

Minutes for Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club AGM 2025

Tuesday 4th March 2025 7.30pm

Nash Mills Recreation Centre, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9TE



Attending:

Adam Flowerdew, Andy Fay, Andy Sands, Anna Hobbs, Arti Wilmer, Chris Sword, Darren Carter, Gary Archer, Graham Taylor, Jeremy Webb, John Bennet, Leigh van der Byl, Nick Godfrey, Paul McNicholas, Paula Dutson, Rosemary Hansen, Ross Pearton

Apologies:

Adrienne Garner, Bob Pearce, Harriet Nicholson, Helen Hawthorne, Ian Holloway

Agenda

1) **Minutes of previous AGM** – Proposer: Chris, Seconder: John

2) **Club report**

Looking back on last year, we had a very successful year. Our drinking club has actually managed to fit in quite a lot of paddling; we continued with the Thursday Introductory sessions with 156 different people joining us. Our coaches awarded 31 Discover awards with many of those becoming members after successful completion of training.

We also had other activities kicking off the year with a competitive Easter Egg hunt, our first club BBQ. Flat Water and White Water groups expanded and arranging many activities here and away, our first Sea kayaking weekend, some slalom events, and fewer than usual pub crawls. We ran a PRST course and the end of the year brought in very exciting access to a swimming pool with 18 sessions to learn to roll, thank you to all those supporting paddlers in the water.

It has been great to see club members co-ordinating with each other; seeing invitations to various trips, whether locally to Lee Valley, Harefield, or further afield with a Sea Kayaking trip (it's good to know I'm not the only one who vomits in a kayak the day after drinking). It's great to see encouragement into different disciplines with Slalom and marathon paddling being promoted.

We continued to support the local community; teaming up with Waterways Experience to provide Bell Boating, and the Scout weekend was a great, if chaotic and exhausting, success. Pennyworth engagement was negatively impacted by the water discharge and turnover of personnel at GroundWork South who arrange the activities.

Gary ran an excellent Bell Boat helm course, resulting several people in the club officially qualified to take out the Bell Boats and instigate sing-a-longs – so hopefully this season there will be greater use of them. There is a pub crawl planned with them on 28th June, who's coming along?

As well as effort on the water, I would like to give a special thanks all those that support the club off the water:

Leigh has made some great videos and images – I'm sure you all saw the Banner on your way here this evening, Harriet is thrilled to be famous

Anna and Nick who have continued to do so much behind the scenes/off the water; managing the admin, club maintenance etc etc etc that has been a massive help to help things run smoothly

Graham continues to do a great job keeping me from buying unicorn add ons for our SUPs and generally keeping the club afloat

And a huge Thank you to Sean for being so integral in the club for the past 10+ years. He will be very missed but we all support his future activities and wish him the best.

Anyone able to help out in any degree please do let the committee know as the more people we have giving time, the more the club can do. This year we have Core Coach training, First Aid training, in addition to the usual Thursday Intro sessions that start in 30 days, Discover Award Courses, Members paddles, Flat Water training, Pennywort removal, Easter Egg hunt, White Water escapades, the list goes on.

As we look forward to this year, Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club turns 50, and we are getting plans in place to celebrate, it's interesting to think how the beer (and boats) have evolved so much since the club was formed, and I'm sure both will feature in the celebrations!

3) Financial report

Treasurer's Statement

The club remains in a solid position financially. The accounts show a surplus in the year of around £4.5k. This is mostly due to income from courses, including come and try it sessions, Discover courses and Scout weekend. We also charged to cover the cost of the swimming pool sessions.

Membership has grown to 77 members in 2024, a 38% growth from 2023. This covers the cost of the day-to-day running of the club, with other income being available for investment / improvements, and to invest in craft as the need arises.

We have had comparatively small amount of expenditure on big ticket items in 2024. We invested in paddle boards in 2021 and are fortunate that they are still useable. In 2023 there was large expenditure on the storage sheds. Whereas such expenditure was smaller in 2024, we did purchase 2 new club boats which paid for themselves several times over. This has given us short term surplus, that should be available should we need to pay for equipment or building projects in the future.

