COPELAND CANOE CLUB

Western Lake District

give me water...

Minutes

Annual General Meeting at The Harbour Project, Swingpump Lane Whitehaven, Wednesday 20th November 2019.

Present: Andy Bennion, Alastair Yates, Joe Stalker, Robert Stalker, Richard Stalker, Mark Jones, Tony Foster, Simon Kay, Estelle Kay, Mark Hillon, Dave Topliss, Ryan Garner, Nick Jackson, Rowan Johnstone

Apologies: Jon Cheesewright, Grace Bennion.

Meeting started 1930ish, after the buffet, time to read previous minutes. Many thanks to Andy for organizing it!

1: **Minutes of the last meeting** (AGM) were approved as a true record. Prop Mark Jones 2nd Tony Foster. Actions checked and closed.

2: **Chairman**: Chairman's review over the last 12 months - Nov 2019. I would like to start by thanking all the committee members, volunteers and parents who have and continue to support the club, without this we wouldn't function.

Some of the highlights:-

The club ran the 13th annual Sea Quest event over the three estuaries at Ravenglass in May and donated all of the money raised £240 to Northern Brainwave, many thanks to Karen and volunteers for leading this. Big success in promoting all areas of paddlesport and competitors. Final total to be confirmed with Joe.

Excellent club family holidays - thanks to Team Copeland for leading these very successful holidays and opportunities for members.

We have seen a continued trend over the last few years of membership numbers decreasing, mainly around the family membership where we have had 1 or 2 paddling family members. We have seen an overall drop in membership of around 21 (11 last year) with current membership around 74 members. As a committee we need to look at the reasons why and look to see how we continue to encourage participation in the sport. This must be a key focus for us going forward. Tony will expand on this within his treasurers report.

A number of coaches / members have led and attended the Cumbria Canoeist sea kayaking events over the last year.

We continue to support a number of local and national events, inter club, scout groups, WHYP.

We continue in discussions with a number of stakeholders to support the development of Whitehaven harbour to provide facilities on and off the water with our interest in establishing a polo and slalom facility. Thanks to Tony.

We are at the end of a three year accredited award for the club - Sport England club mark, British Canoeing Quality mark and British Canoeing Top club paddle-ability award. Club mark is Sport England's national accreditation scheme for high quality community sports clubs which recognizes higher standards of welfare, coaching and management. British Canoeing have announced that they have now moved away from this accreditation.

We have four younger members who have completed the new paddlesport instructor award in Feb 19, with a view of putting more through next year, well done.

Looking forward over the next 12 months, areas of focus remain on:-

* Coach and members development / retain / recruit as a priority - Increasing the number of level 1 (x2) and level 2 (x2) coaches, plus an additional 4*WW leader.
* Provide a more structured training / event plan for the pool and outdoor sessions to align club activities to members needs, development and wide varied activities.
* Review of membership numbers, age groups to target and how we can encourage participation in paddlesport.
* Have fun in a safe environment!!

To close I would like to say a big thank you to all those who have and continue to support the club, however big or small your involvement it is very much appreciated.

Mark J:

Ideas needed for pool activities and also outside ones especially for beginners.

Special merit award

As a reminder, the special merit award is presented on an annual basis to someone in the club who has in the opinion of the committee and members shown over previous years qualities such as improvement in paddling ability, encouragement to

others, general all„round effort, and support to the club. This year the committee has decided to present the award to ???! ...At the pool!

Thank you to Andy for sorting the buffet and Al for the annual slide show, Mark.

3: **Treasurer**: Tony Foster showed an account sheet. Summary:

Overall we have nearly £8000 cash in the bank. Note that this includes significant grant monies of about £3200. We made an operational loss of nearly £1000, this included the £275 loss on pool activities.

Membership Fees dropped by about £400 since last year, by £500 from previous years.

The garage cost is falsely high this year as we paid an extra £200 rent for the rent last year, which had not been billed until this year. We paid for this year's web site in the previous year as we got a reduction by combining two years. So web site cost low this year. No other outstanding operating items.

This gives a year end excluding grants of £4700 which is a drop of £1000 over last year. This a significant reduction in our net worth. (Grants are usually for specific items and cannot normally be amalgamated with general funds) This report should be read in conjunction with membership figures and pool attendance to identify ways of reversing the decline in Club funds.

Pool costs: Effect of any possible price increases by the pool unknown. We made a loss on the pool fees last year - income rarely covers costs. **Pool fees / subs.** Mark Jones proposed that fees remain the same for 2020. 2nd Tony Foster. Meeting agreed unanimously.

