



## AGM 2016 Minutes

**Date: March 18<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Time: 19.30-22.15**

**Present: See AGM register**

**Apologies: Mark Corti  
and Thomas Collins**

### **Agenda Item: Chairman (William Norman) Welcome and Report**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.**

"Welcome everyone. You may have noticed that there are some beverages, cakes, biscuits etc in the kitchen. Please help yourself throughout the evening. Please may I remind you to clean up after yourself.

In case of emergencies please take further direction from committee members. The fire escape is behind me or you could return down the staircase and through the main entrance.

Otherwise please leave those exits clear.

Please turn the sound off on any mobile devices.

Please be respectful of speakers by not talking during their presentation, unless invited.

You will notice the format of the evening changed somewhat to previous years.

This is predominantly in response to requests made by some members to change the voting systems. Please be patient with the committee this evening while they implement those changes.

The committee decided this year to include an award presentation, honouring those members of the club who have, in their minds, shone this year, not only perhaps for achieving great things in their discipline, but also in their performance – whether winning, leading, commitment, taking on new initiatives, or for being an outstanding contributor to the club.

Four awards will be made by the committee shortly;

Newcomer of the year.

Youngster of the year.

Racer of the year, and

Recreational paddler of the year.

At the end of the evening, there will be a Chairman's award, followed by the President's

address, and award; Paul Newman will also close proceedings for the night. If the membership feels that other awards should be included next year, please notify the committee after the event.

### **A word of thanks**

I would like to thank all members of MCC for supporting the club, and those members here for attending the AGM this year. This club is nothing if not for its members, and stars who achieve on our behalf. Your support, and membership, is warmly acknowledged. Thank you.

I would also like to thank the committee on its dedication, insight, commitment, conscientiousness, honesty, tireless, and openness in its voluntary contributions in leading this club forward into the future. Thank you.

I would also like to thank those individuals who have taken office on behalf of the committee, and have advised us accordingly. Thank You.

And, to those many unsung heroes. Thank You.

### **Summary of the year's events.**

A new committee was formed last year from the members that you voted for to represent you, and make decisions on your behalf. Sometimes, that hasn't been easy. The committee has its critics, and some times comments have been negative, perhaps based on rumour and/or speculation. If i am successful in being re-elected, I will put it to the committee that periodically they hold a small number of meetings throughout the year to update members of what the committee are doing on your behalf – a sort of question and answer session, to try to reduce or eliminate those rumours.

The committee are consciously aware of the impact that their decisions may make of the club. At times, there may be individuals, or groups who may not like or agree with those decisions, and subsequently resign their office early, or leave the club. It is unfortunate, but healthy in a democratic club such as Maidstone Canoe Club. We do endeavour to please everyone, but know in our hearts that this isn't possible. The committee meetings are open to all, any member, or observer may attend – of course with provisos – Like non-interference, or interrupting the meeting unless invited to speak. The committee now publish all matters arising, except those confidential issues where child protection and/or vulnerable adults are involved. The club is now more open and transparent than it has ever been.

The committee's decisions reflect their consensus of opinion. As the democratically elected group, we are entrusted, and have a mandate, to act in the best interests of the membership, and the club as a whole. The committee will discuss matters fully and reach decisions that reflect the opinions of the majority. There will rarely be situations on any one of our meetings where everyone is in complete agreement, but we try our best in listening to and considering everyone's contribution. When the committee have

difficulty in reaching decisions, they seek advice from more informed people or agencies.

For example, do we as a club need to increase our facilities to complement its large membership? Some of the questions like this perhaps are too great for us to answer alone. So, may be the club needs a referendum (seems to be politically popular at the moment) to address this! Bryn will report on his investigation later.

Also, does the club diversify in offering stand up paddle boarding, or even sit on tops. This may well bring more people to the club. These crafts are massively popular. SUP is the number one growing sport currently. One would quite commonly see people using these crafts on holiday. We have three coaches currently. I do have an application form to attain funding up to £10k.

