

Minutes of PHCC AGM held on 2nd Oct 2013

1.1 Chairman's welcome, attendance and approval of minutes

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Sally and John Crawford
- 1.2 Frazer Ely the chairman started the meeting, welcoming everyone and announcing the AGM as the opportunity to express your views and opinions and give input to the club. The first half is the formal business with club officer reports and voting in of a new committee. There were no proposals this year. Frazer expressed his concern about the drop in membership numbers and invited future discussions about this.
- 1.3 The meeting commenced with the approval of the 2012 AGM minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved as a true record of last year's meeting.

1.2 CIO Formation

- 1.4 Helena announced to the club the formation of the CIO since the club submitted our application in March this year. The CIO gives the club greater funding opportunities and importantly, peace of mind for the club officers.
- 1.5 The full text of CIO formation is included as appendix A

1.3 Junior report (Allen Westerby)

- 1.6 Allen gave a PowerPoint presentation of the activities of the clubs junior paddlers. Juniors from 8 to 18 plus family members and carers are welcome to the junior evenings on a Tuesday during the summer and on Wednesdays during the winter. This year a rota of club coaches has assisted the regular coaches and the cadet leaders in the running of junior nights. Junior paddles are held on a different night but the occasional weekend paddles aim to keep the juniors integrated into the whole club.
- 1.7 Tuesday nights start with a warm up and safety briefings. The PaddlePower scheme is followed rather than the star awards as the scheme provides a better sense of achievement. There are five levels and each level has many opportunities for completing individual challenges and logging our progress in skills or knowledge.
- 1.8 Our Cadet Leader program for 13 to 16 year olds is new for this year. Each cadet works through a logbook under the direction of a level 3 coach and then can coach under the wing of a level 1 coach. Two of the cadets, Rebecca Haberfield and Lauren Newman, have already successfully qualified as cadet leaders. The chairman awarded them their certificates.
- 1.9 Allen highlighted the successful season which has run 24 Tuesday nights, 8 events, 33 pool sessions and attended a number of race events and all in all coached 61 different children. The regular helpers Ian Hughes, Jenni Dennett, Adam Keenan and Paul Levitt were all awarded certificates in recognition of the valued contribution to junior training they have made.
- 1.10 Lauren and Rebecca returned to the stage and give a thank you speech their coaches. They have particularly valued their regular sessions with Peter assisting new members and with Malcolm on their first aid course with Resusi-Annie. Jenni has inspired them and Allen has always been there giving lots of praise and support. Paul has helped tremendously both on the water and with theory, group control and with lots of valuable feedback.

1.4 Treasurer's report (Helena Urban)

- 1.11 Helena thanked the committee and everyone she has worked with for making her first year an enjoyable experience with plenty of assistance, advice and an easy handover. The formal accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012 audited by Tom Short and approved by the committee were presented and also a set of draft, interim figures to 31 August plus a forecast for the remainder of the year. Budgets have been set for each category and is reviewed each committee meeting.
- 1.12 Income. Membership income for 2012 and 2013 is close to previous years but membership numbers for 2013 have dropped (453 currently compared to 539 at the end of last year) maybe due to standing order renewal and the increased fees. The honesty box is similar and emptied regularly. Training income from rolling courses and outside training for 2012 was good but a little lower for 2013. This year we have allocated more money to training for coaches. The harbour race organised by Andy was good this year and generates around £700/year surplus each year. Sundry income includes Jenni's clothing sales and building society charity account interest. Total income increased by approx £2,000 from 2011 to 2012, and should be maintained for 2013.
- 1.13 Expenses. Affiliation fees, equipment and boat purchase, legal and lease fees, ground rent, insurance and magazine costs were run through. Ground rent of £1000 and new premises costs of £4749 are the significantly increased items. In 2013 new premises costs will again be the largest item.
- 1.14 The surplus for 2012 has reduced to £3,942 compared to £7,089 in 2011. Forecast to be £2,800 for 2013. At 31 Dec 2012 the total club funds stood at £62,264. At 31 August our bank balances totalled £69,798 and the forecast for 31 December 2013 is £65,000.
- 1.15 Details of the proposed Webcollect online membership system were presented. The multitude of different payment systems is now too difficult to administer using manual methods. The new system will cost about £500 but the system allows payment by direct debit, PayPal, direct transfer or cheque. We can upload our bank statements and it automatically reconciles members who have paid by direct transfer. It will collect all the info we need (e.g. parental consents, health info) and it automates renewal email reminders. Data will be in one central place and it can be used for the Harbour Race, and training courses. Security has been investigated by Dave Atkins and it has the same security as online banking. The system will go live for renewals in March.
- 1.16 The full text of the treasurer's report is included as appendix B