You may notice the drop in electric charges. The club changed contract in the year, which lead to a drop in unit cost from over 60p to 21.5 (plus VAT) per unit. Also we had a reimbursement from the motorbike club (at the higher rate).

We have set up a savings account to take advantage of interest rate increase, which explains the increase in savings income.

Although the balance appears reasonable, one potential exposure would be in the event significant sums need to be spent on the building or equipment, and the committee are exploring options to insure this risk. Insurance will come at a cost, but should give us required protection so that we can hopefully continue in the circumstance of a catastrophic event.

Financial statement for period to 31 December 2024 – Proposer: Ross, Seconder: Jeremy

Starting balance (Current account)	31,455.50
Lloyds current account	729.74
Savings accounts	3,220.28
Paypall	16.68
Cash	11.05
Creditors	0.00
	35,433.25

In:		
Course fees	7,365.25	
membership & boat store	5,212.50	
Boat and equipment sales and rentals	170.00	
other		12,747.75
Out:		
Building and maintenance	2,601.70	
Courses, certificates etc	1,356.48	
Internet and website hosting	84.00	
Electirc	573.65	
Cleaning	618.75	
Other	0.00	
Rent	250.00	
Decorum - business rates	225.42	
British Canoeing	384.80	
Card / transaction and booking fees	336.74	
other admin	0.00	
		(6,431.54)
Operating surplus / (deficit)		6,316.21
Equipment and repairs		(2,055.33)
Interest receipt		319.81
Balance		40,013.94
Being:		
Santander Current account		1087.45
Lloyds Current account		5346.49
Santander Savings		3251.17
Lloyds savings		25288.92
Paypall		5392.46
Cash		11.05
Creditors		(363.60)
		40,013.94
		0.00
Recommended allocation of funds:		
Recommended minimum funds	10,000.00	
Building reserve fund	10,000.00	
Courses	2,000.00	
Membership subsidy	1,500.00	
Equipment	2,000.00	
Other	14,513.94	
		40,013.94

4) Election of committee members

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder	Roles and Responsibilities
Chair	Chris Sword	Paul	Rosemary	Leadership & co-ordination. Provide visibility of Committee. Determine

				strategic direction and focus of Club.
Secretary	Anna Hobbs	John	Chris	General administration of Club. Administrative point of contact with BCU
Treasurer	Graham Taylor	Jeremy	John	Financial administration of Club. Preparation of club accounts.
Coach Co-ordinator	Gary Archer	Anna	Chris	Development / training of Club coaches through Paddlesport courses. Fulfilment of coaches for Club courses.
Safeguarding & Welfare Officer	Harriet Nicholson	Leigh	Jeremy	Responsibility for welfare and safeguarding issues within Club. Promotion of appropriate welfare issues to Club coaches.
Equipment and Building Officer	Nick Godfrey	Graham	Paula	Responsibility for general maintenance of club equipment and building

5) Additional volunteering:

Social Media support – Arti, Leigh
 Social events – 50 years – still looking
 Fundraising – Elle Alderman
 Insurance – still looking for support
 First Aid – Andy Fay

6) Membership and costs – Proposer: Paula, Seconder: Paul

Category	2024	2025
Adult	£60	£65
Junior	£30	£32.50
Family	£80	£85
Over 60	£32	£35
Taster	£11	£12.50
Scouts	£8.25	£10
BellBoat	£5	£30 for 1 boat for 1 hour, £45 for 2 hours £45 for 2 boats for 1 hour, £65 for 2 hours
Discover Course	£66	£75
Boat storage	£30	£35

7) Members Paddle date

Discussion was had regarding how to increase the popularity of the members paddle. They will continue to be Mondays, but only the first Monday of the month.

8) WhatsApp community administration

Discussion was had regarding how to use the WhatsApp community. It was agreed to reduce the number of groups rather than encourage topics within their specific groups.

9) AOB

Rosemary gave up time for WW trip, and going above and beyond getting people prepared, “It was brilliant, Thank you”

10) Next AGM meeting date Tuesday 3th March 2026 7.30pm