

Regents Canoe Club Committee Meeting Minutes



AGM

Thursday 22nd April 2021
7.00 pm
Google Meet

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance: Dan Scott, Andrew Hughes-Onslow, Ben Ainsworth, Olga Beschastnykh, Silvia Kerste, Hugh Ellacott, Mike Armstrong, Steve Betts, Carol K, Kate Balderson, Christine, Ian, Mark Donaldson, Thanh, Octave Auger, Gemma Wilson, Tejesh, Clarissa, Jane Tully, Steph Shore, Steffi Thorhauer, Ben Landsberry

Apologies: Whitaker Sherk

2. Minutes of Last AGM and Matters Arising

- Approved.
- None.

3. Equipment Officer Report (Hugh Ellacott)

- Very little to report. Bought a new Hi Vis jacket; repaired 2 (Buoyancy Aids) BAs.
- Would like to remind members that they can still hire equipment to use outside club trips.
- On HE's last visit to the club everything was still there. He will undertake an audit in the summer.

3. Safety and Training Officer Report (Steve Betts)

- No incidents to report.
- Created Risk Assessments (RAs) for club reopening and maintained during the year.
- Rescheduled trip bookings.
- Received and processed subsidy requests.

4. Communications Officer Report (Andrew Hughes-Onslow)

- Not much to report.
- Worked with BC. Queried their changes with regard to qualifications for coaches and leaders. BC backed off and switched to Club Competency. He is working with Clarissa on this. Clarissa said that BC mainly want self management, review and recording of information. AHO said that the club needs to make sure trip organisers are aware of their responsibilities.

5. Secretary Report (Michael Armstrong)

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- Went to all the meetings and took minutes.
- Replaced equipment insurance. (This is slightly different to what I said in the meeting - I've added more detail to better answer questions.) Our previous insurer wrote to inform us that they were no longer going to insure sports clubs and would not therefore be renewing our insurance. After asking BC for recommendations and asking various other organisations quotes were received from Howden's, Mann Broadbent and Bluefin Sport. After some deliberation the quote from Bluefin was accepted. The insurance has many elements but these restrictions are important I think: 1) it does not include Europe - we can ask underwriters to add this for a week say. Adding Europe for the year nearly doubled the cost. 2) it does not include loss from a white water accident but does include damage that is not wear and tear 3) boats on roof racks, even if locked, are not insured overnight unless the car is in a secure parking structure.

6. Membership Secretary Report (Ben Landsberry)

- Did 4 NMEs limited to 10 people each but on the night only about 6 / 7 turned up which was annoying. We then felt there were too many new members and we could not accommodate them at the club due to COVID restrictions so the NMEs were curtailed.
- In the year we had 27 new members and 97 renewed full members. There were 6 associate members and 4 on hardship. So in total we had about 130 members which is similar to normal.

7. NPO Report Silvia Kerste

- Mainly postponed things and got refunds. Most trips are on hold and not rebooked.
- Trips that are currently booked are:
 - Mile End Mill, Llangollen hostel booked for 23/24 July 2021
 - Mile End Mill, Llangollen hostel booked for 10/11 Sept 2021
 - Wye valley, YHA, booked for 13/14 August 2021

8. NPO Report Whitaker Sherk (by Dan Scott)

- WS organised socials and the Christmas party. She also helped people go on non club trips. WS also with SK looked into renting Lee Valley for a social trip also this again had to be cancelled due to COVID. WS also with SK was on key duty and locked and unlocked the club.

9. NPO Report Olga Beschastnykh

- Coordinated the duty rota. Helped with club openings. SK, WS and James were all very helpful. Helped organise NMEs with AHO.

10. Treasurer (Ben Ainsworth)

- Reserves have decreased £4k to £26k as operations made a loss of about £4,500. Donations and grants helped as did recovering a lot of costs from cancelled trips etc.

