

Minutes

Date	15 March 2019
Time	19:00-21:00

Chairman welcome and report (Brian Williams)

Thank you for coming and for all your help running courses and welcoming new members.

Thank you to the committee members standing down for all their work:
Michaela, Mark, Catherine.

Decorating- had a great workday getting lots done. Thank you to Lee for co-ordinating and everyone who helped out.

Thank you to Geoff for continuing to be the club membership secretary and treasurer.

New coaches delivered a number of courses- Mark, Andrea and Suzie. Helps keep us in a strong position and gain new members.

Club is a welcoming place.

Thank you to Brian for chairman role.

Great array of trips this year- beginner and more advanced whitewater. Thanks to Mark and Mary for arranging. Wye trip I very popular organised by Lee. Lots of trips on the board and if you have any ideas for trips just bring them to the committee and we can try to help run.

Racing has had a few new people, particularly Ian and Catherine who have also won a few races. Steve and Chris who have also had a few wins. Few members went to World Masters in Portugal and represented the UK and the club.

Lots of canoe clubs in the south are focused on one discipline- racing or polo. Maidstone offers a good mix of disciplines. Great venue for a club.

Hope Maidstone will continue to be a friendly and welcoming club.

Minutes from previous AGM (Brian Williams)

Reviewed and seconded by Bryn and Keith.

Approved motion to offer Bill and Niki Norman an honorary life membership.

Noted by Paul Newman this should have been voted on at AGM not a committee decision. Voted and passed.

Financial report and voting on fees 2019 (Geoff Orford)

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Statement of accounts given out. In a strong financial position with a surplus of £10k. Will need to spend on the building in the future. Main expenditures this year are on equipment. Main income revenue on courses, fees and marathon. Accounts audited by Keith Dacey and Paul Kurtis. Thanks to the auditors.

John proposed and Mark seconded.

220 members in 2018. Lose about 60/70 members each year and gain the same number.

Hard to retain members, people tend to drop off over the winter.

Is there a finite number of members the club can handle? Discussion that there probably is a limit given storage and facilities.

Membership fees are very competitive in comparison to other nearby clubs.

Fees for 2019- 2020

Currently membership is at £70 and boat storage at £50.

Committee recommends fees remain the same.

Paul Newman raised concern that people with their own boats are subsidising people who are borrowing a boat. How do you police this? Would this proposal stop member using club equipment if they own a boat?

People are discouraged from buying their own boat. Other clubs charge a user fee for equipment.

Most members who paddle regularly do tend to start buying their own kit. Placing a charge on non boat owners will discourage people getting into paddling. Members have all benefitted from club kit.

Committee think carefully about what boats we buy to encourage those to buy own kit. Beginner courses subsidise equipment purchases.

Members can utilise all club equipment to try something new. Join club to paddle with others and ease of use.

It would stop people who can't afford to buy a boat.

Club boats are not perfect and committee makes decisions to not make boats perfect.

Community sense some people benefit from work of others. Community spirit.

Proposal:

Reduction in fees for people who own a boat (John and Catherine proposed and seconded). Opposed unanimously.

Proposal:

Increase in membership for people with out own boat by £5. (Paul and Brian proposed and seconded). Opposed (1 vote for).

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Proposal:

Keep fees the same as last year. Agreed (1 opposed).

Voting for Named committee positions

All named committee positions had only one nominee, so the committee was re-voted in. No objections raised. Reece Nelm withdraw as Youth Representative. Secretary post is vacant.

Voting for remaining committee positions

All other committee members voted in, as only 7 nominees. People asked to come forward.

Discussion to consider a turnover of committee members in post.

Building development

Outline planning permission for plan for the extension, but may change as the sub aqua club have expressed a wish to give up lease. We have said we'd like to take on the lease. In hands of Maidstone borough council. Sub aqua building is huge and has lots of storage space.

If we had the lease it would negate the need to extend the club building. We would need to apply for grants for funding for the building.

Can British canoeing support us with legal advice? Is anyone in the club able to give advice. If anyone has any contacts at the council please let Bryn know.

Committee Awards

Racer award- Ian Dain and Catherine Ayling

Chairman's award- Andrea Head

Recreational Paddler- Steve Chinn

New comer of the year- Steve Rowe

Youngster of the year- Ewan Cartwright

Presidents award- John Simmonds