



# Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 in the Club House.

There are 31 members present at this meeting.

### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes from last year have been agreed as a true representation of the last meeting.

### 2. Chairpersons Report

Good morning, everyone. Thanks for turning up. A brief recap on the year;

We managed to retain our quality club award from Paddle UK, it involves a thorough self-assessment and the scrutiny of all aspects of the club, including equality, diversity, and inclusion, governance and safeguarding. The club sessions, in the summer months we continued in the evenings with the Tuesday three different time trials, Slapton, K1 6K and the K2 6K, and then the skills session which you're doing on the fourth Tuesday. We gave people the choice if they wanted to go for a paddle, which has been popular amongst the more mature members and other people too, although we can't let the novice kids go off on their own. We thought the approach still allow people to achieve their training goals. The sessions were triggered by the lack of coaches that we've done all club sessions, but they seem to work quite well, and people get to know each other better when we're all in one big group, so that seemed to work quite well, fortunately, as there's not much of a choice. The winter former and we changed slightly for the Tuesday, so that we offer a gym session at 6 o'clock for novices and juniors, and we incorporated a fun aspect to it, with little games and things, which Charlotte and Kelly led, which was quite good and they enjoy it more when they are little, they don't just have hard workouts. Then we did the run session at the same time for adults. At 7 PM we do the senior gym, and we managed on quite a number of Tuesdays, to get the juniors out running at 7pm while the adults were doing their gym, which is quite good. So we'll see, this is dependent on lots of help, Michael, thank you, and people who have mucked in not necessarily coaching staff for the club, which is really good. Kelly did a great job with her kids as well. On the Thursday day we do the novice junior gym session first, followed by the adult and then a group we're doing ergo out on the apron there, which is nice to see that we're self-organized by them, but it's good to see it. We ran the pool sessions again at Tiddenfoot. The last couple of years we ran four sessions. but they really ramped the price up um this this year, so we just did two sessions, and they weren't as popular. I think this is not something that we might want to do every winter. I think leave it a couple of years and then do it again, obviously, if people feel different, let us know, but we didn't we didn't get them filling up last time, which is the time before, where they were over both the whole four sessions.

The come and try sessions, we had four days, which was seven come and try sessions, over the Saturdays we had 58 participants and then the number of beginners courses we manage to fill depends entirely on the amount of people we get to the come and try sessions because that's the feeder from that. We've got four beginners courses with 28 participants. resulting in five new members, which is quite a bit down on the previous years aren't we aren't quite sure why, because we followed the same format, it's a bit of a mystery. It might just be one of those things, you know. So for the come and try its there's a lot of people not turning up, and the weather on couple of them was poor, maybe that was it. But we've got some new members and realistically, I think last year we got 23 new members, but we can't sustain that because we haven't got enough boat space for beginners boats or coaching staff.

So moving on to that, last summer we trained up a further six Paddlesport instructors, so for the last three summers we've managed to get a course of Paddlesport instructors, which are all people that are qualified to lead and to help, which is really good.

We've recently provided 12 members with first a training and then we booked a core coaches course for the springtime where we have definitely got four, but hopefully six people on that, which we desperately need. For the core coaches course, the cost of that's covered, we were prepared to pay as a club, but we've managed to successfully apply for a paddle UK bursary, which basically covers the £500, it basically covers the cost of that.

The racing then, we fielded healthy teams for the regional races as well as some out of region races with strong results. There will be a full breakdown of these at the rewards evening on the 6th of December, at the Christmas party. I hope to see you there.





We have got some promising young athletes coming through, um towards the top of the club now, which is brilliant to see.

The support staff, thanks guys. The kitchen we have managed to cater nicely for all the races but it's such a struggle for the same people all the time doing it and they eventually get sick of doing it, it's a bit of a thankless task and they come and stand there every Saturday. We have tried to encourage people to help them to just do a shift even if you have to do a couple of Saturdays a year, but we put a calendar up inside there and Katy is the only one that's so far has helped with that, so it's a problem.

This is an ongoing saga with the lease. This club building opened in 2014 it is supposed to be a five year review on the lease, it didn't happen in 2019 but the facilities manager from the school contacted me in the middle of this week and said that she's just about finished a draft version of it to present us with and we should get it in the next week. They're not going to try and take any back payments. It's going to go up massively because we're paying it electricity and services from 2004. It's obviously 10 years up the road, so it's going to go up, I don't think it's going to go down.

Just want to put it on record to thank the support staff and everyone that helps, it is really much appreciated.

We have purchased a new K2 and a second hand good condition K2 this year.

