

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date	
From	1st Jan 2023	To	31st Dec 2023

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Belfast Canoe Club

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

NIC104803

Charity's principal address

c/o 75 Shandon Park

Belfast

Postcode

BT5 6NY

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Andrew Smylie	Chairman		
2	Malcolm Kerry	Treasurer		
3	Joe McGivern	Secretary		
4	Anne Galway	Child Protection		
5	Damien Stafford	Committee member		
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

None

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Club

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected by members at AGM

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The Club is affiliated to the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland which provides appropriate insurance cover for canoeing activities. All members are either individual members of CANI or Affiliated members of CANI.

Our base for water activities is at Meteor Waterski Club, Bresagh Road Lisburn

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of The Club are to promote the sport and recreation of Canoeing, particularly competitive canoeing, and the involvement of young people in the sport.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The public benefits of the Club activities are opportunities for members of the public to participate in the sport and recreation of Canoeing, particularly competitive canoeing, and the involvement of young people in the sport. The benefits of this participation include improved skills, strength and conditioning, fitness, personal achievement and development and volunteering opportunities.

These benefits can be demonstrated by achievement of recognised awards of British Canoeing, by participation in canoeing events in the United Kingdom and abroad, by improvements in fitness and skills of individuals demonstrated by performance of individuals including medal winning performances in competitions and progression through divisional systems towards elite level. These are recorded in our annual report, as well as in publicly available competition results, etc.

The purposes of our charity may lead to the following harm:
As with any sport there is a small risk of injury. This is minimised by use of experienced and qualified coaches and appropriate risk assessment and mitigation. The residual risk is outweighed by the benefits of participation in sport through improved skills and fitness levels and the proven health benefits of regular exercise.

The charity's beneficiaries are those members of the public who choose to make use of the opportunities we offer to come canoeing with us, and those who join as members for longer term opportunities.

The only private benefit flowing from the purpose is to those who supply the equipment we have to buy and any facilities we have to pay to use, and this is incidental and necessary because without equipment and facilities we could not offer our activities.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

The club's canoeing activities are wholly dependent on volunteer coaches and other volunteers who fulfil other roles and responsibilities

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Regular twice weekly Club sessions at Lough Henney over the summer season were well attended with up to 25 paddlers on the water. We also ran sessions on Lough Henney most weekends in winter, together with swimming pool sessions in Newtownards and paddling machine sessions on winter evenings.

We added 10 new members and by the end of 2023 our membership had reached 44 members, slightly down on 2022 (mainly due to former Lagan Dragons leaving to join the new Dragonboat team at Stranmillis). Membership is now 23 males and 21 females with all ages from 11-70+. Junior numbers are lower than we would like with 6 boys and 3 girls. We now have 15 members with some formal certification.

We have partial use of Meteor Waterski Club's container store allowing all the equipment needed for club paddling to be stored on site. Our 2021 investments in the canoe rack and movable jetty were fully utilised. We have renewed our agreement with the ski club for 2024.

Most of our activities have been at Lough Henney, but we did have successful club trips to the Blackwater and Lagan and paddlers also took part in several CANI Recreational paddles. We also provided safety cover for the Cancer Focus New Years Day swim at Crawfordsburn and the Mourne Triathlon at Castlewellan.

We wish to thank CANI for the continuing loan of development racing boats and paddles for use by the Club in introducing people to the sport, and for loan of paddling machines for the juniors to use for winter training at home: this is in addition to the Club machine which has been widely used for coaching both club members and other CANI members.

A total of 7 club members paddled competitively in Canoeing Ireland Events in 2023 and BCC members entered races at Belturbet, Carrick on Shannon, Salmon Leap, Blessington, Lower Liffey and Galway races. Nathan Harbinson won bronze medals in U-14 class in both 200m and 500m Irish Sprint Champs and in the Irish Schools event. Nathan, Charlie Doherty, and Euan Hughes all won Canoeing Ireland Division 7 (Under 15) events with Charlie winning the Division overall for the season.

12 BCC paddlers competed in our NI Championship event which had both 5km and Sprint Race Events with Euan winning overall and Euan, Charlie and Nathan all obtaining qualifying times to compete in British Championship sprint events.

Afton Fitzhenry continues to train full-time with the British Team and compete Internationally: she was 1st in 500m C1 and 2nd 200m C1 at the 2023 British Championships.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Club policy is to retain enough cash reserve to meet the next year's projected outgoings. We again comply with this policy at the end of 2023

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

In 2023, income was membership, event and pool session fees, and donations. Principal expenditure was on rental of facilities at Lough Henney, CANI affiliation fees (for liability insurance), equipment purchase, merchandise purchase, and room and pool rental.

Section F

Other optional information

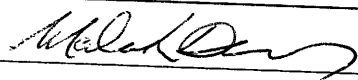
Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Malcolm Donald Kerry

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Treasurer

Date

30/10/24