

## Agenda for Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club AGM 2026

7.30pm, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Nash Mills Recreation Centre, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9TE



### Agenda

#### 1) Welcome and apologies

Apologies received from John Bennett, Adrienne Garner, Will Dart, Adam Wood, Rachel Hickey and Rosemary Hansen.

Attendees: Chris Sword, Gary Archer, Elle Alderman, Graham Taylor, Harriett Nicholson, Isla Alderman, Embry Koehler, Leigh van der Byl, Mike Cully, Ross Pearson, Issy Green, Steve Green, Gavin Lee, Amy Rogers, Tony Woods, Gemma Berridge, Graham Rogers, Jeremy Webb, Andy Sands, and Paul McNicholas

#### 2) [Minutes of previous AGM](#). Approved

#### 3) Club report

We had a very successful 50th year, which included a great BBQ with some very competitive games! It was great to see the club come together to celebrate. We continued with the Thursday Introductory sessions with 172 different people joining us. Our coaches awarded 27 Discover awards with many of those becoming members after successful completion of training.

We kicked off the year with a competitive Easter Egg hunt, and the Flat Water and White Water groups continued to expand and arranging many activities here and away. There were 2 fabulous Sea kayaking weekends, some race events with members expanding their vessels beyond their norms. We ran a 2 day core coaching course at the start of the year and a 2 day water based first aid course upskilling many members. The end of the year brought in very exciting access to Hemel swimming pool with regular weekly sessions to learn to roll, proving extremely popular.

We started using Spond as a way to make organising events easier and 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. It's great to see different disciplines being encouraged with Slalom, flat water events and marathon paddling.

We continued to support the local community; teaming up with Waterways Experience to provide Bell Boating, support the young carers weekends and the enable sessions. These are always fun sessions and the children do really enjoy being out on the water. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with these events – particularly the last minute young carer sessions, you are all awesome!

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

Elle for taking up the mantle of club secretary – a thankless job and keeps the club and me in check.

Leigh has again made some great videos and images, these are really invaluable for promoting the club.

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

Issy and Steve have organised some amazing events, with members trying out various new paddling locations. Ross and the flat water enthusiasts have been visiting some great spots encouraging flat and white water racing.

Gavin has liaised with Hemel pool and managed to secure us a regular slot for rolling practice. This is a great local resource and something that members will really benefit from. As always a massive thank you to those members who give up their time to support these sessions.

Will has been brilliant at picking up the mantle of equipment officer and has done a fantastic job of documenting everything which will be really invaluable going forward.

A huge thank you to everyone who gives up their time for the Thursday public, WWEX and bellboat sessions and discover courses. These not only bring in revenue to keep the club running but also allow access for a variety of people and is a real asset to the community.

Anyone able to help out in any way at all please do let the committee know as the more people we have giving time, the more the club can do. This year we have the regular white water trips in addition to the usual Thursday Intro sessions that start soon, Discover Award Courses, Members paddles, Flat Water training, Easter Egg hunt, the list goes on.

#### **4) Financial report**

The club's financial position has continued to be relatively strong. You may recall that we received COVID related grants, some of which were used to invest, and the funds invested have been recuperated via courses and Try it sessions.

The course income in the accounts includes the try it sessions and other external as well as contributions to internal courses. Broadly, internal sessions do not run at a surplus, but you will see that yet again significant amounts have been generated via try it sessions (and similar) which broadly equate to the surplus for the year, and provides funds to invest into equipment for the club.

Regarding expenditure, we have invested in a couple of new kayaks which have been well received. Other than that we have not had significant large amounts of expenditure in the year. I am however conscious that the building repairs loom (that said, the roof is being repaid, and if the fix is successful the cost will be significantly less than originally feared).

I am also conscious that when we invested in the paddle boards, we were expecting a life of 3-5 years, and currently we are fortunate that they have surpassed expectations – but may at some point need replacing.

Overall though, and in the absence of large expenditure being required, the finances for the year are in reasonable shape. For this reason the committee see no reason to increase membership (or other charges) for the current year, but as always this will be continually reviewed.

