

## Worcester Canoe Club AGM Minutes 2017

### **Presidents Welcome – Worcester Canoe Club 64th Annual General Meeting. – Fess Parker**

Welcome everyone to the Club's 64th Annual General Meeting.

Once again we have had a thriving community of Canoeists on all fronts – be it in all forms of Competition, Social, Coaching and developing the Club's facilities. It is a tribute to you all.

Special mention must go to our Chairman and Committee Members who once again have managed the Club's business so successfully on our behalf. I am sure that you will show your appreciation in due course following their reports.

It is particularly gratifying to see the nominee chart for the officers of 2018 nearly full – probably for the first time in a number of years! Please remember that these officers are doing a job on your behalf and that they need your help and assistance. Particularly when they are trying to collect fees for Membership / Boat Storage / Competition entries and fees and collating an accurate data base.

Life in our Riversports Community is changing. For instance our neighbours in the Rowing Club are committed to working unashamedly at producing finance in any way possible in order to survive and grow – they are using Rooney's to run events from their site, they have entered into a two year contract with RGS to generate finance by allowing RGS access to their facilities, they have an agreement with Worcester University that is generating income and they are in discussions with Arena over the bottom rooms within our lease in the Grandstand as well as running their own rowing events and talking about opening a Coffee shop on site. They are however currently stalled on progress of Operation 'Hercules' – their plans to redevelop the area that have planning permission.

When you look at our own finances we have a good tight control with expertise in place to keep it as such. But with an ageing boat flotilla and work on refurbishment still wanted we can see that our super efforts on running the Hasler Race / the Ring and the Social events generate around an average of a thousand pounds each per year – so around £3K of extra income. You may wish to look towards other ways of generating income such as a Nationals or Hasler Final event that could generate an additional £3K to £6K per year – but they are a lot of work and require commitment and we would not get an event within the next two years. We certainly would not wish to increase our fee structure massively! Conversely you may wish to stay as you are. I leave you those thoughts.

Either way on a personal note, if elected, I would expect 2018 to be my last year as a Trustee of the Canoe Club and the Riversports Committee as well as President of

the Canoe Club and Treasurer of the Riversports Committee as we should be advancing towards incorporation and a PLC to run the institutions which will involve you appointing Directors. In my 70<sup>th</sup> year I shall no longer be renewing my Coaching qualifications – although my disclosure continues to run.

Finally, as ever we need to be progressive and encourage constructive change and the development of Club members with the skills and abilities to take us forwards. Once again thank you all for attending.

### **Chairman's report**

Hearing this is the 64<sup>th</sup> AGM reminds us of the history of the club and the continuity of all those who have paddled with us over the years (and some of the early members are here tonight.). On a personal note it reminds me that this is my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when I started canoeing here. I should of course be better at it my now than I am, but there we are. In all seriousness it says a lot for the strength of the club that it can welcome everyone from casual recreational paddlers right the way up to elite athletes. Important as it is, it's not all about the racing. I have gained a lot from canoeing and would like to thank Dave Pedlar and Robin Powell and everyone else who taught me to canoe in the first place.

Most importantly this year, there has been a lot of good canoeing. The Worcester Hasler went well as did the Worcester Ring (which will be on Saturday 14 July next year). Both of these of course rely on a lot of volunteer effort from a large number of members of the club (and friends and family) and we are grateful to all those who helped out. Coaching has gone well this year as well. I was not able to do very much this year for personal reasons, and Alan Williams is no longer so involved with the club, so I talked last year I think about my concerns. It has been really good to see Claire and Laura, and Jon Cave step up to lead sessions for new adults and families. And it's excellent to see some of those new members here tonight. Not everyone sticks with canoeing, but introducing large numbers is a key way we recruit long-term members of the club. The Thursday evening junior's groups have also been particularly impressive, with many keen children and a lot of support from volunteer coaches and helpers, including parents – particular thanks to George Carns.

There are a number of things I would like to address over the forthcoming year (should you choose to elect me of course...). It always takes longer than you think to do these things, as we all fit them in between our other commitments. We need to look at our Constitution, which isn't fit for purpose, and consider incorporation (i.e. we remain democratic but modernise, but become a limited company reducing our liabilities in the event of anything going horribly wrong). We need to revise the safety plan and finally we are still I considering an online membership system.

There has been some significant building works this year including the electrics and a new landing stage. We will be looking for further ideas next year for where to invest, whether that is boats or the building, and will consult members.

Finally, I should report I have been meeting occasionally with the two Rowing Clubs on site. This is with their Head of Rowing and Head Coach, rather than the formal River Sport Association meetings we have. We've kept in touch over safety issues and I would encourage everyone to let me know (and write in the book) if there are any significant incidents or near misses. The two rowing clubs on site at least do take safety seriously and will investigate any incidents we ask them to. There is a new map of the river designed to highlight where there are particular areas we are likely to come into conflict with other river traffic or any dangers. It also encourages us to look out for other boats on the river. As a personal plea I would encourage all members to communicate with rowers, loudly if necessary, but to resist the temptation to speak in anger or annoyance. It may satisfy at the time but its not likely to help them think kindly of us. Finally, its been really good to see an increased use of hi viz this year; I think this really helps particularly with less experienced or junior paddlers. The WRC and School rowers seem to be using it religiously which has got to be a good thing.

### **Social Secretary's report – Claire / Mike**

It's been a quieter year due to family circumstances but the bar has had the usual mixture of private functions and the regular club events such as bonfire night, the Hasler race, a fundraising quiz which was well attended. Jerry, a club member had his 60th which was a good turn out and we be had a few other private bookings. The Christmas dinner was coming up later in the month which was very well subscribed as with previous years.

