

Minutes of Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club EGM 2025

Held 11am, Saturday 20th July
Nash Mills Recreation Centre, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9TE



Present

Chris Sword (Chair)
Graham Taylor (Treasurer)
Harriet Nicholson (Safeguarding & Welfare Officer)
Ross Pearton (member)
Elle Alderman (member)
Leigh van der Byl (member)
John Bennett (member)
Jeremy Webb (member)
Issy Green (member)
Steve Green (member)
Andy Sands (member)
Isla Alderman (member)
Embry Koehler (member)
Adam Woods (member)
Amy Rogers (member)
Elsie Alderman (member)
Graham Rogers (member)
Paul McNicholas (member)
Will Dart (member)

Agenda

1) Welcome – this is your club, how do you want it to run?

Chris and Graham welcomed members to the meeting and outlined the future vision for the club. Previously the club was very committee lead, with a lack of representation from members. They would like this to be opened up to a wider group, ensuring we have representation from all disciplines. There have been some newly created committee roles, these can be shared if preferred.

Committee meetings are open to all, and you are encouraged to attend to help shape the future of the club.

2) Election of committee members

Previous secretary and Clubhouse and equipment officer stood down during the term, their roles were appointed along with some newly created roles to increase member representation on the committee:

Position	Person	Nominate	Second	Roles and Responsibilities
Chair	Chris Sword			Leadership & co-ordination. Provide visibility of Committee. Determine strategic direction and focus of Club.
Secretary	Elle Alderman	Harriet	Graham Rogers	General administration of Club. Administrative point of contact with BCU

Treasurer	Graham Taylor			Financial administration of Club. Preparation of club accounts.
Membership Secretary	Elle Alderman	Harriet	John	Administration of Club membership
Coach Co-ordinator	Gary Archer			Development / training of Club coaches through Paddlesport courses. Fulfilment of coaches for Club courses.
Safeguarding & Welfare Officer	Harriet Nicholson			Responsibility for welfare and safeguarding issues within Club. Promotion of appropriate welfare issues to Club coaches.
Events Secretary	Jeremy Webb	Graham Taylor	Embry	Responsibility for administration and promotion of Club events. Administration of Club events calendar, and Club website
Clubhouse Maintenance	Steve Green	Issy	Adam	Responsibility for general maintenance of clubhouse
Equipment Officer	Will Dart	Graham Rogers	Leigh	Responsibility for general maintenance of club equipment
Social Media (Non committee role)	Leigh van der Byl / Arati Wilmer			Responsibility for maintaining and promotion of club activities on facebook/Instagram
Website (Non committee role)	Leigh van der Byl / Gavin Lee			Responsibility for maintaining club website

3) New bank signatories

Nick and Anna were previously bank signatories. Harriet and Elle have taken on this role, along with Graham T. This was agreed in the meeting.

4) Dates for last taster session of the season.

The last date was currently 11th September 2025, it was discussed whether this could be extended as was the request from the volunteers. The dates of the sunset was discussed and it was agreed that there would be an additional public session on 18th September, which would begin at 5.30. The twilight members paddle will then be on the 25th September.

5) Training

Gary is currently able to provide the following training – Discover, Explore, Whitewater Kayak and Bellboat and will soon be able to offer touring, Canoe and PRST. This will give members a ‘ladder’ through which to progress their skills once they have joined the club.

6) AOB

a) WWEX sessions

John gave feedback from WWEX that they were really happy with how quickly the club was able to support the bellboat and SUP sessions for young carers and that these were really enjoyed by the groups that were taken out. The club have not currently charged for these sessions.

There are 4 weeks in August which also require bellboats, these will be for people with learning and/or physical disabilities and will be run 5.30-6.30 on the Friday evenings. The club are happy to support these session and there were discussions around the best way to capture the volunteers availability. Issy mentioned that there is an app called SPOND which she has used in similar situations and could also be used for organising club trips. Issy is happy to help set this up.

b) Member paddles

The current member paddles on Monday's were discussed. These are currently the first Monday of the month and it was felt that these are really valuable to new members. Thursday used to be the member paddle but this has now become the taster session, as this increases in popularity it can be difficult for members to use their preferred vessel. Leigh is happy to coordinate the Monday sessions to encourage participation at these and take some of the pressure off the Thursday sessions.

c) First aid course

Issy is organising a 16 hour first aid course. Anyone interested should contact her directly to arrange for a place.

d) Fundraising

Will discussed the possibility of fundraising, in particular the club roof may need replacing in the coming years. There are several opportunities available including Dacorum and Tesco grants. It may also be possible to acquire funding of equipment to support people with mobility issues to get onto the water. Will, Paul and Graham R will look into this.

e) Thanks

Graham Taylor extended his thanks to all who support the club through volunteering for the Thursday and WWEX sessions. It is much appreciated.

The meeting was closed.