1.5 QM (Nick Boyle)

- 1.17 QM has been kept busy this year with a number of boat repairs including the major repair of the K4 stored in Dave Buttons field. Many airbags have required replacing.
- 1.18 The biggest grumbles are that boats are not being cleaned internally and the club hut is often not locked properly.
- 1.19 We have purchased four boats, a pair of Dagger Mx in large and medium sizes and from club members a Dagger dynamo for juniors and a Dagger juice. We have sold on 2 junior Olympics and a 'T' slalom and have scrapped a Pyranha Master with a cracked cockpit. A further 'T' slalom will be put up for sale shortly. In all we have fewer boats than last year by a couple.
- 1.20 A point was raised about the desirability of having a fleet of uniform boats in future but the equally valid point that people are different shapes and sizes was also made.
- 1.21 The training officer intends to request 2 more open canoes to enable courses for 6 to be accommodated.
- 1.22 Nick is not standing again as QM and Frazer gave a vote of thanks to Nick on behalf of the club for all his efforts over many years.

1.6 Dorset Disabled unit (Bill Jaggs)

- 1.23 The unit is still being run by Fionualla and Ron. A number of club members such as Bards and Alex Burnside have been assisting but there is always the need for more and anyone who would like to take on the organisation of the group would be welcome.

1.7 Training report

- 1.24 Peter thanked the coaching team and the wider membership for their patience and tolerance in his first year as training officer. Problems have been mostly resolved and a new booking system introduced and whilst still involving a lot of work, the role is now more manageable.
- 1.25 Training that has taken place over the summer. 1 star – 41 members, 2 star modules – 58 members, 3 star sea – 9 members. FSRT or 3 Star Touring had insufficient numbers and did not run.
- 1.26 As well as formal courses there have been new paddler sessions, flat water training, Greenland style training and lots of support from senior coaches for the up and coming coaches with their personal development.
- 1.27 Junior paddling, a very important side of our club, has had life breathed back into it by Paul, Allen and the regular supporting coaches.
- 1.28 Peter thanked Hugh Marsden for taking over the winter pool based coaching, Bill Beetham for running it for so long, and Malcolm and John for supporting the club as first aid trainers at a highly discounted rate.
- 1.29 The full text of the training report is included as appendix C

1.8 Marathon (Bill Jaggs)

- 1.30 Bill thanked all the coaches who helped this second year of running flat water weekly training sessions. Time trials have been a regular feature through the winter and club paddlers have achieved success in a number of races. At the Wavehopper National finals, Holme Pierpoint, Nottingham Megan Richards 16 is now the Under 18 Wavehopper champion for 2012/3 and her younger brother Thomas Richards won the under 12 age group Wavehopper final.
- 1.31 Highlights have been the Ergo loan for six months, the purchase of a K4 and due to our raised profile we were recently consulted by East Dorset over our views on a new pontoon. Bill congratulated Andy Coomes for organising a successful Harbour race.
- 1.32 The full text of the Marathon report is included as an appendix D

1.9 Premises Sub Committee (Bill Jaggs)

- 1.33 Since last year the sub committee have been working with the BoP, we have a new site on the edge of the SSSI and done a lot of work in completing the design of the intended premises that both the club and the council are happy with.
- 1.34 The current sticking point is the levy of £1925 for planning permission rather than being granted any credit for the previous withdrawn application, Total planning costs will be roughly £3000. Realistically we won't complete the build by March 2014 so we have lost the Sport England grant award to us 18 months ago.
- 1.35 Discussion about premises raised the following points
 - We have not seen an entire lease yet only some of the heads of terms but the lease should be acceptable.
 - Ground rent is expected to be pro-rata which would result in a cost of £3000 a year.
 - We are SSSI compliant as consultation has been carried out during the design phase.
 - We intend to carry on with the process as if we don't then we have lost everything so far.
 - Without planning permission there will be no boat house so it is best to find out if we can achieve this as soon as possible.
 - Planning permission and a lease will allow us to apply for funding
- 1.36 Helen expressed a vote of thanks to Frazer, Bill and Steve for their hard work in driving the project on.

