

Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club held on Friday 12th October at Frimley Baptist Church.

The Chairman Opened the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Graham, Dawn and Nathan wall, Richard, Kathryn and Matt Boreham, Jason Ashwell, the Veness family, the Hansell family, the Fox family, David Howie, Brian Gandy, Stella Gandy, Lis Coleman, Chris Branch, Liz and Sarah Murnaghan, Jiri Pavelka, Iasbel Cuesta, Paul Juan, Mary Balch, Max Juan-Balch, Howard Smith, Sarah Francis, Ian Fox, Matt Tichbon, Caroline and Alan Ebbage, Garry Winckley, Sam, Steve and Tracy Rees-Clark, Jamie Cox, Mo Ford, Murray Jones, Jeanette Holder, Mike and Mary Simpson, Brian & Anne Biffin, Richard Somerset. Pete and Margaret Absolom, Rob Hansford, Paul, Alison & Andrew Jeffs, Katie Hicks.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Belton, Paul Mant, Alan and Martyn Small, Harvey Wade, Ray Rasmussen and Mark Evans.

2 Minutes of the 32nd AGM were approved.

3 The Youth retired to form their own committee.

4 Chairman's report

Starting with the sad news... This year we saw the passing of Charles Hicks very suddenly at the end of July. Charles was one of the founding members of the BCCC in 1979 and held every one of the club's committee position (some several times) over the years. Most recently he was the Facilities Development Manager for the proposed toilet block development. And it was in this role, as the new Chairman, that I really appreciated how much he did for the club and just how well he was known and well connected he was in the area

As you know he was a great enthusiast in everything he did. Including collecting boats. I think many people in the club acquired their first or second racing boat via Charles's care. I remember especially how pleased he was when his old K2 Whisper was paddled in the DW by Mike R-C and my son Nick.

I'm sure you all will have your own fond memories of Charles and we appreciate his huge contribution to the club.

'd like to note that we will be renaming the winter Canal Challenge race after Charles and intend to award a trophy in his name at the Club's Hasler to the club scoring the most points.

So, moving on to a recent endeavour of Charles...Clubhouse Facilities (AKA Toilet Block)

Progress has been start, stop this year. Mainly stop at present. Planning consent was given before Christmas. We started having project initiation meetings with the Canal Authority and the Two County Councils. We prepared an application for a grant for £50k to Sport England in the spring and...Just at that point we discovered that Surrey CC wanted to look at the overall use of the amenities at Mychett which meant that they would not endorse the grant application at that time. We are now again in limbo whilst we await the outcome of that consultation

Only good news is that, as we understand it now, the Council rather woke up to the gem they have at Mytchett and want to maximise its potential. Let's hope that plans stay firmly oriented in that direction. In the meantime we have modest funding reserved against the eventuality of the project moving forward.

Which leads me to finance. Brian will give a more in depth view in his report but suffice to say, our finances are pretty healthy and we aim to keep providing very good value to our members. A lot of this is down to the efforts of our volunteers as events like the races and training courses do allow us to keep membership fees at a low level and the courses themselves at prices well below any commercial provider. We are now aiming to put some of these funds back into a slightly more ambitious boat replacement programme, particularly around the adults boats both racing and GP. In previous years we focussed on the junior fleet where we often had difficulties finding enough boats for the (smaller) juniors at Paddlepower courses and thereafter.

At the start of the New Year, I'd hoped the Olympics would be a good platform for us all to get out and do a bit more paddling. I think you will agree that this was something of an understatement. Apart from the two golds, silver and bronze won by Team GB a lot of us enjoyed the events as spectators and volunteers. We've had former member, Helen Reeves commentating for the BBC (and being interviewed); Rob Hansford carrying the flame; The Rees-Clarks (Sam and Mike) took centre stage in the paddle past at Dorney Lake and giving boat demos and Liz M, Brian and Ann Biffin, Howard Smith, Caroline Barnes and Alex Hampson being Olympic or Paralympic Gamesmakers. And... we have seen 30 new members join the club since the Olympics and have put on many additional taster sessions and one star courses to accommodate this surge. We really hope these new members really catch the bug and get fully involved with the club.

Racing – A short roundup to a successful year

7th in Hasler Finals: top ten position two consecutive years - outstanding. Sam/Mike Rees-Clark 1st in 3K2; Luke 2nd 5 K1 promoted to div 4; Graham Wall 3rd in 8K1 promoted to div 7.

Ben Hansell promoted to div 2 recently at Henley Ben Hansell represented GB Development Team at the Gent Marathon in March

Also now have six in div 3: many more than Brian can ever remember.