Geoff will talk about the club's finances and possible alternatives for development of the club buildings. You will notice that financially the club is wonderfully solvent – more so than I am aware that it has been. This is a direct result of increased membership, and courses. Of course, we have spent a considered amount of money on new purchases, and a small amount on entertainment.

The Christmas party proved most successful, and was very well attended. This event was a thank you to the club for their hard work over the year. The comedian was initially going to be a gift to the club, but post-event, members of the committee felt that the club should finance some of the evening in recognition of its members' hard work. The committee hope to organise a club BBQ this summer for members, friends and family. The committee hope to have more open days too. These contribute to the positive ethos of the club.

The committee has worked very effectively, and been mutually supportive as a team this year. We must all look after each other. It is with this in mind that I suggest that the club carry out fund raising and subsequently sponsor a charity. To give to those in need. Perhaps a different charity each year. Monies to come from the courses we run. Thank you team, for all your hard work and support. It's been a very good year!

### **Positives.**

Leanne and Aaron, have achieved great things this year on behalf of the club in K2; but particularly Leanne who achieved 6 golds in 6 races, and becoming K1 Women's 200mtr Sprint National Champion. Well done.

Joel, who moves from strength to strength in his junior racing. I'm sure he'll achieve great things in the future.

Mark Corti, with the security update of our website. The chairmanship this last year of the CDG, the editor of the newsletter. Thank You

And, to the committees of racers and recreational paddlers. Thank you.

Tom, for being the youth representative, and who contributes more than he gives himself credit for. Thank you.

The coaches who ran courses last year. And to those that gave up their time to support them. Thank you.

To all those individuals who organised events, trips, etc. Thank you.

The problem with saying specific thank yous, is that it becomes very obvious if someone has been left out. If I have missed you off, thank you, and I apologise for the omission.

These members are amongst many in the club who are great achievers. But, there are many more who may not have achieved as much in paddle sport itself, but non-the-less have given great performances in their support in the club. Mums, dads, partners, siblings etc. Thank you.

In coaching, it has been said that “it is not in our achievements that we measure ourselves by, but in our performances to get there (author unknown). The message is keep striving, and you will get there.

Thank You

Any Questions?

#### **COMMITTEE AWARDS.**

The committee will now make the following awards:

1. Brian, to Maidstone Canoe Club Youngster of the Year 2015-2016.
2. Cathy, to Maidstone Canoe Club Newcomer of the Year 2015-2016.
3. Niki, to Maidstone Canoe Club Racer of the Year 2015-2016.
4. Ian, to Maidstone Recreational Paddler of the Year 2015-2016.”

Brian Williams, Catherine Dacey, Niki Norman and Ian Dann each outlined the successes and contributions the recipients of each award have made to the club in the last year before presenting the awards. These awards are not given solely for achievement but for being team players and giving their time to the club and its’ members.

Awards as follows:

Youngster of the Year: Joel Crampton

Newcomer of the Year: Michaela Wragg

Racer of the Year: Bryn Price

Recreational Paddler of the Year: Mark Harris

#### **Agenda Item: Chairman Minutes from the previous AGM**

Bill went through each point from the minutes and asked if anyone would like to comment on any of the items from the previous AGM. Alison pointed out that a recent issue that surprised the CDG which related to the committee’s plans to run a level 1

course was actually recorded on the minutes of last year's AGM, in the Chairman's report. Therefore the discussion of a proposed level one course that was recorded on committee minutes should not have surprised the CDG.

Bryn proposed the minutes be accepted. Ian seconded this.

### **Agenda Item: Treasurer and Membership Secretary (Geoff Orford) Financial report and voting on fees for 2016/2017**

Geoff presented the accounts and reported the following:

- Membership currently stands at 210.
- The pool has made a profit. Geoff thanked Lee, Andrea and Richard for making this happen.
- The club has a good fleet of kayaks and is gradually obtaining a good fleet of racing boats that are relevant to the club's needs.
- Thank you to Richard for reducing the club's electricity Bill through various measures.
- Thank you to Malcolm for selling a number of old kayaks on ebay. The club intends to sell more this year.

