



COPELAND CANOE CLUB

Western Lake District

Minutes

Annual General Meeting at The Harbour Project, Swingpump Lane
Whitehaven, Wednesday 10th November 2021.

- Present: Andy Bennion, Alastair Yates, Joe Stalker, Richard Stalker, Mark Jones, Tony Foster, Simon Kay, Josh Kay, Alison Bird, John Bird, Bob Frazer, Graeme Robson, David Topliss, Ryan Garner.

Apologies: Jon Cheesewright, Mark Hillon, Rob Stalker.

Meeting started 19:00, buffet provided by Simon (sandwiches) and Mark (chips), Last time's minutes circulated during the buffet.

- 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 – Oct 2021

COVID has continued to play a factor in our club activities earlier in the year. However, we re-started our outdoor club activities in May, where we welcomed new and existing members to various environments with an average weekly turnout of 20 paddlers of all ages.

We have worked closely with The Outdoor Partnership (TOP) where we managed to secure several paddleboards which have been very popular and have attracted new members into the club.

We ran the 15th annual Sea Quest event in July over the three estuaries at Ravenglass with over 75 competitors taking part. The event raised £403 with the proceeds going to "Northern Cumbria Integrated care, NHS Foundation Trust".

Our pool sessions have recently restarted, uptake at the moment was slow to start with but has increased in November. We have engaged with West Cumbria Canoe Club to offer some pool spaces to their members. We are currently trialling an on-line booking system.

We have seen an upturn in members over the last six months given the previous trend was a decline over the last few years. This is an area of focus to see how we continue to encourage participation and retention in the sport.

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

We welcomed a new role onto the committee "ShePaddles coordinator" to encourage more females to participate in the sport.

We continue in discussions with several 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 "the Edge". The Harbour Commissioner (Chief Exec) revealed that the Cumbria Activity Centre is due to open June 2022, which will seek to offer 17 en-suite bedrooms, a café, conference facilities, changing & toilets. The facility will engage both water based and indoor activities. The Harbour Commissioner is seeking a third-party operator to both manage the conference and accommodation, and a 3rd

party operator to look at developing the water based and adventure activities: we are currently unsure if we will be allocated our request for a kayak store.

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

- Coach and members development / retain / recruit as a priority
- Continue to provide structured training / event plan for the 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 Quality club accreditation.
- 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.

Mark
Club Chairman

Treasurer: Tony Foster showed an account sheet, (Full accounts: CCCAccounts21.pdf).
Comments:

- More membership fees this year as membership increased
- No pool sessions till Sept 21 so costs down here
- Outdoor sessions May - end Aug up due to more attendance by members
- Garage costs mainly insurance but now being offset by contributions from members with boats stored in the garage.
- No website cost this year (paid every two years, so due in 2022)
- Seaquest income - paid in Nov as a donation (see above) so in next year's accounts.
- As a result of all this we are in a healthier financial state than last year.

Tony Foster, Treasurer Copeland Canoe Club.

Secretary: Secretary's Report 2021

- 2021 has been difficult but less so than 2020, we have tried hard to get members out paddling
- Club numbers: 70. An increase from last year. Continued interest being shown from possible new members.
- Pool: restarted in September. Uptake slow at first but now first session full most times. Several compliments paid by participants re our sessions and how much they have enjoyed them.
- Outdoor trips operated May – October (weekends, then Tuesday evenings).
- Communications: Usual stuff re Ennerdale Water permit, BC affiliation - cost £235 this year.
- New website page - Women and Girls. More support material to be added. Thanks to Alison for much input and advice.
- British Canoeing accreditation - restarting, support available from British Canoeing. Help from members needed to get this done. As a start we need a annual calendar with dates for particular activities set up. Alastair Yates to sort.
- Ennerdale access - 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. However more to come as there are ongoing problems with unauthorized access.

Alastair Yates: Nov 2021

- Women and girls summary

First main job this past year to get club website more represented with WAG, specifically photos of WAG participating in paddling and for a WAG web-page on club website to encourage

participation, still some links to resources to come.