Sam R-C represented GB in the Olympic Hopes regatta in Hungary in September got to the final in 1000m K1 and 500m K2. Sam also raced for GB in Marathon World Cup in Denmark in June: 4th in Junior Ladies K2 (c17km) with Nicole Williams (Royal CC).

Over 250 competitors at the BCCC Hasler in May. Also successful Canal Challenge in December

We have 73 paddlers registered in the ranking list

Watersides: BCCC Red team won the team event: Blue team came fourth. Isobel/Naomi Smith won the inaugural Junior Ladies K2, having won the Senior Ladies K2 races each year from 2008 to 2011 and having first competed in 2007, aged 12.

DW was a bit light this year. Rob Hansford was forced to retire but Rhys Evans completed the Junior K2 DW with his partner Errol from Reading paddling for their school. They came 5th.

Race Training goes from strength to strength under Dave Howie, Richard S and Brian's guidance and there has been a lot of additional introductory race training sessions going on.

I know this because I get to see them paddling past me on a Saturday morning. Once again thanks go out to the coaching team and their assistants.

White Water

Almost too much to mention here but Paul Jeffs has done a great job of coordinating events

Trips include many visits to the Yat - including June Bank Hol camp with probably 30 members camping over – popular as ever (especially as my car didn't break down this year)

Others include Barle, Teign, Dart, Nene WW, Cardiff WW, Hell Hole on the Wye (trip not done for many years), Shepperton, Upper Severn, Teifi and more. Usk trip was notable for staring at the coldest place in the country that day (Sennybridge at something silly minus) . While the Upper Severn trip was notable for a rain storm of near biblical proportions.

Paul also tells me that Sunday's Dart trip was great - perfect level, which is particularly annoying as I had to give that one a miss. High point for me was a week's whitewater paddling the alps at grade 3 to 4+. Difficult to claim that as a club trip but highly recommended. WW paddling in the summer on clear big water in the warm! Maybe club for next year???

Other Trips and activities

Paul Mant led a successful circumnavigation of Portsmouth Harbour despite me doubting it was possible. Turns out that Portsmouth really (still) is an island.

Brian's Lulworth Cove sea trip was restricted to the cove itself due to high winds and the sea state. Everyone at least had a go at surfing their sea kayak.

Inland trips have included, on the Thames, Cricklade, St Patrick's Stream, Abingdon's Swift Ditch, The Wey at Guildford and Riff-Raff weir.

Youth Paddlesport

BCCC were Paddlesport Challenge winners this year for the first time ever. This is a great follow-on for the youngsters (aimed at under 16's) after Paddlepower training in the spring and takes the kids through the winter. It introduces a wide range of paddling including triathlon (run kayak swim), kayak polo, white-water racing, and slalom. Dawn Wall and Mary Balch have picked up organising this from Paul Jeffs this year and this has been a great help in continuing the success of this event for a new generation.

Pool

We have moved our focus to Yateley School 2.30 - 4.30 on one Sunday each month. This is a better venue for most of our members. We have also sorted out the boat fleet here a bit and have a couple

of new large Karnalis there as we were finding some adults struggled to fit the youth sized boats. We do need participants to make this break even so please continue your paddling and learning through the winter. We also need more coaches (note to self) please.

Finally a few notes

We run a amazingly large number of courses and coached trips and we rely heavily on the enthusiasm of the coaches.

We have put too many people through Paddlepower, 1,2,3 star awards to mention this year.

This year Rose Fox gained her Level 2 Coach and Richard Lucas and Andrew Jeffs gained their Level One Coach Award.

I've also been really pleased to see a great increase in peer paddling. It's great to see members organising paddles and to see Mytchett being used more in the evenings and weekends just for fun paddling. Go for it!

We are a family club and rely on volunteering so, if you can, we do ask that you volunteer a bit of your time at events, boat shed tidying or otherwise so that we can keep this level of activity going for all.

If you don't know who to ask, ask me and I will very quickly point you in the right direction!

Finally a thank you to the rest of the committee who are really responsible for doing most of the hard work, especially Liz M who, while stepping down as Secretary this year, will as a result only be doing three jobs in the forthcoming year.

I'm sure I've missed something, so apologies for oversights but thank you to all and keep paddling!

5 Treasurers report.

Brian went through the details of the Club accounts. Principal change has been putting money into the Facilities Development Fund. Surrey County Council have reimbursed our £1800 fees for facilities drawings this week and that money will go back into the Facilities Development Fund. He has a firm belief that we will need this money for better facilities. The General Fund is now just for the everyday running of the Club. The surplus of just under £5000 was thanks mostly to the volunteers who ran the events.

