



COPELAND CANOE CLUB

Western Lake District

Minutes

Annual General Meeting held by Zoom, Wednesday 17th December 2020, 19:00.

- Present: Andy Bennion, Alastair Yates, Joe Stalker, Mark Jones, Tony Foster, Simon Kay, Estelle Kay, Claire Bryant, Alison Bird, John Bird. Apologies: Jon Cheesewright. Meeting started 19:00, (no buffet, unless you had one at home). Last time's minutes circulated before the meeting.
- Minutes of the last meeting (AGM) were approved as a true record. Prop Mark Jones 2nd Tony Foster. Actions checked and closed.
- Chairman: Chairman's review over the last 12 months:

Copeland Canoe Club AGM Dec 2020

COVID-19 has played a major factor this year in our club activities: -

We had to cancel the 14th annual Sea Quest event over the three estuaries at Ravenglass, hopefully we will be able to run this next year.

Our pool sessions continue to be on hold, we are keeping in regular dialogue with the pool management where there is a possibility to return shortly.

Following a comprehensive review of the COVID risk assessments and arrangements we had to put in place, we have had a successful summer programme from July of weekly activities with good attendance.

Given we could not return to the pool in Sept, we have taken this as an opportunity to re-establish a weekly winter programme, covering, sea / river / lake paddling with some excellent night paddles.

Given recent Gov restrictions, from 5th Nov our club activities were again paused until Dec. We have established regular communications with our members through our web site, facebook and e-mail flyers to keep our members informed and engaged.

We have seen a continued trend over the last few years of membership numbers decreasing which again has been impacted this year. As a club this is an area of focus to see how we continue to encourage participation and retention in the sport. On the up-side, we have however introduced new members during the year.

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

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 the completion of a new slip way in the outer harbour in Whitehaven and the planned building of a facility block.

We have four younger members who have completed the new paddlesport instructor award with a plan of putting more through next year, with active coaching and development of our members through the paddle sport development and award scheme.

We have recently joined the outdoor partnership group.

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

- Coach and members development / retain / recruit as a priority
- Continue to provide structured training / event plan for the 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 continue to encourage participation in paddlesport.
- Review and apply for the new club mark arrangements.
- Continue to have fun in a safe environment!!

The success of our club and thanks is down to the support we get through the committee members, coaches, volunteers and parents who have and continue to support the club, without this we wouldn't function, this is very much appreciated across the club.

Thank you, Mark. Club Chairman

- Treasurer: Tony Foster showed an account sheet, (Full accounts: CCCAccounts20.pdf).

The overall LOSS for the years Income and Expenses account was £1076.70

There are two factors here:

Cost of the garage, which came out at £832,

This includes the Copeland Rates refund of £181.76 so could have been an even higher cost.

Membership, which has dropped in money terms by 40% in two years (2018 £1214).

Membership income drop even greater compared with earlier years.

Other points to note are:

Cost of Web site should be spread over 2 years.

The Club makes a donation to Scarness by paying some of the overnight costs of the Coaches.

On Grants:

Having spent £3065 on boats etc. this year, it has reduced our pot of grant monies to £152.

Our costs on supplying the Club with Coach training, Boats and other kit is normally met from various grant monies.

At this point the Covid grant monies is left untouched at £10,000.

For the future we are softly committed to some participation in the Edge development at Whitehaven Harbour. Possibly with some Club boat storage on the site.

Overall. A significant loss this year.

The Club has already discussed and agreed to raise some fees from private boat storage at the Garage. We also need to look at increasing Membership – possible using the TOP organisation to help.

Increase in membership fees?

Tony Foster, Treasurer Copeland Canoe Club.

Discussion ensued re monies - need to remember to collect outside when we can do so!

Meeting agreed :

- i) to ask for donations of £1 per week or £50p.a. if members store a boat in the garage. Any problems discuss with Mark Jones Chairman.
- ii) to keep all other fees as they are at present, but keep a careful eye on costs!

- Secretary: Secretary's Report 2020

Inevitably 2020 has been a very strange year, however we have tried hard to keep going.

Club numbers: 62 (69 last year). I think this is pretty good given the circumstances at present.

Largest numbers are in the U14 and >45 age groups.

Pool: sessions were suspended in March, haven't restarted.

Outdoor trips operated July – October (Tuesday evenings, then weekends). These need booking on to allow numbers to be monitored.

Communications: Usual stuff re Ennerdale Water permit, BC affiliation etc. After several meetings we have joined The Outdoor Partnership (TOPs). This is a Lottery funded group which has the aim of increasing participation in all outdoor sport in areas of the country such as ours. I hope this will result in support in areas of our operation such as Coaching.

BC held in Jan / Feb a club consultation which has resulted in clarification and changes for quite a lot of things:

- What a “club trip” is and insurance implications if it isn’t!
- A framework to allow us to designate club coaches
- Encouragement for us to use the new Start / Discovery / Explorer awards (there are implications re payment for us as the awards are done online)
- A reorganised process to replace Clubmark (which will need to happen in early 2021)
- Easier affiliation process (all online)

Some of this info is already on our website.

Thanks to Mike Mills (BC access Ennerdale) for a lot of hard work in regaining access to Ennerdale Water at the old Angler’s Hotel site.

Alastair Yates: Dec 2020

PS – this may be wrong, but we have found an email which suggests that the club will be 40 years old in 2021! It might be a good thing to have a celebration anyway next year.

Meeting suggested later on in 2021 to have some sort of commemoration, possibly at Scarness?

- Equipment Officer: Mark Hillon has tidied the garage and repainted the roof as well as the doors. Several new boats bought as well as assorted kit. Meeting expressed its thanks to Mark for his hard work.
 - Competition Officer: Competitions not possible this year due to COVID-19
 - Discussions further: Access to Ennerdale, Andy Bennion to send Alastair Yates / Mark Jones info re who might know who controls the gate access at Bleach Green. Mark Jones to follow up.
Pool: they were keen to restart but wanted a guarantee of income for bookings - 3 monthly up-front payment. Mark Jones - we would need to ask members re booking on for a block of sessions. Mark Jones to get in contact.
- It was also felt that a possible new lockdown would make this a bit irrelevant as it might not finish till we could run outdoor trips again.

- Election of officers. Andy Bennion proposed the following en bloc:

Officers for 2020-21:

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

#ShePaddles* Officer: Alison Bird

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

seconded by Joe Stalker. All the above were voted in unanimously by the meeting.

* To look after Women's and Girls activities and encourage their participation etc.

- Award: Club Special Merit Award. After a short discussion we decided on To be awarded when we can a) get it back from Lucy b) find a time when lots of us are there to be awarded!
- AOB Activities: Sequest date : check with Karen (Mark Jones) : Scarness: Andy Bennion to book a possible date.

Meeting finished at 20:30ish, there being no further business for the good or benefit of the club.

Next meeting Spring 2020, venue tbc. (possibly still Zoom)

A Yates Secretary 11.02.2021