Pool attendance - encouraging start to first session with more families including younger girls and mums participating, Alison encouraging them learning together to build relationships and encouraging club membership, lack of any girls in second session, hard for single females to break into all male session, propose moving small group up together for support

She-paddles ambassadors from BC - Alison made contact with local ambassador in Wigton, no response from her yet.

Alison linking up with Claire Bryant to consider WAG taster session next year , Alison made contact with Wasdale YHA who are positive about allowing lake access for parking, changing etc which is great. Need to consider date in calendar for next year.

Aim to get more accessible SUP loan system for next year to facilitate kit loan outwith club sessions, SUPs are popular with WAG, ease of carrying on own, no boat to load on roof rack, suited particularly for leisure and recreational paddling reasons.

Committee representation, be good to get more females in committee positions, over next year, need to foster and encourage development in our ladies to develop confidence to take roles on. Alison Bird - Women and Girls Officer

- Equipment Officer: Mark Hillon on holiday! Joe has been in touch. Need for an equipment log and checks to be done soon. Alastair Yates to find sample which was done previously.
- Competition Officer: Competitions not possible this year due to COVID-19
- Discussions further:
 - Pool problems - members arriving and not checking in. A system involving paddlers being given a band on check in was proposed and agreed (Simon Kay and Mark Jones to sort purchase) but this will take a bit of time to sort out. Several members to be on duty at the check in (arriving early) to help. Big notice needed! Coach shirts / Hi-Vis jackets in foyer area to help direct members?
 - Joe Stalker - need for ongoing training. Recommending several British Canoeing courses esp the one on equipment.
 - Internal competitions - Joe Stalker suggest re-starting these. Rob Stalker to search for trophies...
 - Trips outside - aimed at particular groups to improve participation? :
 - Taster sessions - TOP to be approached re funding for pool sessions, aimed at particular groups to improve participation? Mark Jones to look at this.
 - T-shirts - David Topliss will order for those who have paid asap: general agreement for new Coach shirts with names on to be paid for by the club. David Topliss to find prices and report back asap.
 - John Bird - need for "publicity" style videos / slide show in the pool foyer and generally available. To be thought about but the pool no longer has a screen in the foyer area.
 - Reece's Flyer - generally favourable comment. Joe Stalker to circulate further and get feedback for possible changes before release.
- Election of officers. We welcomed Alison after her first year in her role and complimented her on the progress made so far, especially with WAG page on website and with more female participation in pool session 1.
We also welcomed Bob Frazer to the committee. He will help Andy Bennion to carry out his post at present.
After some discussion we asked to Ryan Garner to take on a new role of "Equality and Diversity Officer" - he agreed subject to finding out more regarding such a role.

Andy Bennion proposed the following en bloc:

Officers for 2021-22:

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 plus Bob Frazer

Membership coordinator: To be shared between Chair and Secretary.

School Liaison coordinator: Mark Jones

Junior Rep: to be recruited

Paddle-Ability Rep : Andy Bennion plus Bob Frazer

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 do so with lots people present.
- AOB Activities: Seaquest date : check with Karen (Mark Jones) : Scarness: Andy Bennion to book a possible date.

Meeting finished at 21:00ish, there being no further business for the good or benefit of the club. Slide show from Alastair Yates... More pictures from Joe Stalker as well. Much appreciated by the audience!

Next meeting Spring 2022, venue tbc.

A Yates Secretary 12.11.2021

Actions:

Alastair Yates -find equipment logs and discuss with Joe Stalker, Mark Hillon how to improve things.

Annual planning calendar -prepare and involve others in sorting dates for things to happen.

Coordinate Accreditation work.

Mark Jones - sort out Special Merit Award...

Coordinate with TOP re possible taster sessions

Contact Karen re dates for Seaquest 2022.

Joe Stalker - Get feedback and organize Reece's flyer for possible distribution

Discuss with all re dates for internal competitions and what form they might take.

Coordinate with Mark Hillon re equipment and storage.

Andy Bennion - find out possible dates for booking Scarness 2022