

Putney Bridge Canoe Club - Annual General Meeting

South Bank Sailing Club, Barn Elms, Putney

Meeting followed by supper.

1900 Monday 30 November 2015

Present - George Fenwick, Geoff Onyett, Peter Colvin, Adrian Clark, Olwen Ross, Richard Bate, Guy Douglas, John Richards, Chris Fenwick, Paul Buchanan-Barrow, Martin Shirley, Anna Ballantayne, Josephine Munton, Nik Ilukkumbure and John Harrison

Apologies - Jonathan Fidler, David Creasy, Neil Montgomery.

Chairman's welcome and report - Geoff Onyett

We can say that this has again been a successful, but busy and energetic year for the club. Thursday evening paddles have been well attended and successful, thanks to Adrian for organising these and also to Peter who has frequently stepped in when Adrian has been unavailable. The Saturday morning sessions have also continued to be in great demand and have been organised and run by Peter. The Wednesday pool sessions run each week by George, Guy, Martin and John, with others stepping in from time to time to lend a hand have also been a great route into the club for newcomers. The club is now running these alone, Blades having backed out in the spring. There has been a number of occasions when the club has liaised with other clubs, such as Blades, Cherwell and Battersea. Other clubs send their paddlers to our pool sessions on a regular basis, e.g. Phoenix and Westminster.

Unfortunately, our neighbouring and partner club Blades CC has now folded as membership has dwindled. Putney Bridge is however doing well and I sometimes ask myself why are we popular? Perhaps it is because we offer a broad range of paddling activities throughout the year.

After last year's AGM we began with a festive paddle in December, the first we had run on the Thames. In terms of equipment we installed a generator in the lock-up to help our winter and nocturnal paddles. John, Guy and myself bought two Pyranha B2s for the club - a deal that was so attractive that others bought their own, including me. We paddled the Wandle in January, which was organised by Olwen. There was the usual Cherwell/Putney trip to the Dart in January, when we paddled the Tavy and Dart, with the one group running the upper and the other doing the Loop. Neil organised a club whitewater trip to the river Usk in February. We acquired two Dancer XTs through some diligent work on the Internet. Our Secretary was contacted by Wapping river police station with the alarming news that they had some of our equipment. This it turned out was members boats which had been stolen from behind our lock-up, but I am glad to say that this and other's kit was returned in spectacular style by the river police. Josephine organised open canoe training on Thames over a number of days early in the year and also offered training for intermediate paddlers.

There was the annual trip at Easter for a group of us to the Dordogne hosted by Josephine and Paul. We had three boats in the Devises to Westminster on Easter weekend and so offer our congratulations to pairs Olwen and Claire, John and Adrian and Adrian and Mike, In May Guy organised a day trip to the Lee Valley Legacy course. Craig ran two surf trips, one in May and the other in June. Throughout the summer we had members regularly attending triing sessions at LV on both the Legacy and Olympic courses. Richard ran in July a highly successful trip to circumnavigate Hayling Island, which enjoyed excellent weather. Olwen organised trip a joint trip to N Wales with Battersea CC over the long Bank Holiday weekend. In September Adrian organised two sessions of professional forward paddling coaching at Marsport, which was enthusiastically taken up. A further sea trip was organised to Poole Harbour and out to Old Harry Rocks by Richard. The club also participated in a sea kayaking weekend organised by Mark Rainsly in Dorset. Guy and Geoff organised a clear up of the Lock-up with numbers of members helping out, in November Josephine paddled on the Hudson. The usual November trip to Dartmoor morphed into a highly successful 50th birthday party at Princetown, Dartmoor for Adrian. The second festive paddle run just yesterday to the Ship Inn at Mortlake was very well attended with more than 40 participants, despite the blowy weather.

Individual members were involved in a range of trips and activities; Cathy and Julie went sea kayaking, John had white water trips to Corsica and Austria, Richard a sea trip around Brittany in October. Josephine paddled on the Hudson in November.

So if I have to conclude why we are succeeding as a club it is because we offer such a range of activities in a friendly inclusive manner.