1.10 Election of trustees

- 1.37 The committee stood down, last minute nominations were invited but none were forthcoming. The voting arrangements were unchanged from last year in that votes could be cast both for and against each candidate.
- 1.38 Frazer Ely stood as Chair, Helena Urban stood as Treasurer, Peter Hobby as training officer, Keith Ashman as QM although as more of a figurehead role he emphasised, Paul Levitt as junior coordinator and Peter Cooper

as welfare officer. These officers were all elected. Helen Conyers; volunteer coordinator, Matt Robbins and Cheyne Marley; magazine editor stood as general members and were elected.

- 1.39 Volunteers will be sought for the secretary's post and the two remaining general member's posts to be co-opted to the committee.

The meeting closed.

1.11 Notices

- 1.40 Voting opened for Margaret's plate
- 1.41 Sue Tapper and Rose were thanked for organising the rota for duty officer and club night coaches
- 1.42 Rose and 'Nessie' promoted the swimmer of the year award.
- 1.43 Magazine discussion. Opinion was canvassed from the membership about what the default delivery position on club magazines given the substantial cost of printing and posting the magazine. Should members 'Opt in' or should they 'opt out'.
- 1.44 Many members spoke about how much they enjoyed a hard copy of the magazine and wanted to continue with it. they were reassured that they would continue to receive a hard copy provided they opted to do so.
- 1.45 Malcolm requested volunteers to attend the South West Development Team meeting on Weds 9th Oct in Yeovil. Monika and Peter Cooper volunteered.

Appendix A – CIO formation announcement for the PHCC AGM 2013

On 4 February 2013 the club agreed at an EGM to apply for CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) status. This had been prompted by the plans for the new club hut – we'll hear more on how this is going this later on this evening.

As the cost of the build is likely to be considerably in excess of the funds we have in the bank, and since our Sport England grant is subject to conditions, the committee wanted to protect the members and the committee from any liability under the build contract. Charity status also provides us with other fund-raising and financial benefits, and opens the club up to a whole range of extra grant and funding opportunities.

The committee were very pleased with the support the members gave at the EGM on 4 Feb and the motion to apply to be a CIO was passed with a very clear majority. A considerable amount of work went into the application and here the committee wants to recognise and thank Sally and John Crawford for their detailed and thoughtful work in drafting the constitution. The application was submitted on 8 March.

The Charity Commission were rather overwhelmed by the popularity of this new form of charity I think: when we submitted our application there were just four in existence, today there are 661! So there was rather a delay in our application being processed. The only change that they required in all our paperwork was to the Objects clause. This is the sentence that summarises what we do and why we exist. We had not realised the inflexibility of this statement – for sports clubs the Charity Commissioners require clubs to use their prescribed standard wording, just substituting the name of the sport. So the committee agreed to take out a few words and our Objects are now: - “the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation by the provision of facilities for the sport of paddle sport.” (previously “The objects of the CIO are: - to provide a community based paddlesport club for all, regardless of ability; - to develop the existing Poole Harbour Canoe Club facilities in Poole Harbour.”) Our application was eventually granted on 21 June.

As set out in the EGM resolutions, all committee members became the first trustees of the CIO and all resign automatically today, pending reappointment for those of us choosing to stand for re-election, should you wish it in the voting later on. On our membership renewal form for 2013/14 there was statement that you wished to become a member of the CIO as soon as it was formed, so everyone here is automatically now a member.

So what does it mean?

- increased opportunities for grant applications
- some ancillary financial benefits
- more transparency – our accounts have to be submitted to the Charity Commission together with our rules and certain other details
- a few extra rules – these were the Constitution and the Rules (or Bye-Laws) which were agreed at the EGM. When we drafted these, the committee kept them as close as possible to the previous club rules, but the Charity Commission do require rules to be made to cover situations which were not envisaged in the old club rules, e.g. on rotation of Trustees, on membership criteria. Wherever possible we kept these as the standard Charity Commission model rules. Nearly all of them can be changed by a vote of the members. It seems to me to be sensible to lay the rules out, yet all the committee and people closely involved in the management of the club are keen to retain the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the club. In a club of this size and with the amounts of money held by the club, good governance is vital, and the new CIO rules help with this.
- Some extra work for the treasurer and secretary to comply with the Charity Commission requirements.
- Need to put CIO and our registered number on all emails, letters, docs sent out by the club so get these from one of the committee.
- peace of mind for the Trustees (club officers) and hopefully more of you willing to come forward to volunteer!

