

Minutes of the Annual General meeting of Poole Harbour Canoe Club CIO
Held at Labour club Hamworthy on the 5th October 2015

Chairman: Frazer Ely

Minutes prepared by Sally Crawford

1. Apologies received from Steve and Paulette Hills, Bill Jaggs, Helen Conyers
2. Minutes of the AGM 2014 approved unanimously.
3. **Treasurers report.**

Helena Urban put the accounts and treasurers report which had been previously circulated to the meeting for approval. Copies were available for members at the meeting. She stressed that these were the accounts til December 2014 which was quite a long time ago now. Since that time 2015 had been a very busy period with the Boat House project in full swing. The accounts had been independently examined by Tom Short and approved. Tom was stepping down from that role and we needed another independant examiner to undertake this role which was very important for the club.

Helena advised that she was stepping down from this role as treasurer. She introduced the new proposed treasurers Ashley and Sharon Rogers. Although not qualified accountants they had both worked in the financial aspect of business. Ashley who would take the role of treasurer had been a credit controller and Sharon had worked in the Post Office at the counter handling money for much of her working life.

Helena briefly took members through the accounts. Frazer proposed that the members approve the accounts, seconded by John Crawford and approved unanimously.

Helena went on to thank those who had worked so hard with her. In particular she mentioned Ian Mercer who had worked so hard on the membership database, she thanked those on the boat house team for all their hard work. There had been substantial work involved in progressing that project. She thanked those who had worked in raising funds and for members who had participated in the lottery and also those who had made donations large or small which had all contributed to the finances of the club.

Frazer thanked her for her sterling efforts particularly relating to the Boat House project where large sums of money had come through the club's finances. She was thanked for her exceptional professionalism at a time needed by the club.

4. Bill Jaggs not being present Mark Taylor was asked to report on the club's activities at Riverside Wimborne. Bill's written report was available to the members. Mark thanked Bill for his huge efforts in relation to this project and in particular for raising grants of £16,000 for equipment. Applying for these funds takes a lot of hard work and paperwork. We had received the kayaks and open boats and the K boats are awaited. Bill had worked hard with the other users in negotiating our use of the facilities.

Thanks were due too to all those who delivered the courses. Graham has now agreed to be the marathon rep. However much was about use by juniors and families. On a typical Saturday there would be 20-30 on the water. This had grown a great bunch of juniors.

5. Alex Burnside was invited to give a report on training and membership. Again a written report was available for members. It had been a busy year with over 50 people undertaking training courses at all levels, also over 40 people taking indoor pool based courses last winter. They had used different sites to overcome weather and tidal difficulties. There was still about 15 people wanting to undertake training and sadly (mainly the weather) it was unlikely that these could be undertaken this year. Use of the riverside facilities had helped overcome some of the weather difficulties. It was a great addition to the club's facilities. The winter rolling courses were filling up well with the first course fully booked.

Membership was now 59% male, 40% female, which is consistent with previous years.. On the face of the membership records juniors appeared to have declined but this was much because of the way that a number of families were joining with a family membership and sometimes did not complete the ages of the family members. Members are urged to set out the age of the juniors when joining. We have to pay a capitation fee to BCU based on the adult members not juniors so unless families make clear that there are juniors we may be paying additional fees. Judging by attendance however the junior section appears to be thriving with over 50 children attending in total during the year

6. Alex went on to talk about the Disability group, although a separate club many of our members contributed by coaching or helping at sessions. Volunteers are always wanted. The ratio of leaders is higher. They meet on every 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday 1.30 – 4 pm . Its a very sociable group with a good range of abilities and ages. Alex urged other members to come along and help and said he thought they could get much out of this very happy group.
7. Alan Trevarton spoke about Greenland rolling. This is a pool based activity. He talked about the techniques used by the Inuit tribes and the history of kayaking. There were different types of rolls used depending on the type of hunting activity and boat. It is an easy way to learn to roll and urged people to come along to try. Courses were popular. You just needed to be confident in the water and in particular being under the water.
8. Allen Westerby spoke of the juniors activities. This year had been a windy year which had hampered activities. The winter activities were pool based and had gone well. During the summer much use had been made of the Riverside facilities and they had done surfing and moving water skills. They had been working to the BCU passport scheme which had been very successful with juniors.

Recently the Poole Sports Council has presented awards to our Cadet Leaders Lauren Newman and Rebecca Haberfield for outstanding sporting achievement . Allen was very pleased with the recognition that this brought to our club and congratulated them. Allen went on to thank all those who put so much time into Junior activities, Paul Levett (the juniors rep on the committee) Cheryl Williams, Ian Hughes, Nick Boyle and the Boyle family, Tom Boyle is also working towards his cadet leadership, Alan Trevarton and also the Haberfield family and Newman family. As usual Allen stressed what fun they had all had.