Next year we will be running another quiz in early spring so look out for details about that.

### **Sprint Racing Captain's Summary of Results – Ryan Sneddon**

International:

Emily – World cup 2 K2 500m 6<sup>th</sup>

- Senior euros K1 500m 8<sup>th</sup>
- Senior worlds K4 500m 9<sup>th</sup>

Sian – World cup 1 Silver medal C2 200m

National:

Emily – National champ K2 + K4 500m

- Silver K1 500m
- Silver K2 200m
- Bronze K1 200m
- Bronze C2 200m (longer than it took to do 500m in K1)

George – K2 Bronze 1000m Nationals

Kieron – 11<sup>th</sup> U18 Nationals

Pascal – 14<sup>th</sup> U16 K1 1000m and 3<sup>rd</sup> K2 5000m

Katie – Silver U16 K4 500m, 16<sup>th</sup> K1 1000m, multiple A finals, promotion to Div 4, 6<sup>th</sup> U16 marathon. Sella, Worcester ring and Ghent.

Amy – 17<sup>th</sup> U14 200m and 500m

### **Membership Secretaries Annual Report – John Talbot**

I hope you have had an enjoyable 2017 season.

Part way through this membership year 2017/18 Julian wrote new software for the membership data-base in order to allow better management of the information held. It is working well so far. Should anyone (a member) like to see it as it applies to them, please ask.

The spring period was very busy for our coaches, with more beginners than was comfortable resulting in several new long term members. A special thank you to all who have given their time and helped with coaching this year. Get ready however, I have already started to compile a list of beginners for next year. I recommend anyone that is keen to improve their Paddling technique to have a look at “YOUTUBE-Ivan Lawler’s Paddling -Master Class “

I thank the membership for paying subscriptions promptly (being due the 1st April ) and urge you all to do the same in 2018

Boat Storage has been difficult with some individuals taking advantage by having more boats than the choose to declare and forcing their craft onto racks often already paid for by others. I have tried to keep an-up to date spread sheet on the notice board in the gym area for your reference. However, If you experience any difficulties pleas speak to me. Several members have requested racks that we don’t have currently have. It is the case that there are a number of boats that do not get used (even though they are paid for) If you are one of those members, I appeal to you sell on any boats that you may have but don’t use. Remember if you wish to keep a boat/s in the boat house they must be on a rack that you have paid for

Additionally, Julian has managed to compile membership details (another bit of software) as required by British Canoeing with regard to our affiliation to the national body (age and gender of members) A great time saver on my part and, making it easier for the future

Membership at the end of September was a total of 150. 10 less than last year. Revenue I understand is greater than previously. Which is good in that there are lots of improvements required to the boat house and improvements to our fleet of boats and associated equipment.

Happy paddling in 2018

### **Treasurers Report**

Financially the club has had a good year with a surplus of £4615, which has been achieved without running any major events. We have continued to improve club facilities and have over £31k in the bank. So the club remains in a healthy financial position.

To look at some details:

If you turn to page2

- ☐ Subscriptions and boat storage generated nearly £18k, which more or less covers the running costs of the club
- ☐ Bar profits were £759, (this is down on last year which had been boosted by the Hasler Final event )
- ☐ Our regular Regional Hasler race had a good surplus of £1266 (£1261) and the Worcester Ring Race £1083 (£727)
- ☐ The bank balance, page 3, stands at £31,102 so we still have a good reserve. I think it is prudent for us to keep a balance of £20,000 for cashflow and as a buffer against any emergencies.
- ☐ One major achievement which is not recorded in the accounts is that, after numerous attempts, we have managed to get on line banking set up. This brings our banking into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at last and means that the Chairman also has full visibility of the bank accounts.

Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in collecting money this year.

## Marathon Racing Captain's report

### Racing Captain's Report 2017

Club members competed at all 9 Regional Hasler Races during the season. We managed to score sufficient points to qualify for the Hasler Final which was held at Richmond. Our top points scorer, by quite some margin was Katie Brookes. Well done Katie. !!

The Worcester Race was well attended and was also an assessment race, which helped to bring in extra funds to the club. Thankfully there were no incidents this year and we were blessed with good weather.

I must mention all the members who made the race run smoothly, in particular John Cave (turn marshal) Ian Smith (turn marshal) Mike and Sue Hawthorn (timing & results) Peter Killey, Mike Gandy, John Bird and everyone else who played vital roles. Best performance for the club was George Mitchell who won Div 2 and I am sure he could make the marathon team if he switched over.

A large group of members competed in the craziest canoe race in the world, the 81st Sella Descent. Almost a thousand boats starting at the same time, and it is held every year in Northern Spain. Even a bit of rain didn't spoil this amazing race. Everyone had tales to tell afterwards, swims, groundings, collisions etc. Paul Illson travelled from Holland and Jenny Illidge made the trip with her parents. The best performance was Mike and Simon finishing second K2 in the over 60's class. Big thanks to John and Emily Bird for towing all the boats down. I am sure club members are keen to go again, possibly 2019.

The Landing stage was a big project this year and thanks to all those who helped, I sourced the plastic decking from Kedel, and it is said to last 50 years. I still need to put on the fascia, which I hope to do in the summer.

The highlight of my year was competing in the masters race at the Worlds in Pietermaritzburg in South Africa. Simon Davies and I raced in K2 and it was a rather warm 37.5 degrees c. We were made very welcome and the racing was very exciting, our GB team came home with 6 medals including Gold for Lani Belcher, now Lani Janes and living in Doha with Oliver.

The Hasler Final was held at Richmond, with a massive entry which led to huge waves and very difficult conditions. This meant that a few paddlers had swims, no names mentioned, but Claudia and I were very relieved to get round without a soaking.

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