

Maidstone Canoe Club
Annual General Meeting
Friday 20th March 2015

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Paul Curtis, Rob Wood and Joe Brown

2. Minutes

Bill read an appraisal of the minutes from the Annual General Meeting for 2014. The meeting was given the chance to raise any points from these minutes. Paul Newman raised point 8.2 under any other business – Signs for the Clubhouse – Bill related that free standing advertising flags with the Maidstone logo and display boards had been purchased.

Bill asked the meeting for an acceptor of these minutes – Richard Clark adopted the minutes with Alison Slater Williams seconding.

3. Chairman's Report – William Norman

Congratulations to all members for their hard work over the past year through some significant challenges, with the reorganisation, and promoting the club to a greater wider audience. Members organised the Maidstone Marathon, the club Go Canoeing Open day, and the Leeds Castle Triathlon where the club provided water safety. A special thanks to all of those who organised those events, and to those who took part in running them, providing cakes, burgers, tent etc. The club held a Christmas party on the river, it was well attended, and a great success.

Also, well done and thanks to all those members who organised trips at home and abroad, and to those of you who attended. Trips to Slovenia, Wales, Scotland, French Alps and of course not least England – especially the racing team where individuals achieved such high results.

Congratulations to the CDG on organising and running the 1* courses, and the follow up trips, events, and instruction. There are now two groups: The racing team have now formed their own group with great results in their organisation. Both groups are open to all paddlers, not just coaches – these groups give direction to the club committee on paddlers needs.

A belated congratulation's to Mark Corti for winning the President's award for member of the year 2013-14.

The club has purchased some new equipment for the club, specifically modern white water kayaks and racing boats.

Thanks to Bryn, Leanne and Richard as the respective bosun's for all their hard work, for keeping the stores tidy, for stock taking, and keeping the boats well looked after. Thanks also to Aaron, for the upkeep of the building, and to all those who have given their time and effort in helping him. Well done to Tom who has recently taken over the cleaning duties, he's already proving his worth.

Larkfield Leisure Centre Pool Sessions are very well attended, and these are organised by Lee Horton – thank you.

Brian, last year's outgoing chair, said "Where do we go from here" – Improvement needs to be looked at for the Sunday morning sessions. The basic skills have been achieved from the courses put on by

the CDG, but a follow up needs to be implemented, so that these skills can be improved on, which in turn will maintain membership for Maidstone Canoe Club.

All this has been achieved. Thank you to Steve Chin, Geoff and Norman, amongst others who have taken up the challenge of greeting new members post 1* courses.

Where do we go from here – this coming year?

There are already planned events for the coming year (check the club's website). If re-elected I will strive to continue promoting the club to a wider audience, and to support the CDGs, and spend money on new equipment (some set aside already to purchase two new stable racing boats). Some old stock will be sold off, adapted, or disposed of to make room in the sheds for new boats.

The club needs more coaches. If there are enough members willing to sit on a Level 1 course, the committee will financially (provide some funding) and logistically support them by trying to arrange a course here on the Medway.

Maintenance work will soon start on the fire escape steps, and on other parts of the building.

It is hoped that a summer ball to celebrate your achievements will be supported and arranged.

Lastly, thank you to the committee for all their hard work for the past year in their voluntary capacity, serving you.

4. Treasurer's Report – Geoff Orford

Geoff gave a breakdown of the figures, relating that the affiliation to the BCU is two years. Richard Clark was thanked for his work in getting the electricity bill down, the Maidstone Marathon income was the best it has ever been, and thanked everyone who was involved on the day, for all their hard work.

Questions from the meeting:-

Paul Newman questioned the 45 River Licences and whether these were actually needed. It was related that the new Committee would review this at their next meeting.

Paul Newman also questioned the high Clubhouse bills. Geoff related that this included the weekly cleaning at £25 a week, and maintenance. Geoff offered to produce a further breakdown on this figure.

Raised from the floor – the current account at Nat West – would the committee consider changing this so that a better rate of interest can be sort – this would be discussed at the next available committee meeting?

5. Membership Secretary's Report – Geoff Orford

Membership for the last period stands at 247 members. The Recreational Coaching Development Group was praised, as many of these new members are as a result of the courses run by them. Improvement for the forthcoming year would be to maintain communications with these new members by the coaches.

Questioned as to the age range of these new members and it was answered that the majority of these members are aged over 30 years.