9. Andy Coomes reported on the Marathon on the 13th September. This is our big competitive event. A contingent came from Cherbourg under the town's twinning arrangements and host families had had a good time hosting the families and competitors from France. Allen W had

tried to tire them with an early morning trip on the Thames but their international star had still done rather well.

The day started calm but the winds steadily increased, to gusting f5 with wind against tide, causing some interesting incidents. The safety team led by Paul Levett had a busy day!

However only 12 retirees said much for the tenacity of the competitors. There were 127 competitors.

Andy thanked the great team of helpers, Paul in charge of the safety team, all those members who had a long time on the water helping the safety team in view of the deteriorating conditions. Thanks to Tina for supervising the catering team, and Wendy for the superb cakes. A large team of club volunteers helped run the event as well as those entertaining our French guests. The RLSS Lifeguards and the Marine Voluntary Service provided patrol boats for safety cover.

Andy would like someone to shadow him next year as he would like someone else to take this on in the future. He is looking for help in this direction. Andy was thanked again for all his hard work in organising this event.

9. Bill Richmond (photographer extraordinaire) reported on his IT activities!. Bill had taken on the web site. The new site went live at the end of August under the new name Poole Harbour Canoe Club rather than phcc. The previous PHCC.org.uk address is being redirected to the new address. The new site is also designed to suit access from mobile devices. There is a members area and we all have the same password as members. He had set up a face book page feed. There is section on the race and another on sales of equipment. There is a timeline where people can put events. The difficulty is in keeping it up to date and relevant. Since end of August we have had over 11,000 hits. Bill was thanked for his work on these issues and facebook page.
10. Peter Cooper spoke of welfare safeguarding. He said his job as welfare officer had been really very simple because all those involved in the club's activities had been so good in safeguarding the vulnerable within our club. He congratulated the members on their approach to these issues and their respect for each other. But he stressed that if anyone had any issues or saw any issues they could contact him to discuss in confidence. There had been one incident involving a disagreement between members but he was pleased to say that all had been resolved amicably.
11. John Crawford reported on the Boat House project. This time last year we had plans for a Boat House but this year we had a Boat House. Several members had been down to look today. The shell of the Boat House had been completed and we now needed to move on to the next stage of fitting it out. Members were asked to put in their efforts and particularly those with practical skills.

This time last year we had been hoping for a grant from the BCU of perhaps £25,000. John was pleased to report that we had had a grant from the BCU of £50,000. A grant from Sport England of £50,000 had also come in. John reported that one of our members George Cherry had also donated £50,000. George was present at the meeting and was thanked by all for such a magnificent gift.

We however had hit a bit of a problem . It seemed that the electricity supply already existing was not adequate and a new cable needed to be laid from the road in Lake Drive. This was

some distance. We needed to take this down the side of the driveway to the car park. This driveway was not owned by Borough of Poole so we have had to apply to the owners, The Herpetological Society for permission. This was progressing. The supplier (SSE) had given a price of £9,700 for the cabling etc. The first quote for digging the trench was £16,000 plus vat. The committee had decided that if we have to dig this for the electricity we should if possible install our own sewer and water supply to avoid reliance upon Poole through the adjoining toilet facility and also install cabling for phone and internet at the hut. John advised that he was in touch with the BCU to see if we could have access to any additional funding. We did have some monies available but if we used those we would limit the fit out the interior at this time. So more funds are needed.

He thanked those who had put in so much work to bring this project to fruition. Frazer who was not only club chairman but also CEO of this project, and whose tenacity had been the main driving force, Steve Hills who had put in so much time on many aspects of the project, Bill Jaggs who had started us out on this project, Lynette and Steve for getting the Sport England grant, Sally for her work on the BCU paperwork, Mike Habberfield who was the project manager for the actual building, Helena for dealing with all the financial aspects of the project preparing endless cashflow forecasts, Jenni who has dealt with interior design and during the early days put in so much time on the design aspects of the project. Jenni's plans for the interior were available at the back of the hall this evening. John stressed the need for members to help it happen.

Frazer rose to thank John for all his time on this project and for the free legal advice which otherwise would have been a substantial cost to the club. So many had contributed their professional knowledge and now we were into the practical side of the project.

11. Frazer moved us onto the business of trustee appointment. Those retiring were

Sally (secretary), Helena (treasurer), Cheyne (magazine and website) (absent), and himself. He would stand for re election under the rotation scheme in the constitution. Frazer asked the members to thank Sally, Helena and Cheyne for all their work.