In response to a query the tax benefits were clarified as limited, VAT will be payable on building works.

Appendix B – Treasurers report for the PHCC AGM 2013

Introduction

- I was appointed as Treasurer this time last year.
- I would like to thank the committee and Ian Mercer (membership secretary) for making it an enjoyable experience, Tom Short for assistance, advice and his review of the accounts, and Sue Jordan for an easy handover process.
- You have two sets of accounts. The first is our formal accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012. These also show the results for 2011 as a comparison. The 2012 accounts have been independently reviewed by Tom Short and approved by the committee.
- The second paper shows the draft, unaudited, interim figures to 31 August plus my forecast for the remainder of the year. The 2012 year figures are shown for comparison. I will talk about the two sets of accounts together so you might like to hold them side-by-side.

Income

- Membership income – 2012 saw a rise back up to close to 2010 income. 2013 will be similar again, but the number of members has dropped (453 currently compared to 539 at the end of last year). The increase in membership fees has compensated but the drop in numbers is disappointing. We think this could be partly because of the increased price and partly because of it being a standing-order renewal year (which has caused us lots of problems – more later!). Also in 2012 I think there may have been some mixing up of money between membership, training and honesty box (of the order of magnitude of not more than £500). I am now keeping the accounts on a bookkeeping package (which I provide free) and between us we are reconciling the records kept by the training officer, membership officer and treasurer. So in 2013 and onwards the split should be more accurate. Again the proposed new membership system will cut down on the workload involved for the officers.
- Honesty box – one of Tom's recommendations was that the box was emptied more often and so Nick and I have been emptying it together before each committee meeting.
- Training income – this year I have split out pool and rolling course income from the outside training costs. Both of these sections had a very good year in 2012 and as treasurer I would like to thank all the coaches, organisers and attendees who have helped to generate this significant part of club funds. The forecast for 2013 for outside training is lower partly because income is down by about £500 and partly because the committee have allocated £500 to extra training for coaches in key safety areas.
- Events – the main event is the Harbour Race. This generates around £700/year surplus each year so is a very useful contribution to club funds, as well as great fun and publicity, so thank you to all involved, especially Andy for all the organisation.
- Sundry income in my forecast includes clothing sales, so thank you to Jenni for organising this, and to everyone who's bought something!
- Bank interest – we have now put our savings into a building society charity account so we are earning a reasonable rate of interest.
- So total income showed an increase of approx £2,000 from 2011 to 2012, and we are hoping to maintain total income at around £17,000 in 2013.

Expenses

- BCU affiliation fees depend on the number of members and is paid in March so it's effectively a year behind the membership income figure.
- Boat repairs and purchases were lower in 2012 following a deliberate holding back to save for the new premises. This was debated at the AGM last year, but that was obviously towards the end of the season, so the total spend in 2012 was just over £1,000. For 2013, the committee have taken on board comments that decent kit is needed in order to run training, and have allocated a larger budget to this. I expect that Nick's QM report will cover what's been bought.
- Existing premises costs – in 2012 we had to pay legal and lease fees, and start paying ground rent of £1,000 per year for the current hut and container.
- Insurance is a big cost for the club and is renewed in April. I am looking for a volunteer to help review this before the next renewal as I won't have time. This would be a good standalone task for someone over winter: work out what cover we need by liaising with QM, get quotes, compare policies in detail, check what is covered by BCU so doesn't need cover on our own policy, then come along to one committee meeting to present findings and recommend an option.
- Magazine costs – this is another significant cost and we will be talking about this later on. We were wrongly charged VAT by the printer since 2011 and I have managed to get this refunded.
- Before expenditure on the new premises, our surplus was £8,691 in 2012 compared to £7,850 in 2011, and is forecast to be around £8,300 in 2013.
- New premises costs – we will hear more about this later. Main expenses in 2012 included ecology surveys, legal fees, planning application fees and architects' fees. 2013 expenditure paid to August is architects' fees. The forecast of £3,385 includes £1,100 architect's fees and £1,925 planning fee.

Surplus and bank balances

- Overall our surplus for 2012 was £3,942 compared to £7,089 in 2011, and for 2013 it is forecast to be around £2,800.