6 Resolutions

- a) To approve increases in Membership subscriptions.

The Committee is proposing that "Annual membership" fees and "Joining fees " are increased by approximately 5%. There was no increase last year.

Membership fees	Current	Proposed
Individual	£31.50	£33.00
Family	£63.00	£66.00
Associate	£18.90	£20.00

Affiliated	£78.75	£82.00
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Carried

b) To approve increases in “Joining fee” subscriptions

Joining Fees	Current	Proposed
Individual	£20.00	£21.00
Family	£40.00	£42.00
Associate	£15.00	£16.00
Affiliated	£50.00	£55.00

Carried

c) To approve proposed increases in Boat storage fees

Boat storage fees to be increased by approximately 3%. There was a similar increase last year.

Boat store fees	Current	Proposed
GPs and K1s	£31.00	£32.00
K2s and Sea kayaks	£43.00	£44.25
Canadians and SOTs	£55.00	£56.50
Double sea kayaks	£55.00	£56.50

Carried

d) To approve the following changes to the Club Constitution. (Subject to approval by HMRC after the AGM).

Currently members have up to 3 months to renew their membership. Members get a paper letter and then monthly email reminders. Analysis of last year’s renewals show that the vast majority of members who renew their membership have done so after receiving the first email reminder. This change will reduce the amount of time that the Membership Secretary has to spend sending out renewal notices.

It is proposed that;

Clause 4.4 is changed to read:

“4.4 Subscriptions are due upon being accepted as a member of the Club and on the first day of the month in which membership is renewable. A member shall be deemed to have resigned from the Club if, after due notice in writing, he or she has not paid the required subscription within TWO months of the due date. Any membership renewed within TWO months of the due renewal date shall be back-dated to that renewal date. Any membership renewed more than TWO months after the due renewal date, shall be treated as a new application for membership”

Carried

7 Election of New Committee

a) Mr Richard Boreham was re-elected as Chairman

- b) Mrs Caroline Ebbage was elected as Secretary
- c) Mr Brian Gandy was re-elected as Treasurer
- d) Mrs Rose Fox, Mr Brian Biffin, Mr Tim Truesdale, Mr Carl Veness and Mr Garry Winckley were re-elected to stand on the Committee.

8 Facilities development

This was covered in the Chairman's speech.

Mr Brian Gandy encouraged all members to also join the Surrey and Hants Canal Society who have been very supportive of our endeavours.

The Youth returned and advised everyone that their new Committee is as follows

Chairman- Sarah Murnaghan

Vice Chairman -Alex Veness

Secretary- Luke Veness

Treasurer- Matthew Boreham

Activities- Katie Fox, Max Juan Balch

Youth reps-Joe and Ben Hansell, Nathan Wall

9 Presentation of Trophies

Hare and Hounds

4 mile Challenge-Harry Veness 57 points

Aprils Challenge- Fastest Lady- Katie Lambert 55.34

Canadian Challenge- Murray Jones for regularly competing in the 4 mile event

Davey Trophy- fastest Double; John and James Freemantle 45.05

Fastest Single James Freemantle 46:08

Hicks Trophy Top Single-Ben Hansell 111 points

Millet Cup- top double Liz Murnaghan and Sarah Francis 98 Points

Runner Up Cup (Single)- Joe Hansell 102 points

Under 16 Cup –Fastest Junior Ben Hansell 46.37 (beating brother Joe by 3 seconds)

Hasler Marathon

Hicks Trophies- Best performance by a K2

Alan and Caroline Ebbage 3/9 7K2 19 pts

Matthews trophy- Best performance by a lady

Liz M 9/31 Div 7 15 pts

Wills Trophy- Best performance by a man

Luke Veness 2/20 Div 6 P5 19 points

Gandy- Somerset award- most valuable paddler

Bill Hansell 113 points

Committees discretionary Awards

Simpson trophy- newcomer to slalom- not awarded

Jarman trophy- ranked slalom paddler-Not awarded

Open boat- most improved adult- Simon Latham

Open boat – most improved Youth- Matt Boreham

Marathon Youth- Alex Veness for his persistence

Polo- Luke Veness

White water- Andrew Jeffs

Youth Committee award- Tom Markham

Ted Ledger Award – non paddling Contribution to the Club- Gavin Branch

James Bilson award for overcoming obstacles/ personal achievement/against the odds-Not awarded.

Chairman's award- Rose Fox for all the time she spends coaching beginners

Neptune award for services to swimming- Neil Matthews

Biggest excuses award for marathon-The Truesdale family

10 Any Other Business

Members were advised of the new door code.

The meeting was closed.