

Kingston Kayak Club

Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting

13th April 2015

Present: 36 members were present as per attendance list held by secretary (image attached)

Apologies: none given

1. Minutes of the meeting held 7th April 2014

Andy Davies proposed and Gareth Jones seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Vote unanimous. No matters arising.

2. Chairman's report

Andy Davies spoke reported.

This has been another excellent year for Kingston Kayak Club with some adversities that we will come to later.

KKC continues to introduce people to paddle sports: Providing coaching for beginners through to international competitors. This is only possible due to the dedication of all the Volunteers. All your committee members put in a considerable amount of time to ensure the Club runs and facilities are provided to all the members. The Coaches are one of our major assets and my opinion of this has only been strengthened after seeing other clubs in action and comments made by visitors, without all our volunteer coaches none of use would be able to paddle. We also have countless volunteers who support the Club with such activities as pool cleaning, pool controlling and the list goes on. It is great to have some many volunteers, but more are always welcome and if you'd like to do something, have an idea please let the new committee know. These are the highlights of the year:-

- Increased Storage 2 New Storage Containers
- 2 Successful Marathons
- Howsham Slalom
- Hull International
- Paddle Ability Awarded to the Club
- Top Club Status renewed
- 2 International Paddlers (slalom and polo respectively) – Hannah Burgess and Alex Lowthorpe
- Awarded the British Canoeing Club of the Year 2014

I am sure it will not have escaped you that Councils are receiving less money from central Government and this is impacting on the services they supply. Just recently Hull CC has transferred Albert Avenue Pools Complex to an outsourced company; Hull Culture and Leisure Limited. In preparation for this transfer our pool prices have increased from last year and we will discuss this later this evening. The 2014-15 committee has put a couple of proposals together to look at how we take the funding of the club forward.

3. Treasurer's Report

3.1 Lesley Medina gave details of the club accounts. Her report is available and attached. Lesley Medina proposed and Andy Davies seconded these as being accurate. Vote unanimous. No matters arising.

4. Changes to the Constitution

No changes to constitution

5. Election of Officers

5.1 Chairperson

Andy Davies offered to continue as chair for one more year and then he would stand down. Duncan Berriman proposed and Nikki Rudkin seconded this. Vote unanimous.

5.2 Secretary

Vicki Lowthorpe was thanked, as was Dave Rawding who had taken over in September 2014 immediately upon finishing as Chair of the National Canoe Polo Committee. However this was only a temporary solution and Sue Burgess has offered to become Secretary. Andy Davies proposed and Meg Rudkin seconded this appointment. Vote unanimous.

5.3 Treasurer

Lesley was thanked and has offered to continue. Andy Davies proposed and Clare Medina seconded this appointment. Vote unanimous.

5.4 Others

5.4.1 Membership Secretary –No further nominations and Meg was happy to continue. Andy Davies proposed and Julie Dimeline seconded this appointment. Vote unanimous.

5.4.2 Equipment Officers –No further nominations and Bob, Gareth and Ken are happy to continue. Andy Davies proposed and Dan Rawding Meg seconded this appointment. Vote unanimous.

5.4.3 Buildings Officer – Andy Davies thanked Alan for the brilliant job he has done holding the building up for the past twenty plus years. Alan is willing to continue in this role. Gareth Jones proposed and Ken Oliver seconded this appointment. Vote unanimous.

5.4.4 Youth Representative – Andy Davies thanked the youth reps and explained that there is always a need to refresh these positions. Luke Robinson was willing to stand for a final year and will be assisted by Eddy and Mathew Lart and Emily Sole. Dan Rawding proposed and Alex McKenzie seconded these appointments. Vote unanimous.

6. Appointment of Auditor

Lesley Medina proposed the use of Holdstock, Nicholls, Train and Co. Andy Davies proposed and Duncan Berriman seconded their continuance. Vote unanimous.

7. AOB

Kingston Kayak Club has always been aware of its location and its responsibility being cited in one of the most deprived wards in one of the most deprived cities in the country. We have always reflected this in providing facilities and paddling at reasonable prices. Prior to last years pool hire increase the club has been able to managed the Income and Expenditure to such a

degree that we have been able to cover our overheads while being able to replenish our stock of equipment.

I would like to stress that all our Committee and all our coaches are unpaid volunteers. On many occasions simply coaching our members puts the coaches out of pocket, but we do it because we love the sport and someone has done it for us when we first started and were beginners. Unlike other sports Canoeing and Kayaking are assumed risk sports and as such we need the correct level of coach and the correct equipment both of which do not come cheap.

The pool fees have increased from £37 per session to £79, which is roughly 114% increase. Thankfully we have been given a 25% discount for being a community club. We are currently paying £63 (70%inc). In previous years we have increased the subscription by a nominal amount to cover general inflation in costs, but this one is unprecedented. We obviously cannot simply pass on the 70% increase directly to our subs, rather look at other ways to bring in funds and reduce costs.

We have already dropped the two small pool beginner's sessions. These were an excellent way of introducing people to the sport, but we could not cover the costs even with full capacity.

We have started to advertise our clubhouse as a venue for different events for example First Aid courses. £25 for an evening and £50 for a full day.

We would continue to keep the trips we provide free – only hire charges would apply. We will however need to increase the Subscriptions by a significant amount or reduce our footprint within the indoor pools. The committee have been managing this dynamically throughout the year and have commissioned numerous financial and usage data collections. This has enabled then to have an increasingly informed discussion about the best options for the future however these will impact on the general running of the club and therefore appropriate that a majority decision at AGM gives the direction. The present use of club reserves to finance current sessions cannot continue. From now onwards sessions during school holidays will generally be cancelled but the club will continue on those dates using the outside pool.

Historically we have kept the outdoor session fees reduced for every day other than Mondays. This is to protect our facilities: I therefore propose an initial increase for Juniors from £2 to £2.50 per session and Seniors from £2.50 to £3. This is not a significant increase but will pay some way towards cleaning and additives.

Membership Fees – It is proposed : Junior £21 to £25, Seniors £31 to £35 and Family £42 to £45 plus £2 levy on all if not a NGB member.

However the bigger issue is around indoor pool costs and the committee have worked through a couple of options.

Options 1

To increase subs to £6.00 and £4.50 respectively and non-members will continue to pay an additional £2.00. During BST the 4 kids groups will be broken into 3 sessions indoors and 1 outdoors, when the clocks change this will revert back to 4 indoor sessions. Sessions will be approximately 45 minutes.

Options 2

To reduce all sessions times to 40 min (5 min change over time), 3 sessions over 2.25 hours and fees to be increased to £5.50 and £3.75 respectively.

There followed a discussion with a number of alternatives ideas being raised however none were felt be those present to assist as much as those presented by the Chair. A vote was then taken on all three matters shown below. The proposals were:-

1. Outdoor pool increases. Proposed Dan Rawding, Seconded Duncan Berriman. Vote unanimous.
2. Membership increases. Proposed Andy Davies, Seconded Julie Dimeline. Vote 33 in favour and 3 abstentions.
3. The indoor pool option 1 (a previous indicative show of hands had shown zero support for option 2). Proposed Andy Davies, Seconded Dan Rawding. Vote unanimous.

8. Next Meeting AGM - 11/04/16 @ 1915

9. Date Next Committee Meeting - 30/04/16 @ 1930

