

Chairman's Report - KKC - AGM – 23.04.2018

In the spirit of making the KKC a lean, non-bureaucratic organisation I intend to bullet point my annual update

First I want to thank all those that make this club happen. Having been the Chair previously and also that of the national Canoe Polo Committee I wanted to use previous experience to do something different

Canoeing will only develop if more people are prepared to help. Therefore my intention was to lead in a manner that would increase our resilience, widen the support structure to reduce demand on key individuals with the ultimate aim of increasing and widening paddling opportunities. In essence create a stronger club.

Whilst we are not there but I am generally pleased with developments, in particular:-

- Parents taking a greater role helping on trips and as pool controllers
- Kids taking greater responsibility; helping each other get in and with the kit on Mondays, sorting their own kit on trip days (however still some forget items). Increasing each of their personal responsibility is a critical part of their development, it used to be called 'growing up'!
- Dave W and Alex O for repairing and maintaining equipment
- Introduction of the popular 3rd Sunday in the month paddles
- Support for other clubs in particular during winter pool access
- Sue B and finding paying clients for room hire
- Growing attendance on WW trips and skills improvement (Daniels stopper exploits)
- Andy D for kick starting the star awards
- Meg R and Linda McK for increasing the number of Guides and Scout sessions and helping us be the hub club to develop paddling in Goole
- Claire M for taking the lead in Paddle Power
- Ken O and his introduction of more sea paddling
- Fiona D for the new paddleboard sessions
- Sue B for organising the most popular and successful weekend away to date
- Most recently increasing our environmental sensitivity in particular the multi club river 'litter pick' clear that our members instigated

Many of you will know less about what our members do to help canoeing nationally:-

- Scott R updates the polo results website
- Duncan B for years has modernised the slalom website results and also created the Coaches/Pool Controllers database which it is becoming more critical all keep up to date
- Our club coach's safety support for C of Culture 2017 and their volunteers. It was our colourful event that was the primary image on all the national and international publicity

- Leslie M for her work regionally on coaching and polo as well as being our Treasurer
- Andy D has created a series of videos that are watched by people from all over UK
- Gareth J for his role as a GB youth polo coach
- Slalom paddlers coaching at LV and Grandtully camps and offering race support

I am actively refreshing the HCA and the signs are very positive that the regional clubs will collaborate on many levels including coaching, entry level competitions, joint trips and sharing equipment and skills. This collaboration was one of the foundations of our regions success and reigniting this will increase opportunities for all

The KKC is large and successful club, that punches above its weight in relation to our positive influence helping the sport develop. One of the secrets of our success is a great sense of fun; respectful relationships that lead to thriving friendships were people just want to do more together

It was no surprise that we were the 1st canoe club that Guin Batten (Strategic Development of BC) visited. I could not have been prouder about what she witnessed that night. Good-humoured delivery of quality coaching, well behaved kids showing they loved what they were doing and the impressive scope of what we deliver. It created an impact as I was approached to be a panel member at the national conference when they wanted to explore how to establish more thriving clubs. Unfortunately I was doubled booked setting an example of 'responsible safe drinking' to the large group of KKC members skiing in France

Our NGB BC has significantly changed over the past few years with genuine consultation and thereafter appropriate participant led changes. Sue and I met the Phil S the Area Development Officer this morning and it is clear that a more common sense approach is being adopted, in particular changes to recognising other 1st aid qualifications, the opportunity to refresh safeguarding training on line rather than face to face, both will help save volunteers time and money. Soon every club member will get the opportunity to be an Associate member of BC, which brings benefits. We discussed how they could support coach development and in turn we will look into introducing Paddle Sport Activity Assistancess, particularly to get youngsters onto the coaching ladder

We have achieved great success in polo over the past 12 months:-

- Youths attending their 1st international youth cup, great team performance but also their efforts generating support and how that has led to purchase of 6 new polo boats
- Alex L and other players in the national teams winning internationals
- Men's A team being crowned national champions and the B team promoted to Division 1
- Andy L and his role maturing Hull Polo International at new venue

I am conscious however that we need to increase participation pathways into other competitive disciplines. It is essential that particularly our younger paddlers have the opportunity to try many aspects of the sport and are not funnelled solely into one. That can only hinder their skill development. One of our goals has to be to ensure canoeing is a sport for life and broadening paddling types assists. We are fairly good at this and have many full family partaking

Recently some good results in slalom thanks to Jack B, Jacob A, Tom W, Joe W and Dan R being promoted back to Prem. We intend to focus more Monday outdoor sessions on the broader aspects of the sport, including slalom and sprint, but are a little hindered by the current clubhouse situation, however we are making progress on that.

Whilst the insurance company are yet to confirm what they will award we will commence work this week. I must thank Alan and Julian for their huge efforts to date. Fortunately our prudence and previous difficult work around restructuring finances will buffer the reduced pay out we have been warned to expect.

So what will the next 12 months bring:-

- Upgraded clubroom and further opportunity for income generation
- Coach development including young coaches, possibly including a partly funded weekend away to create a cadre of similarly minded aspiring leaders
- Commence discussions about our first regional canoe trail
- Greater variety of trips to new locations
- More opportunities to 'bench mark' your development through gaining national awards
- Importantly increasing efforts to get younger/middle age into leading delivery. We are similar to Scouts, Guide, Youth Clubs where those currently running them are ageing out. If that doesn't change many institutions that help young people develop skills for life will simply cease

All that said it is essential that we reflect your wishes about what you want from your club. If you are not enjoying it, not content with how we are supporting your development or have an idea we should try then tell us. Whilst we might not be able to cater for every change requested, if we don't know about it we would never find out

When I became Chair for the 3rd time I made it clear that I would only continue to stand if the club started to move in the direction I previously described, therefore I am pleased about what is happening

Probably a good job as there generally is not a long queue of volunteers

Dave Rawding
Chairman
23/04/18