alan Nevard  AGREED by AGM</p>	
<p>New Build update (John Simmonds):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process dragged out partly due to Covid</li> <li>• Had to wait for planning which originally had been told not necessary</li> <li>• Work party occurs every fortnight – starts again on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and more help always welcomed</li> <li>• Will be completed in 2 phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Phase 1 – boat storage area – involves cutting a doorway; putting in doors; boat racking (should be ready by next month)</li> <li>◦ Phase 2 – changing rooms; storage etc</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mid-Kent College have offered to build this for us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCC to provide the materials</li> <li>• It is a community project which is what Mid-Kent's remit is for its training schemes</li> <li>• Any MCC members with the necessary skills who can and want to offer their time please contact the chairman</li> <li>• Mid-Kent may joint up with West Kent which means further skills so may be able to complete to further remits of the build</li> </ul>	

Boat Storage – 2 types available:

Vertical – Uses dead space; but difficult for man handling the boats; more clubs going over to this  
Horizontal – Limited by height

To start with there will be both and members will be asked to use and test both. A decision can then be made on the feedback from the members as to which works best before deciding which to go with

Remit is for boats upto 3m long and to be accessible to all

Geoff O thanked everyone who cleaned the ceiling which had 30 years worth of grease on it!

#### Committee Awards

- Young Paddler – Violet Pond – She has blossomed in her paddling progressing throughout the year and has achieved the explorer award
- Newcomer of the year – Tom Payne – puts in a lot of effort in the club quietly always picking up litter on and off the water and has introduced Yoga to the club running sessions for club members
- Racer of the year – Paul Lane – was determined to get fitter and better. Goes on his own to races and travel virtually anywhere just to improve
- Recreational paddler of the year – Matt Clegg – progressed massively in this year. Taken to canoeing and became part of their life and has aced grade 3&4 WW
- Chairman Award – Alan Nevard – Put a lot into the club this year instructing and running courses and trips and quietly doing stuff. And even taken part in marathon paddling and looking to progress into sea kayaking coaching enjoyed themselves
- President Award – Mark Harris - Does a lot for the club. Helps with the juniors and supports many events
- Senior Paddler – (Geoff Parson's Award) – Keith Denham – started as a support for his son and supported many MCC paddlers through DW but this year saw him winning Gold in K2 at the World's Masters

AOB – none

**Meeting closed at 9:50pm**