Frazer stressed that we needed Trustees that were active in the club to take the responsibility of running the club and all its activities. He introduced the remaining trustees that were present and thanked them for all their work and help. Peter Cooper, Gary Fitch, Mark Taylor, Paul Levett, John Crawford, Jenni Dennett.

Paulette Hills, known to most, had agreed to stand as secretary.

Sharon and Ashley Rogers were introduced and invited to say a few words. Ashley thanked Helena for her work and stressed that they were not accountants but had experience in financial matters. They would be doing their best to work with others to deal with the club finances. They had both recently retired from their careers and hoped to have time available to help with the running of the club.

Frazer referred to the duties of the trustees to act in the interests of the members and to further the objects of the charity. Reports had to be made to the BCU and Charity Commissioners and these all took time as well good record keeping through out the year.

The meeting was then adjourned for members to complete their voting slips voting for the new trustees who had been put forward:

Frazer Ely for re election as Chairman

Paulette Hills as secretary

Ashley Rogers as treasurer

Sharon Rogers as trustee who would work with Ashley on financial matters.

Members were invited to put themselves forward, but no one did.

Members were asked to vote on the Margarets Plate. This award was to be presented to the person(s) who had made an outstanding contribution to the club's activities that year and could not be won twice. Last time it had been awarded to Bill Jaggs for his contribution in relation to the Riverside activities in Wimborne. This year the committee had nominated 3 teams for the award as the committee felt that so many had contributed to the club this year. The teams nominated were:

Boat House team

Riverside/ marathon team

Annual harbour race team

The votes were cast and results as follows:

All 4 trustees standing were elected unanimously and thus voted in by the meeting.

The Margaret's plate was won by the Boat House team comprising Frazer, Steve, John, Helena, Jenni, Mike.

George Cherry as the most long standing member was asked to present the award.

This concluded the formal business of the meeting but Frazer asked for discussion on matters further affecting the future of the club.

Richard Lonsdale spoke about his wish to promote a good polo team. We use the pool at Ferndown and the management there have been most helpful. They say we can have the pool from 5.30 on Saturday onwards. However we do lack equipment. We don't have enough boats, BA's or paddles. Richard has been authorised to make application for grant through The Gannet Foundation, which is linked to the local newspapers. Richard spoke enthusiastically and asked members for support in this activity. We need to know if there is sufficient interest to book the Ferndown Pool on Saturdays for polo training and matches.

Members should contact Richard by email: rcblonsdale@hotmail.com

Jenni Dennett as QA invited discussion on the use of the new Boat House. She hoped that once we were back in the Boat House and out of the storage container we would have funds and be able to obtain further funds for equipment. But what would be the priority? She invited members to let her know by email or by speaking to her. Is it sea boats, river boats, polo boats or learning boats. Alex stressed that the courses provide income for the club and was important in making the club grow. By having equipment for hire and training we could further our objectives by introducing people to the sport at a reasonable cost and train them safely.

Jenni advised that in the past we had allowed members to store their boats in the club hut. For some this was convenience and for some essential as they could not store their boats at home. How much should we charge? We had been charging £35 per year. Should we increase this to £100 per year. Victor advised that in 1987 the club had charged £30 pa so he felt a significant increase was due. Other members felt that this was too big a hike. Malcolm Acreman said that we were now having 5* Boat House and if members wanted to store their personal boats they should cover a proportion of the cost. The rent would rise from £1,500 pa for the old shed to £2,500 pa for the Boat House. Jose said that people needed to learn to pay fairly for the facilities that they enjoyed. Although a number of members stressed the need to keep the cost of boat hiring at the right level so that we could encourage new members and keep up numbers on the courses.

Overall the members indicated that:

1. We must keep fees for courses and boat hire low to bring in new members and to afford access to the sport for all those who could not afford their own equipment
2. For those who could afford their own equipment with boats costing sometimes £2,000 members should pay a realistic fee for storing their own equipment. This to reflect the establishment cost.
3. Training was a very important aspect to the club and must be encouraged and facilitated at all levels.

A member asked about Solar panels. Frazer advised that the committee was looking into this but until the issues with the cabling were resolved we could not do anything. The tariff fixing deals were currently coming to an end and so we may have missed the most advantageous deals. There was a large capital cost of solar panels so this would have to be reviewed carefully if funds were available as the pay back was very long term.

Frazer closed the meeting but invited members to look at the plans for the interior of the Boat House and discuss these and other issues among themselves and so participate in their club and the decisions affecting all.