The membership system seems to be working very nicely as does the new system for collecting race fees.

Kari asked me to mention the encampment of tents down by the Black bridge there, it's increasing, it's a bit of a health hazard too, because where they are going to the toilet, in the canal. So, we are all encouraged to ring up the line, Kari circulated the number on a Facebook post a while ago, if people could report them, the more of us report the sooner they will be dealt with. So, we ask if everybody could just spend five minutes, just send a quick email of the Facebook post, we will see if we can get it pinned and just encourage everybody just to keep throwing emails and repeated emails to that address, just to highlight the issue that we've got.

I put out an email last week about that Aqua paddle proposal, which is like park run, so it encourages anybody that has a boat to do a 5K free paddle on a Sunday. It's funded by Paddle UK, and they are very prescriptive of what is required, they need a leader they call a captain to be in overall charge of it, a timekeeper, three trained Paddlesport instructors and three marshals. I think given the trouble we have getting enough people to help with the races that we already hold, I think it would be difficult to sustain that but I sent out a message to everybody and only two people out of 210 replied to me, so I haven't got a clear steer on it. But if we don't do it, they're going to do it up at the pub anyway, so it will happen, but if we want to be in on it and we want to take part and we want to be part of that group, we need to put ourselves forward and actually sign up and do it. Because the choices when I spoke to the guy, the choices were either here or he was going to do it off his own back up at the pub. The two people that replied basically said, no, it wasn't viable, one was Steve Oxby, he put forward a list of stuff. And the other was Paul Stenning. The other thing is that I've been looking at the Aquil paddle past events, and they're nearly all SUPs, I've got nothing against them, but one of the outcomes from doing this would be to encourage new members, and if they nearly all going to be SUPs, we're going to have trouble looking after them because we need a different SUP section with different coaches, because SUPs and kayaks are completely different speed. It just wouldn't work together in the same session, so there is a lot to think about. Well let's all I've got, Thank you.

### 3. Treasurers Report

It's been steady year. Nigel just talked about the come and tries and the beginners courses. Membership has remained pretty stable, you know, despite having a good uptake on the come and try and the beginners' courses.

As well as paying for the beginners courses, we also ran a safeguarding course for our welfare officer and the safety and rescue courses and Paddlesport instructors courses, and the fee for the November first aid course is included in these accounts.

We purchased two boats this year and new adult paddles, we will continue to invest in new equipment for the club.

This year we contributed to the repair to the canal entrance from the school field, that cost us £738, and we bought the new fridge freezer there.

The races we host and the catering team have generated a steady income, which has enabled us to subsidize the pool sessions, as the cost went up dramatically this year, the Christmas and award ceremony and the children's party, and we also continued to have a participation grant running. The catering team contributed £2290 to our reserve, so they've done really well. In August we opened a savings account to take advantage of the interest rates available, and that's generating a little monthly income. The participation grant will continue, it's there to help people participate in club activities which they might otherwise not be able to for whatever reason, details can be found on the website, and if you if you do want to make an application, then you email Nigel or myself, our details are on the board there.





Nigel's talked about the cedars school and the rent and service charge. The race fee invoicing system will continue as will WebCollect the new membership system we implemented this year. There is a small cost with that, £160, but I think it has been well worth running.

Finally, I would like to thank Cheryl Dixon, for running the race invoicing system again this year and Wendy Guy for examining these accounts.

It was asked what proportion of our costs do we pay to the school; this is approximately £6000 a year. We pay £533 a month, £275 of that is the service charge. I am interested to see how that's made up. I'm going to be interested to see what changes they are going to make, because I don't know if we're getting that value for money. It's not just us that's not happy because there's a guy from the football, his name's Gary, and he's got the same problems with them and so they're going to have to up their game if they want more money, even if we need to employ a lawyer. The rent is cheap but it would be interesting to see what they're going to do about a service charge. The showers are not working or cold and the toilets are blocked. Brian came last Sunday, and the showers weren't working, and all footballers were out there and obviously they got the same as well. Everything that eventually gets done, takes ages, if we want new light bulbs, it takes more than a year, you know, like the shower we used to get when we walked into the gate when it was raining. We've got a fix now, but it took three years to get there, and it's just hopeless. There is no maintenance happening. I don't know if we can use that to go back and challenge them in terms of whatever it is they do propose.

We've got a plan of the school layout so we can work out what our area should cost. It will go up, rent has gone up massively in the last 10 years, and electricity, it's gone up massively too.

The kitchen had no hot water until the Remembrance race when the site maintenance guy refilled the tank and then hot water was available in the building. This tank does not seem to automatically refill, which is an issue.