New Harbour facilities project ongoing. Tony Foster to monitor happenings. What would we want?

The meeting expressed its grateful thanks to (especially) Estelle and others in the team who collect money on a Tuesday evening. *More volunteers needed to help.* The meeting expressed its thanks to Tony for his hard work.

Mark Jones: pool sessions end as last year. Last one would be late May (outside 26 May-01 Sept inc.) : Action, Alastair Yates to write to pool.

Membership numbers - Andy Bennion suggested a "refer a friend" scheme where an *existing* member introduces a "friend". Both get a voucher worth 2 club sessions *after* the friend pays a membership. *Meeting agreed*. Full details to be worked out! Action, Alastair Yates and Andy Bennion to put a set of suggestions out. More ideas direct to Mark Jones.

4: **Secretary**: "Usual" correspondence; Ennerdale permit applied for; British Canoeing affiliation etc. Numbers down, see Tony's comments. Website busy, has been revamped to work on mobile phones. MailChimp for email messages in regular use now, roughly monthly. Google calendar in use on website, 2020 planner on website as well. Dates :- Seaquest - 21 June. Need for a check paddle about 14 days before. Action - Joe Stalker / Mark Jones / Karen. Scarness - 10-12 July, action - Andy Bennion. Calendar use to be encouraged as a way of putting activities before members.

Activity Assistant - replacement for Cadet Leader. British Canoeing info now available; we need 2 volunteers as mentors who may need training. Cost initial registration £50. *Meeting agreed we should register as soon as mentors found.*

Coach update 2020 - British Canoeing have put a new online course on which is needed before coaches can assess the replacement for Star awards. Cost £15 which has to be paid (personally) up-front for the course. So far only Al and Jon have done this. Alastair Yates proposed that the club should reimburse coaches for the cost of this course. Mark Jones reminded Coaches that we support their training. *Meeting agreed.*

Clubmark - not continuing in its present form, we await info from British Canoeing.

Facebook: club has a page in use to spread messages / videos around. More to come for example YouTube links?

TOPS - The Outdoor Partnership. Has been working in N Wales for 15 Yrs+, successful in encouraging more participation from the general public. BIG Lottery grant to start in Cumbria.

Info to be circulated by Alastair Yates as too much for a meeting like the AGM!

Mark Jones on behalf of the meeting expressed thanks to Alastair Yates for much work done behind the scenes.

5: Equipment Officer: several pool boats scrapped - others refurbished although still in in poor condition (some are 30yrs old...) Some slalom boats donated to Carlisle Club for river use. Trailer need handbrake checked and work done if needed. Possibility of replacement spray decks mooted - Action Mark Hillon. Meeting expressed its thanks to Mark for his hard work.

6: Election of officers. Mark Jones proposed the following en bloc:

Officers for **2019-20:**

Chair: Mark Jones.
Secretary: Alastair Yates
Treasurer: Tony Foster
Equipment: Mark Hillon
Welfare Officers. Joe Stalker and Estelle Kay
Safety Officer: Joe Stalker and Alastair Yates
Calendar / newsletter production: Alastair Yates
Junior Coaching coordinator: David Topliss
Adult Coaching coordinator: Simon Kay
Competition Officer: Rob Stalker
Volunteer coordinator: Andy Bennion
Membership coordinator: To be shared between Chair and Secretary.
School Liaison coordinator: Mark Jones
Junior Rep: to be recruited
Paddle-Ability Rep: Andy Bennion

proposed Mark Jones, seconded by Joe Stalker. All the above were voted in unanimously by the meeting.

9 Award: Club Special Merit Award. To be awarded at the pool when she's there!

10 AOB

Meeting finished at 21.10ish, there being no further business for the good or benefit of the club.

Slide show: Club show was put together by Al in the usual hurry, Items will be made available for those not at the AGM.

Next meeting Spring 2019, venue tbc.

A Yates Secretary 26.11.19

Actions:

ALL: ideas to improve numbers in pool / outside etc to Mark Jones asap.

Alastair Yates: write to pool re dates off in summer etc:

Alastair Yates and Andy Bennion to coordinate ideas for voucher scheme.

Mark Jones: coordinate winter programme with Alastair Yates, Joe Stalker, etc!

Tony Foster to continue monitoring pool income / costs and discuss with Mark Jones

Scarness: Andy Bennion to book 10-12 July

Mark Hillon to check re trailer handbrake working correctly and see about spraydeck replacement. Coordinate with Joe Stalker re repair of the damaged slalom boat currently in dry dock at Bigrigg!

Rob Stalker: check with Alastair Yates re dates for events etc.

Tom Storer - coordinate polo competitions.