## Financial statement for period to 31 December 2025

	<u>Year to</u> <u>December</u> <u>2025</u>	
Starting balance (Current account)	1,087.45	
Lloyds current account	5,346.49	
Savings accounts	3,251.17	
Lloyds savings	25,288.92	
Payroll	5,392.46	
Cash	11.05	
Creditors	(363.60)	
	<hr/>	40,013.94
<b>In:</b>		
Course fees	7,883.00	
membership & boat store	6,116.50	
Boat and equipment sales and rentals	0.00	
other	<hr/>	13,999.50
<b>Out:</b>		
Building and maintenance	1,513.14	
Courses, certificates etc	2,467.00	
Internet and website hosting	84.00	
Electric	415.79	
Cleaning	646.69	
Other	112.50	
Rent	250.00	
Decorum - business rates	409.45	
British Canoeing	502.40	
Card / transaction and booking fees	211.71	
other		
admin	0.00	
	<hr/>	(6,612.68)
Operating surplus / (deficit)		<hr/> 7,386.82
Equipment and repairs		(1,530.17)
Interest receipt		937.89
Balance		<hr/> <hr/> 46,808.48
Being:		

Santander Current account	1226.47
Lloyds Current account	5286.27
Santander Savings	3285.14
Lloyds savings	31192.84
Paypall	5806.71
Cash	11.05
Creditors	0.00
	46,808.48
	0.00

Recomended allocation of funds:

Recommended minimum funds	10,000.00
Building reserve fund	20,000.00
Courses	2,000.00
Membership subsidy	1,500.00
Equipment	2,000.00
Other	11,308.48
	46,808.48

**5) Election of committee members**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Chair	Leadership & co-ordination. Provide visibility of Committee. Determine strategic direction and focus of Club.	Chris	Leigh	Graham
Secretary	General administration of Club. Administrative point of contact with BCU	Elle	Harriet	Chris
Treasurer	Financial administration of Club. Preparation of club accounts.	Graham T	Jeremy	Gary
Coach Co-ordinator / Safety Officer	Development / training of Club coaches through Paddlesport courses. Fulfilment of coaches for Club courses.	Gary	Elle	Issy
Safeguarding & Welfare Officer	Responsibility for welfare and safeguarding issues within Club. Promotion of appropriate welfare issues to Club coaches.	Harriet	Amy	Issy
Events Officer	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	Leigh/Issy	Graham	Elle

Clubhouse Maintenance	Responsibility for general maintenance of clubhouse	Steve G	Leigh	Isla
Equipment Officer	Responsibility for general maintenance of club equipment	Leigh/Gavin	Chris	Harriet

## 6) Constitution

No updates proposed. Last approved 2025 EGM.

## 7) Membership

After an increase over the last couple of years the committee proposed to keep the membership and course fees the same, particularly considering that the membership fees are aligned with club expenditure. This was agreed by the Quorum.

Category 2025	
Adult	£65 / £70
Junior	£33 / £38
Family	£85 / £90
Over 60	£35 / £40
Taster	£12.50
Scouts	£10
BellBoat	£30 for 1 boat for 1 hour, £45 for 2 hours £45 for 2 boats for 1 hour, £65 for 2 hours
Discover Course	£75
Boat storage	£35

## 8) Events

Planned events so far this year –

Event	Date	Organiser
Member Paddles	Every Monday evening	Members
HHCC Public Paddle Sessions	16th April - 10th September	Committee
HHCC Easter Egg Hunt	28th March 11am	Committee
Monthly Whitewater trips	TBC	Issy/Steve
Dorset Sea Trip	TBC - May	Leigh
Pembrokeshire Sea Trip	TBC - September	Leigh
PSRC Training	TBC	Elle
Pool Rolling Sessions	September – April	Gavin

There was some discussion around the Monday paddle sessions as these are particularly useful for newer members. The club will aim to use these sessions for more skills practice, in particular rescue skills refreshers this year.

There is also some interest in a white water rescue course, Gary will look into this.

## **9) AOB**

The members discussed that it would be helpful to have a poster down by the launch and possibly on the bridge which could include a QR code to book when. Members are often stopped when paddling and this would mean there was a place to point people to for information. Leigh will look into a possible design for this.

Another good way to facilitate this would be to add stickers with the QR codes to club boats – the committee will look into the best way to do this.

Also adding getting more copies of the poster we had in 2024. Elle will look at the possibility of getting this put up in the library but if any other members are able to support with distribution please let the committee know, we'd be very grateful.

The opportunity to increase the slots available on the public paddle sessions and courses was discussed but we are limited by the number of available boats.

Gary is coordinating getting the club recognised as a 'Top club' with Paddle UK. This will include the club being higher up on searches with Paddle UK and also allows access to better funding and bursary opportunities.

Gary is also looking at running a 'Coach Day' where all the coaches will be able to review the club code of conduct to ensure we are ready for the start of the season. It was raised that this will need to be actioned quickly due to availability of coaches.

## **10) Next AGM meeting date**

The next AGM was agreed to be 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2027 @7.30pm.