- On the back of the 2012 accounts you'll find a balance sheet. At 31 December we had £531 of prepayments and accrued income, which is where we paid out in advance for things relating to 2013, or were waiting for money in which related to income in 2012.
- The main part of our balance sheet is bank balances and at 31 Dec 2012 these totalled £62,326.
- From our assets we deduct creditors which are expenses relating to 2012 which we paid in 2013. These were £593. One big request from me is that if you are claiming expenses from the club please can you get your claim in as soon as possible – it helps to plan and budget if I know what costs are due to go out.
- At 31 Dec 2012 the total club funds stood at £62,264. At 31 August our bank balances totalled £69,798 and my forecast for 31 December 2013 is that funds will be around £65,000.
- Finally on the balance sheet you'll see Tom's report who has audited them very quickly and efficiently.

Membership system

The committee is of the opinion that we need a proper membership and payment system to make the collection of annual membership fees easier and more accurate. This was brought to my attention by Ian Mercer this time last year, but I was concerned about the cost. But having been through one membership renewal year I now totally agree with Ian!

The problems we are trying to solve are:

- people paying late or forgetting to pay – this adds a lot of work for the membership secretary, email secretary and treasurer
- information having to be passed between membership secretary, email manager, training officer and treasurer
- various versions of spreadsheets in use which can lead to errors
- everything being done manually and coming in by email and post over several months means it's very easy to miss things
- massive problems with banks being unable to process a standing order form correctly, so some people are paying twice or more, some people not at all. Please would you do the club a favour and check you have paid, and if not let me know!
- complex membership form and related instructions are not user friendly and may have put some people off renewing
- one of Tom's points from his independent review, which I agree with and had tried to sort manually in 2012, is having a more accurate reconciliation of money collected compared to membership and training records.

We have investigated the options and have decided to try a system called Webcollect. This is an online payment and membership system sold commercially and actually developed by a local Poole company. There is a cost – approx £500 per year (or £1 per member out of your fee) but the advantages are great:

- Integrated system so all data is in one central place
- Could be expanded later to use for Harbour Race, and training courses, if we wanted
- Can print out ready-filled in forms to send to members who are not online at renewal time
- We can tailor the membership form and collect whatever info we need (e.g. parental consents, health info)
- It automates renewal email reminders
- People can pay by direct debit, paypal, or direct transfer or cheque. We can upload our bank statements and it automatically reconciles members who have paid by direct transfer.
- Looks like it would be easy to learn
- Current members can be imported into the system
- The security has been investigated by Dave Atkins and we are told that the payments system has the same security as online banking, and the data protection aspects are probably better than having data on various officers' laptops!

So we are intending to transfer all members' details to the new system in autumn, and to run the system live for new members joining the club from December. In Feb we will test the renewal system (and any volunteers to renew early and help with this would be welcomed). The new system will go live for renewals in March.

We will send out full instructions nearer the time, and if you have any concerns you can speak to me or Ian or Dave. We think this really will improve the system for both members and officers and save everyone a lot of time and hassle.

Appendix C – Training report for the PHCC AGM 2013

- Thanks on behalf of all club members to John Wheeler for all the hard work that he has put in over recent years in developing the training related aspects of the club and for all his efforts to manage an ever increasing workload.
- Thanks to the coaching team and the wider membership for their patience and tolerance as I have endeavoured to resolve ongoing problems and challenges that I believed were making the position of training officer unmanageable. Hopefully it hasn't been too painful and from my perspective, whilst still involving a lot of work, the role is now just about manageable.
- Training that has taken place over the summer, thanks to all the coaching team.
 - o 1 star – 41 people
 - o 2 star modules – 58 people
 - o 3 star sea – 9 people
- Was not sadly viable to run FSRT or 3 Star Touring this year due to numbers/suitable candidates.
- New Paddler sessions have been great fun, thanks to the team of coaches who have helped deliver these, we have had some lovely feedback from new members joining the club who hopefully will have found 'fitting in' easier than it would have been otherwise. We will get these sessions going again in the Spring.
- Several aspects of training, on top of the excellent amount of ad hoc coaching that takes place in the club, do not fall directly under my remit. These deserve mention and thanks, apologies if I have missed anything.
 - o Bill Jaggs and team of helpers have continued working tirelessly to develop the flat water racing training that is available to club members with an ever increasing involvement in events and practice.
 - o I have had the absolute pleasure of helping out with the Juniors on several occasions over the summer and would like to heap huge amounts of praise on Paul, Allen and the regular supporting coaches who have helped breathe life back into this very important side of our club. I know that they have been very grateful for the increased support that putting in a support coach rota has provided this year so I will be ensuring that we again make this process a priority action for next Spring's coaching allocation. Last but by no means least well done to the cadet coaches who have developed their paddling and coaching skills at a pace that puts us adults to shame. These young ladies are proving to be a huge asset to the junior section of the club and have even begun helping out on some of the new paddler sessions at which they have continued to prove their worth. Excellent coaches for the future, well done for all your hard work.
 - o Mike Holgate and a team of enthusiasts have continued to develop the Greenland style training that the club is able to offer its members which represents yet another excellent genre of paddling and technique that the club is able to provide tuition and experience in.
 - o Malcolm and John continue to offer their expertise as first aid trainers to the club members at a highly discounted rate.
 - o The senior coaching team have continued to offer their personal time to support the up and coming coaches with their personal development. Without this support the coaching team wouldn't be able to realise its potential half as much as it does.
- The new booking system that was put in place seems to have worked quite well and I have tried to put solutions in place to resolve any teething problems. A couple of requests/ reminders please.
 - o When booking onto more than one course please issue me with separate cheques for each course as they are not cashed until after the start of a course and if you send combined cheques this creates more work for me.
 - o When filling out the Next of Kin section on your booking forms please don't put down the details of another candidate on the same course. In the thankfully unlikely event that we ever have to use these details it is unlikely to be very useful if a phone rings in the dry bag of another casualty or someone who is already aware of the situation.
- The winter coaching programme has already been advertised, the 3 star Canoe and Kayak will take place and includes the pool based programme. Thanks to Hugh Marsden for taking on this delegated training officer role and developing some new ideas with such enthusiasm. Thanks of course also to Bill Beetham who has managed our pool based training activities for at least as long as I have been a member of the club

