

Minutes of Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club AGM 2021

Held 7pm, Tuesday 20th July
Nash Mills Recreation Centre, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9TE



Present

Alan Corner (Clubhouse Maintenance & Equipment Officer)
Anna Hobbs (member)
Chris Sword (Chair)
Glen Farrell (Events & Social Media Officer)
Graham Taylor (Treasurer)
Mike Nisbett (member)
Richard Wilkes (member)
Ross Pearton (member)
Steve Shaughnessy (website designer)

Agenda

1) Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from:

Adrienne Garner (member)
Andy Sands (member)
Bob Pearce (member)
Harriet Matthews (member)
Ian Holloway (member)
James Prowse (member)
John Bennett (member)
John Houston (member)
Josh Bartmeier (member)
Ross Hensman (Safeguarding & Welfare Officer)
Sean Butler (Coach Co-ordinator)
Steve Green (member)

2) Minutes of previous AGM

Were agreed and approved.

3) Club report

Chris presented the Club report:

I'm delighted to give my first chairman report, and it's a privilege to serve the club.

Despite it being a challenging year due to covid, member numbers have broadly remained the same. We have made every effort to make the most of paddling opportunities available, opening the club where safely possible with relevant safeguards in place.

Following on from unlocking after COVID, we have had massive demand for canoe/kayak sessions from new paddlers, and have had much repeated interest. This has led to Sean hosting separate sessions on Tuesdays that are 'course' focussed in addition to the regular Thursday sessions. We currently questionably have too much interest – which is a really good problem to have.

We chose to invest in new buoyancy aids for the club which have proved to be a good buy, and later invested in 6 SUPs. The SUPs have been so popular that recently we haven't had enough and therefore we have further extended our fleet by a further 4. This gives the club really good

facilities in this area going forward, and maximises our potential to provide paddlesport experience to the community as SUP seems to be becoming increasingly popular among the public.

We have also managed to run session for armed forces day which was a great success.

I look forward to next year, and hope that we can carry forward the momentum we've started to create. Hopefully we can arrange yet more activities, ones that are suitable for all abilities.

4) Financial report

Graham presented the Clubs financial report from 01/05/2020-30/04/2021:

- Thanks to Business rates holiday, and not heating the club as much, our spending was down, and income didn't drop by as much as budgeted, which lead us to an operational surplus (ignoring capital spending on SUPs etc).
- Another covid grant helped cover the cost of the SUPs
- We've spent £4k on BAs and SUPs, which all have been a huge success. In addition to that shown to April we have spent another (circa) £2.5k on more boards.
- We've also splashed out this year on River licences for club boats to cover us for club events.
- In respect to the balance, it is very healthy. Noting the following:
 - I would propose to keep membership fees the same as last year (noting that this is a special rate due to covid. We should make that clear as we may need to put them back to normal levels next year)
 - Our building would benefit from some attention
 - Our running costs next year are likely to return to normal levels, so I would expect next year to be at an operational loss.
 - The SUPs are great, but storage is looking tight, perhaps worth putting a little funds away to sort that.
 - I'm conscious that there is a request for a few hundred pounds on racing equipment.
 - It would be great to be able to spend funds where it is a good investment, and help us build on future revenue and success of the club.

Grants came from council, need to put back into community

The report was agreed and approved

5) Election of committee members

All committee members were re-elected, with a new Secretary appointed:

Position	Person	Nominate	Second	Roles and Responsibilities
Chair	Chris Sword	Mike	Graham	Leadership & co-ordination. Provide visibility of Committee. Determine strategic direction and focus of Club.
Secretary	Anna Hobbs	Alan	Glen	General administration of Club. Administrative point of contact with BCU
Treasurer	Graham Taylor	Glen	Chris	Financial administration of Club. Preparation of club accounts.
Membership Secretary	Chris Sword	Anna	Mike	Administration of Club membership
Coach Co-ordinator	Sean Butler	Chris	Graham	Development / training of Club coaches through Paddlesport

				courses. Fulfilment of coaches for Club courses.
Safeguarding & Welfare Officer	Ross Hensman	Graham	Mike	Responsibility for welfare and safeguarding issues within Club. Promotion of appropriate welfare issues to Club coaches.
Events and Social Media Officer	Glen Farrell	Mike	Steve	Administration of Club social media e.g. Facebook, Instagram etc. Responsibility for administration and promotion of Club events. Administration of Club events calendar, and Club website
Clubhouse Maintenance	PJ O'Keefe	Chris	Graham	Responsibility for general maintenance of clubhouse
Equipment Officer				Responsibility for general maintenance of club equipment
Landscaping	Alan Corner	Anna	Chris	Responsibility for outside area and plants

6) Membership

a) Types

- i) It was proposed that there should be a new life time membership that would be free of charge, full membership and Alan Corner should be made a Life time member. This was nominated by Ross and seconded by Steve with support from all in attendance. The Club's gratitude was extended to Alan.
- ii) It was confirmed that full members need to be assessed by a club member and deemed to have British Canoe level skills to be a club member. Current full membership types are Adult, Family, Junior and Over 60
- iii) A new membership type of associate member was discussed which would allow those without British Canoe certification to be members of the club. This was unanimously voted against and will not be progressed

b) Fees

As per the financial report it was recommended that 2021/2022 prices would remain at 50% due to the covid restrictions for some of the year.

Ross proposed, Mike seconded

Type	With BC membership	Without BC membership
<i>50% discounted rates due to Covid restrictions in some of 2021</i>		
Adult	£27.00	£29.50
Family	£36.00	£38.50
Junior	£14.00	£16.50
Over 60	£14.50	£17.00
Storage	£26.00 per boat	

7) AOB

a) Paying online

Options were discussed but decided to leave as a future consideration

b) **More qualified coaches are required**

It was discussed and agreed that the club would fund qualifications for people who were already assisting with Club activities

c) **Comms**

Currently there are a number of Facebook options, it was proposed that the private Facebook group should be discontinued with a new group created for club members only. This was voted with 6 for, 1 against and 2 abstaining

d) **Next Committee meeting date**

07/09/21 – Alan has sent his apologies

e) **Next AGM meeting date**

03/05/22

The meeting was closed.