#### 4. Subscriptions

There are no proposed changes to subscription charges for this year. However, there is an important update regarding boat racks. From membership renewal in April, boat racks will only be available to paddling members as the club needs to prioritise rack allocation for those who regularly paddle. While this adjustment affects only a few individuals, it is the only change being introduced at this time.

First Paddling Member	£150
Family Paddling Member 2	£120
Family Paddling Member 3	£96
Family Paddling Member 4	£78
Non-Paddling Member	£15
All Boat Racks / Maintenance	£35
Student/Away Paddler	£78

87 Paddling members.

24 Non-paddling members.

#### 5. Trustees

The committee discussed adding additional trustees to our charity. Currently, the trustees are Phil Tingay, John Hoile, and Julian Brown. Julian suggested including more regular club members as trustees, so we propose Carly Hudson, Paul Stenning, Chris Jones, and Nigel Dixon for these roles. This is to inform you of our intention, the trustees will review this further.



## 6. Committee Changes and Elections

Below is a list of the new committee members.

No positions were contested and there have been no objections to the nominees.

### Committee Officers

Chairperson	Nigel Dixon
Secretary	Philip Tingay
Treasurer	Andrea Toosey
Club Welfare Officer	Fiona Barber
Support Team Representative	Katy Catchpole
Social & Marketing Rep.	Charlotte Ellis
Paddler Representative	Carly Hudson
Junior Representative	Leon Dixon
Coaching Representative	Chris Jones

### Non-Committee Officers

Support Welfare Officer	{vacant}
Membership Secretary	Carly Hudson
Talent Club Officer	Team
Safety Officer	Steve Oxtoby
Volunteer Coordinator	{vacant}
Marathon Racing Team Leader	Charlotte Ellis
Sprint Racing Team Leader	Catherine Sanderson
Lightning Team Coordinator	{vacant}
Race Fee Billing	Andrea Toosey
Race Reporter	{vacant}
Race Organiser	The race organiser group will continue
Novice Course Administrator	Katy Catchpole
Flatwater Racing Association Rep	Michelle Hammett
Catering Coordinator	Michelle Hammett
Catering Helpers	
Club Shop	Kelly Bates
Boats & Equipment Coordinator	Steve Oxtoby
Timekeeper	{vacant}
Webmaster	Leon Dixon
Coaching Coordinator	{vacant}

## 7. Any Other Business

None

The minutes are a true representation of the meeting.

Signed Nigel Dixon

Name NIGEL DIXON

Position CHAIRMAN

Date 30 NOVEMBER 2025



**Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club****Income and Expenditure account year ended 30th September 2024**

	2024	2023
<b>Reserves bfwd 01/10/2023:</b>		
HSBC membership account	0.00	53650
Natwest membership account	71599.82	16994
Natwest race account	3369.50	1618
	<u>74969.32</u>	<u>72262</u>
<b>Income:</b>		
Membership	19999.07	17174
Race fee income	5457.75	5541
Come and try & training sessions	1418.25	2233
Social events, tuck shop and club kit sales	5214.87	5419
Interest received	171.06	0
Donations received	10.00	396
Key deposits	120.00	80
	<u>32391.00</u>	<u>30843</u>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Boats and equipment	4460.00	5575
Rent	6404.76	6405
Insurance	1271.68	1256
BC affiliation	504.60	498
Race fees	4612.12	4439
Courses and training	2870.92	3540
Participation grant	250.00	1205
Boat/H&S maintenance	395.15	1000
Club house & grounds maintenance	1117.71	978
Key fob refunds	0.00	460
Trophies and medals	862.59	488
Social events	1004.61	295
Web hosting	63.04	320
Donations	250.00	550
Tuck shop purchases	2029.17	873
Club kit	0.00	123
Bank charges and commissions	35.83	73
Subscriptions	170.00	0
Printing and postage	0.00	38
Sundry	19.00	20
	<u>-26321.18</u>	<u>28136</u>
Net income for period	6069.82	2707
<b>Reserves to carry forward 30/09/2024:</b>	<u>81039.14</u>	<u>74969</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Natwest membership account	26100.61	71600
Natwest savings account	50171.06	0
Natwest race account	4767.47	3369
	<u>81039.14</u>	<u>74969</u>

Wendy Guy  
17 Lomond Drive  
Linslade  
Leighton Buzzard  
Beds  
LU7 2XH

9<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club**

**Accounts for the years ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Hi Andrea,

I have reviewed the accounts that you drafted for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and I am in agreement with the figures presented to me.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Guy', with a horizontal line underneath.

Wendy Guy

Accounts Manager