CDG suggested that posters be put in schools, and a Youth Representative was needed to interact with members of the younger section to hopefully improve on the retention of younger members. Brian Williams praised the work of the Recreational Coaching Development Group.

Praised was Mark Corti for his continual work on the club website and producing the newsletter. Steve Chin, Geoff Orford and Norman Brooks for their work on the Sunday morning sessions.

Suggestion put forward was that all coaches could wear arms bands or vests to advertise themselves and so that new members know who they are.

Geoff was thanked for all his hard work.

6. Membership Fee's – Geoff Orford

The Committee has agreed that membership fees and boat storage for 2015/2016 will remain the same.

Discussion took place on the WAM site, and Paul Newman related how Canoe England, Region had involvement in this site, and gave a background into its history, as to why its costs were lower.

7. Election of Officers

It's now been almost a year that this committee has served you. It has been an eventful year, what with many individual and club achievements, trips and new members. The financial state of the club is healthy. A proportion of our money has been spent on club equipment, maintenance, and club events - Leeds Castle Triathlon, Open Days and Maidstone Marathon, as examples. It is hoped that the next committee will introduce and sponsor other functions, some as rewards for all your efforts.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for their support during all the management changes taken place over the past year – in particular, for both racing and recreational CDGs who have taken on greater responsibilities for the club's current and future direction. Thanks also to your committee for their tenacious efforts on steering the club towards the demands necessary to managed a successful club like ours.

The AGM is here. It is hoped that many of the committee members will go on, with your support, and stand for re-election. However, all members should consider standing. The posts are all available for your consideration. Should you want to make changes, hopefully, you have sought support by speaking amongst yourselves and rallying support for other like-minded members. Consider the people that you would like to serve on the committee if not yourself. Specific positions on the committee are available. Traditionally the Chairman, Secretary, Membership Officer and Finance Officer has been voted for by members at the AGM. The remaining posts have been filled by committee members volunteering or being appointed by the newly formed committee. These posts include Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Officer, Property Officers – Building, Racing and Recreational Bursars, Event Safety Officer, Young Person Officer (applications only from members who are under the age of 18), and 'Future Development Officer'. A member may hold one or more positions. These positions may not all be filled by individuals, but if they are, there would be too many members sitting then the club's constitution allows – which is 12. However, the newly formed committee could appoint volunteers to carry out these tasks. Please discuss with current committee members what the 'office' responsibilities entail – some have been put on the website over the past few weeks. Slight changes to titles will be considered, the current Racing and Recreational CDG will nominate their own chairman. Although they report to the committee, they are separate, but make recommendations in regards to the club's direction, purchases etc, and a direct link to your Club's Committee, keeping them up-to-date on the needs of its members. They do not have to be members of the club committee, but they would be invited to pass on those recommendations at meetings.

Again, thank you to everyone. Have a wonderful 2015, and keep on paddling.

Bill explains the electorate process would be conducted by those present at the meeting, and how the individual roles will be allocated at the next committee meeting.

Paul Newman recommends that the role of Vice Chairman be voted in at this Annual General Meeting, after a discussion this was agreed by 16 members present.

Committee elected as follows:

Chairman	William Norman
Vice Chairman	Bryn Price
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Geoff Orford
Secretary	Alison Slater Williams

Committee Elected as	Proposed	Seconded	Votes
Catherine Dacey	Paul Newman	Nikki Norman	22
Richard Clark	Bryn Price	Mark Corti	21
Nikki Norman	Bryn Price	Ian Dann	18
Malcolm Crampton	Paul Newman	Nikki Norman	16
Brian Williams	Alison Slater Williams	Mick Wibrew	15
Ian Dann	Mark Corti	Paul Newman	15
Lee Horton	Aaron Jordan	Catherine Dacey	14
Tom Collins	Youth Representative		

8. President's Award – Paul Newman

Paul explained how he came up with the idea of the President's Award, relating it is presented to an individual who has given time, worked hard, and done well in promoting the club. That there is an Award board, displaying previous winners, who are Maggie Taylor, Geoff Orford, Aaron Jordan and Mark Corti and gave a brief appraisal of their individual achievements.

Paul continued saying that this year, the award is being presented to someone who has done a lot of work in and around the club house, in the boat sheds, and a very accomplished paddler – the winner for 2015 is Richard Clark.

9. Any Other Business

Paul Newman published the BCU Lifeguard course, with a four hour first aid certificate, details of which can be found on the club website.

Meeting closed at 2110 hours.