Appendix D – Marathon report for the PHCC AGM 2013

1. It has been a great year with hopefully more to come in the next 12 months!
2. Looking back - Key things to mention:

We have been running Saturday sessions, primarily from Dreamboats, for 2 years now. A great paddling group, many people have also passed through, and there has been some cracking personal improvement for a number of paddlers.

The generous loan of 2 Ergos by Canoe England enabled us to run weekly sessions around fitness and/or technique for 6 months using a room at Canford School Sports Centre.

Our K4 has been repaired and used over the Summer. Last chance for a go will be on 12 October before it is put to bed for the winter. Special thanks to Dave Button for transport and storage and Nick Boyle for the execution of the BIGGEST repair job that I have seen!



Last winter saw the introduction of monthly Time Trials over the winter period. Distances on offer were 3k, 6k, and 250 m distances. There was a mixed response in terms of turnout (@ 30 paddlers entered at least one event) but great to see all regular paddlers improving their times.

In terms of competition. Good entry level and results in the Stour Descent in December last year (particularly well done to C2 crews). Successful Waterside series with Club K2 crew winning the Vets and Masters events. Excellent showing at Basingstoke Canal Race with all 3 of our paddlers achieving Divisional promotion. One of our mature female paddlers achieving bronze in the nationals held last month.

It is also great to report successes of our younger paddlers over recent months. The Club supported Wareham Canoe Club in their first fun race event. Excellent showing by our young paddlers to win events, including Lauren who has been training regularly with us on Saturdays (also by young at heart Malcolm to win the Senior Race).

Wavehopper National finals, Holme Pierpoint, Nottingham 15th September 2013. Tom and Megan Richards have both started canoeing this year and have been training with us on Saturdays. Megan Richards age 16 won the under 18 age category race and having won both regional races this season at Chippenham and the Stour race in Spetisbury is the Under 18 Wavehopper champion for 2012/3. She is grateful to PHCC for letting her use the club Wavehopper to take part.

Her younger brother Thomas Richards won the under 12 age group Wavehopper final as well but as only one of his winning regional races counted towards national ranking he was disappointed he was not Wavehopper champion.



Congratulations also to Andy Coomes and team for organising the Harbour Race this year. It was very successful with 121 competitors in 97 boats from places as far as Falmouth, Fowey, Truro, Exeter, Bristol, Richmond, Hereford, Whitstable and Cherbourg

Youngest racer 7 years old, oldest over 60 the super vet category.

3. And Next?

Saturday Sessions will continue and we hope the interest from younger paddlers and oldies too will continue to grow.

A note will be going out about Winter Time Trials on the second Saturday of every month – 250m, 1k, 3k and 6k (subject to demand). The Stour Descent is on 1 December 2013. Be great to have a good turn out from the Club again. A personal challenge not just a race,

Finally, a big thankyou to everyone involved in this area of our Club's activities