Acceptor of these accounts Maggie Taylor, seconded by Richard Clarke.

#### **Membership Fees**

Geoff reported the committees' recommendation for make the following increases:

<b>Category</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
Adult	£65	£70
Junior	£27	£30
Family member	£22	£25
Second family member	£11	£12
Boat storage	£30	£40

John Simmonds questioned the percentage increase. Paul Newman said the proposed fees are favourably comparative to other clubs. Geoff said the boat storage fees had not risen for four years.

Acceptor of the proposed new fees Ian Dann, seconded by Bryn Price.

Bill reported that the CDG have also suggested putting up course fees.

Geoff was thanked for all his continued hard work.

### **Agenda Item: Voting for Office Holders**

**Ballot organised by Alison Slater-Williams**

Register taken and each person allocated the numbered envelope that corresponds with their number on the register. The number was only on the envelope and not on ballot papers to ensure total confidentiality. Numbers were only used to ensure the correct number of ballot papers were given out. Ballot paper for office holders included in the envelope. Alison described the process and the context of the changes. At that point attendance was 33. Keith Dacey and Jane Addy counted.

Results as follows:

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>Total votes</b>
Mark Corti	Rob Payne	John Simmonds	16
William Norman	Geoff Orford	Alison Slater-Williams	16

Result: Draw. Normal procedure is the incumbent wins. The attendees at the meeting agreed this. One person did not vote for either nominee.

<b>Name and Position</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>Total votes</b>
Geoff Orford Membership Secretary	Ian Dann	Alison Slater-Williams	31
Geoff Orford Treasurer	Ian Dann	Alison Slater-Williams	32
Vice Chairman Brian Williams	Alison Slater-Williams	Bryn Price	27
Alison Slater-Williams Secretary	Geoff Orford	William Norman	29
Thomas Collins	Alison Slater-Williams	Brian Williams	27

**Agenda Item: Bryn Price and Geoff Orford Presentation and discussion of future plans for boat storage and development of the club buildings**

Bryn Price outlined the reasons behind the need to consider development of the club. The most obvious one being due to pressure from the sub- aqua club to make a monthly payment to them for continued use of their site for the large shed. At the moment the club has negotiated a fee of half the initial demand. This agreement will give the club some space to think and to plan future developments without the pressing need to move

the current large shed as a matter of urgency. Bryn outlined the progress he has made so far in his dealings with Maidstone Council. He is still waiting for a date for a site visit.

Geoff discussed various options for development using an impressive visual presentation. Geoff, Brian Williams and Malcolm Crampton had each researched and put forward different options for consideration. Discussion among members followed and John Simmonds suggested that a sub-committee be formed to move ideas forward. Bill also said there could be further general meetings to share developments and progress with members.

The various options had wide-ranging cost implications and would mostly need further funding e.g. through fund raising or/and a loan. Bryn explained various options regarding applying for grants.

John Simmonds proposed a vote for the preferred type of development.

Vote:

Do something with the permanent structure: unanimous

Single storey with potential for another floor: majority

Two storey building: majority

It was agreed the club should advertise for help with raising funds or for those wishing to be involved in moving the project forward on the club website and newsletter.

Maggie Taylor pointed out the difficulties she has in being able to use the ladies shower and requested that access to facilities for disabled paddlers be considered in any new developments.

Alison said the club needed a paddleability officer and also a fundraiser and asked members to consider offering their help with these positions. Maggie may take on the position of paddleability officer.

### **Agenda Item: Voting for remaining committee positions**

Ballot papers for remaining committee positions included in the envelope given to each member in attendance. Alison described the process and instructed members to remove the names of anyone who had already been voted into office.

Attendance just before the announcement of successful nominees to the committee was 34 due to the late arrival of one member.

Counting: Keith Dacey and Jane Addy

Niki Norman ran a visual presentation whilst counting took place.