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- Accounts were presented and can be seen separately. The numbers are provisional as we currently don't have an auditor. Thanh will check the numbers when he can.
- BA stated that the committee believes that although reserves are ok we need to increase fees and increase members.
- Admin expenses are mainly IBC costs.
- Interest is almost zero on our deposits at the bank. BA recommends that the next committee should consider whether to be more proactive with the use of reserves.
- Assets. Creditors are money owed to members and some to BC for membership.
- Thanh asked whether depreciation will go to zero next year. BA said it would. We've only replaced boats when we need to not when they are fully depreciated. Thanh said that this implied that net book value was irrelevant. BA agreed and said that it only matters for the Profit and Loss.
- BA stated that the accounts this year are very different from previous and comparisons are difficult.
- Clarissa asked whether we had had a rent decrease from IBC. BA said that DS had tried repeatedly to negotiate a decrease. DS said he thought IBC were worried about their own situation and so didn't want to help us. Liza said that rent was an ongoing issue irrespective of the pandemic. We need to consider what we do about our largest cost. BA said that he and DS had looked at lots of options but in the end we have no leverage with IBC as we have no where else to go. BA said he was also aware of plans to redevelop site at IBC. Liza said she had been hearing the same for the last 15 years. Ian said that Islington Council and Canal and Rivers Trust were very important in the discussion. The council has a lease from the trust for the site which Ian believed expired in 2024. He thought that this might be a cutoff date for using the IBC location. Kate said IBC had strong community support and she thought any redevelopment would include IBC. Kate asked whether DS had approached the IBC employees and commissioners. DS said he had but with no progress. IBC is always sympathetic but there is never any progress.
- Mark asked if the lapsing of the leases from IBC had any effect on the equipment insurance. MA said he didn't know specifically but thought all that mattered was whether we were allowed to be on the site legally.
- Kate asked if we had got last year's audit done. DS said we had not. Kate said we definitely need to do both. DS said he would.
- Mark said we need to ask IBC how they think we can survive paying \$8k per year for 2 nights access per week. BA said he was very frustrated at lack of progress on opening - it is a challenging relationship. Mark added that there was no lease document with IBC - it is purely a gentleman's agreement with 3 moth termination. BA said he thought it was a licence with break options. Kate said the licence had expired 2 years ago. BA said he thought the lease ended in 2023 / 2024 and said we needed as

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much as possible in reserves in case we need to move.

- Steph said that seeing as we helped pay for the van and trailer at the IBC maybe we should start using them.

11. Membership Fee

- DS said that the finances had taken a bit of a hit this year and that the committee felt we needed to return to £75 membership fee to restore our position. He said we needed to have a vote.
- Clarissa agreed that we needed to go back to £75. Mark asked if there was still a hardship fund. DS said there was of £200.
- AHO said that he and Colin were looking at running shorter IWWK courses in a new format with fewer people. Clarissa pointed out that this would decrease income. Ian asked if we could run the course later in the year. AHO said it would be difficult to run a 6 week course with govt. restrictions.
- Clarissa said we need to assume we receive no income from NMEs for 6 months so let's increase fee. We'd also receive no income from training.
- BA also suggested that he and AHO should meet with coaches and see if the club could run more small trips.
- Clarissa asked if it would be possible to not do IWWK but instead support new members. OB said last year there was huge demand for IWWK but turnout was ~ 50%. Very disappointing. She felt we should increase number of NMEs and get more support from members. Liza agreed she felt we needed more NMEs but we have solid reserves so let's not get too worried.
- Thanh asked whether seeing as rent was so high could we do 3 nights a week? Or run more NMEs? More guests? He was happy to help with NMEs. DS said we have one Sunday a month and IBC has agreed to a second. But we'd need a lot more volunteers on the rota and would we get them? Clarissa said we'd tried Sundays before and it was a bit challenging. Kate thought that seeing as not many members coming now there would not be any point.
- Christine said that at Castle Canoe Club fees were paid to GLL per member. At about 90% of the membership fee. Kate thought that fees based on membership sounded like a good idea.
- DS asked for a vote to return membership fees to £75, concessions £37.50 and a hardship fund of £225. This was passed unanimously.

12. Coaching Subsidies

- DS said that BC are doing coaching subsidies but not for WW but hopefully they will change. Kate said she had organised WW coaching independently and so she would work on getting subsidies.

13. Voting for Management Committee

- MA said he had received 3 valid nomination for the committee: HE for equipment nominated by Clarissa and seconded by Martin; AHO for Communications Officer nominated by DS and seconded by MA; Jess for

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- NPO nominated by Jane Tully and seconded by Steph Shore.
- Votes were all passed unanimously:
 - Octave for Chair nominated by AHO and seconded by DS
 - Thanh for Treasurer nominated by MA and seconded by Mark
 - Jess for Secretary nominated by Christine and seconded by OB
 - AHO for Communications Officer nominated by DS and seconded by MA
 - HE for Equipment Officer nominated by Clarissa and seconded by Martin
 - Clarissa for Membership Secretary nominated by Liza and seconded by AHO
 - BA for Safety Officer nominated by Clarissa and seconded by Liza
- (Jess was also voted in for NPO but became Secretary instead.)
- Kate and OB said they were very happy to help committee but not be on it.