I should on behalf of the club like to thank all members who helped out throughout the year, Olwen liaison with BCC, Anna, Peter, Committee members, Adrian for Thursday paddling, racing, Dave for the web and running of club, George - finances, pool, Guy for his work as junior Equip office and the pool, John - BCU, enquiries and secretary, Olwen, Peter - Saturday paddle organiser and back stop on Thursday, Richard - sea kayaking, advice rep to PLA.

As for next year we already have the Dart trip in early in Feb, we will continue the safety briefings, and work to secure a second container (Geoff saw Chris Futtit at the Barn Elms boathouse - Wandsworth sports activities, including the Barn Elms complex is now managed by a company, ENABLE leisure & culture consisting of ex Wandsworth staff - he is keen to find out what can be done). Training will be again continued through the pool and through river sessions.

2. Membership Report - Peter Colvin

Membership status is currently 87 members and this is as far as we can tell now a record. Most new members come through the Pool and Saturday sessions. Members range in ages from 16 to 70+, but strangely we have a smaller proportion of women this year.

The committee is introducing a new system of annual payment of membership fees and signing up, which should make the prompt payment more straightforward. David has been looking at this. One problem has been keeping members personal information up to date. The idea is now to

have a system online and this is completed every year so it is at least up to date once a year. The committee is also currently looking at a simpler direct payment system.

3. Financial Report - George Fenwick

George reported an overview of the club's income and expenditure. There was since the last AGM an income of £11,359.75 and an expenditure of £9,944.24, meaning that at the end of this current year there was an addition to the club's reserves of £1,415.51. A more detailed statement of this was circulated. Appendix 1.

John reported on the Committee's review of the Club's fee structure. He said that the Committee recommended that the fees should again be maintained at current levels for all activities for 2016. This was accepted.

4. Equipment Report - Guy Douglas/Geoff Onyett

Guy reported that two new sea type boats had been bought through Richard, Geoff had also purchased for the club two second hand dancer XTs, and two new Pyranha B2s had been purchased one small and one medium suitable for most of the club's paddlers.

The lock-up was therefore well stocked and some of the older white water boats were moved to the pool, where they are popular. Currently the lock-up contains approximately 40 boats.

Josephine registered the observation that as a club we have no insurance for these boats.

It was also noted that members using club equipment are not insured for personal injury. However, such insurance is available for moderate paddling up to grade 4.

5. Club Activities

Adrian Clark reported that the Thursday evening paddles had continued through the year and remained popular. There had been one potentially dangerous incident when a newcomer came close to being swept under a barge. As a result, the committee has implemented briefings for all outings on the Thames. There are also restrictions on newcomers joining paddles when conditions are more challenging. We are currently our Thames sessions are not restricted by the number of boats; we have 40 available. The organisers of the paddles are also stricter about securing commitment to attend these sessions in advance.

Peter reported on the Saturday Paddles, which had a consistent turn out.

Pool Sessions - Guy Douglas - Popular make profit, unfortunately not with own members, BCC, Phoenix, Westminster, and get odd members from other clubs, would like to see more members, can learn skills not just rescue and rolling skills.

6. Additional topics submitted by members.

Josephine Munton suggested that the club should adopt a system of Incident reports. The committee has reviewed incidents in the past it was agreed that this should be taken forward in a more formal sense and special attention should be made to seek the views of those involved, not just the 'leaders'.

Josephine also proposed that club resources should also be made available to encourage active members to undertake training for safety (e.g. the FSRT and WWSR courses and qualifications) and first aid for canoeing for the benefit of the individual and the club. The committee will consider how to encourage and organise this.

David Creasy had suggested by email that the club should re-visit the club's constitution and the club's systems. It was agreed that the committee should review the constitution, and consider the club's systems including the AGM.

8. Club Officials - Geoff

All existing Committee members having expressed their happiness to continue in their positions for 2016 posts and no alternative nominations have been received, Geoff confirmed that the committee would continue as currently constituted.

Committee members are Geoff Onyett - Chairman and Equipment Officer, George Fenwick - Treasurer, John Richards - Secretary and BCU liaison, Olwen Ross - Welfare Officer, Richard Bate - Sea Paddling and PLA liaison, Guy Douglas - Pool supervision and equipment assistant, Adrian Clark - Thursday paddles, Peter Colvin - Membership secretary and Saturday paddles and David Creasy - IT systems.

9. Any other business - no further business - supper was served.