Results as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mark Corti	Rob Payne	John Simmonds	24
Richard Clarke	Ian Dann	Brian Williams	31
Catherine Dacey	Brian Williams	Geoff Orford	29
Ian Dann	Brian Williams	Geoff Orford	18
Lee Horton	Richard Clarke	Alison Slater-Williams	23
Aaron Jordan	Lee Horton	Catherine Dacey	12
Niki Norman	William Norman	Alison Slater-Williams	20
Bryn Price	Geoff Orford	Brian Williams	27
John Simmonds	Mark Corti	Paul Newman	21
Michael Wibrew	Brian Williams	Malcolm Crampton	16

The seven remaining positions therefore went to:

Mark Corti, Richard Clarke, Catherine Dacey, Lee Horton, Niki Norman, Bryn Price and John Simmonds.

Thank you to all those who were willing to stand for election.

### **Agenda Item: Racing Presentation by Bryn Price**

Bryn delivered a presentation outlining various events and particular successes, efforts or achievements from the racers this year.

Bill had asked for similar presentations from general purpose paddlers without success.

### **Agenda Item: AOB**

Paul Newman requested the quorum be changed on the constitution, as it is almost impossible to make changes. The new committee will look at this.

Aaron Jordan questioned the appointment of Thomas Collins as youth representative because he is now 18 and not under 18. There was much discussion about this with various members agreeing it should be taken as school year i.e. Thomas was under 18 at



the start of the school year in September. He is still at school and therefore still appropriate for the role.

The opportunity to move the next adult with the highest votes into a committee position instead of Tom was voted on and overwhelmingly voted in favour of Tom retaining the position on the committee.

The committee will look at this issue in advance of next year's AGM

### **Agenda Item: Chairman's award**

Bill Norman:

"I have never agonised so much in choosing a recipient for an award, as I have for this one. Many people come to light and made the short list.

Mark Corti for his tireless work updating and managing the website to a very high standard. The editing of a very professional looking news-letter. The organiser of trips, and formally the chairman of the CDG, contributing remarkably by coordinating courses to the community on our behalf – thank you for a very good year.

Lee Horton who organises, with some assistance from his family and friends, the pool session, providing lifeguard cover. For his tenacity is striving to gain coaching awards as part of his personal development, subsequently offering a great number of 'follow-on' courses such as 2\*, first aid and FSRT to members of the club. He has on many occasions participated in Club sponsored events such as Leeds Castle, taking on the role of safety officer. And, of course, for so much more. Thank you Lee.

Geoff Orford, who also gives much of his time to the club. Always participating, as a Paddler, and as an administrator, enabling the smooth running of the club. For his constant hard work in managing the clubs finances, and register of members. Thank you Geoff.

But, the individual I have chosen to receive the award, is a racer. This individual has developed into a very good Paddler with excellent forward paddling techniques. He is always participating in many activities, and events on behalf of the club with mixed results. But, the important thing is that he tries so much harder. This attitude enabled him to finishing mostly in the top three in Division 4. Organised indoor training for other racers, motivating the others at all times. He attended a Level 1 coaching course at his own expense. Sits on the committee representing the younger members of the club. He has instigated more fitness equipment. He interacts with youngsters and adults with respect and empathy. He's approachable and proactive in his role of Youth Representative. This young man even does the dirty work. Yes, cleaning these premises to a very high standard. He leaves us this year to educate his mind. I hope that he continues to exercise his body on the water too. He'll be surely missed.

The first recipient of the Chairmans,' award is Tom Collins."

Malcolm accepted the award on behalf of Tom.

### **Agenda Item: President's award**

Paul Newman gave a brief outline of his lengthy relationship with the club; paddling 60 plus years, membership of the club for 48 years and president since 1985. He described the contributions this year's recipient of the award has made to the club alongside her personal developments as a paddler. The award was fittingly given to the very worthy Catherine Dacey.

Congratulations to Catherine and thank you to Paul for his continued support and contribution to the club.

**Meeting ended at 22.15**