Maldon Canoe Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5.30PM 7/12/2024

Woodham Walter Village Hall

1. **Persons Present** : Robert Wilson, Adrian Harding, Derek Clark, Judy Podd, Steve Hunter, Keith Payne, David Large, Andy Byrne, Mark Attridge, Julie Atkins, Stephen Gristwood, Roger Mills, John Davey, Alan Wright, Clive Marfleet, Paul Thwaites, Mike Robards, Duncan Smith, Tracie Barry, Rachel Cousins, Mags Cousins

2. **Apologies:** Scott Matheson, Jackie Starr, Clint Gaydon, Adrian Birt, Peter Ward, Patrick Jennings, Rebecca Brown, Andrew Vincent, Trevor Jones, Paul Rollings.

3. **Previous minutes:** Agreed as correct - Proposed by Mags Cousins, seconded by Mark Attridge.

4. **Chairmans Report - Rob Wilson**

   There has progressively been an increase in membership largely driven by better publicity and Wednesday night paddles. The Wednesday night paddles produce a high turnout, coaching was carried out and Personal Performance Awards given to 18 new paddlers.

   The Lee Valley sessions have been well attended with good skill improvement. If you haven't been, I strongly suggest you come along next year. It's good fun.

   Pool sessions are well attended, and again lots of coaching done and lots of skills and confidence improvements achieved.

We have had excellent trips away, Wales, Farnes, Devon surfing, and many other good day paddles including an excellent day on the Cam and trips off Maylandsea, I would like to thank all the organisers.

Many of you went to Wales paddling on real white water for the first time following some introduction sessions at Lee Valley, good fun was had by all and the use of external Leaders proved to be very successful.

I would like to thank on behalf of everybody all of our coaches, who on many trips this year, have helped

This year has not been an easy ride with many internal battles in the committee, as such we are proposing to reduce the size of the committee to the key roles and then bring in other people from the membership to help with specific things including coaching development and leading paddles. Yes, We need more coaches and leaders.

At points this year we called an EGM, but managed to avoid the need for it, we almost dissolved the club at one point, but we have managed to come up with a proposal for the committee going forward for which we hope we can get your support, to give us a year to get the club moving forward in a more positive direction.

We had a good social paddle and BBQ at MYC

Safeguarding training completed for a number of coaches, thankyou Clive for running these courses
Weir safety training done by Judy and Steve working with other Essex based clubs.

Paddle sport Leadership awards gained by Steve and Paul enabling them to independently lead groups on Sheltered water paddles. Apologies if I have missed anyone.

4 club boats have been purchased enabling us to support many more new paddlers with boat hire, 2 pyrhana ions, and 2 Dagger katanas,

An increase in funds thanks to well attended pool sessions and boat hire for paddles and Wednesday nights, big thanks to all that deal with logistics of getting enough boats to venues for all the people that wish to paddle.

I wish to thank all the committee for their unpaid voluntary time, and tireless efforts they have put in throughout the year.

5. **Treasurers Report – Rob Wilson** As you heard from the Acting Chairman, we have had an increase in membership largely driven by better publicity.

   The Lee Valley sessions, pool sessions have been well attended and lots of boat hire indicating we may if maintain our membership be able to buy more boats and equipment next year now the club account is healthy.

   I came but as Treasurer signed in by the committee earlier this year.

   I wish to thank Stephen Gristwood for successfully obtaining a bursary of £500 which MCC will contribute £750 for helping our coaches. So watch this space.

   I came but as Treasurer signed in by the committee earlier this year.

   The accounts for 2023 are not confirmed as I have discrepancies of £1593.59 in last years bank account balance though having checked the last 2 years confirm it was due monies taken out without authorisation and in 2024 year paid back. The £5,511.04 is the corrected figure to balance the account. I also show in the far right 2020 column income and expenditure with loss figure of -£45.42 from first year of the club You can see MCC has come a long way in 5 years from the 1st to now 5th AGM of profit of £4,511.38

   We had in the bank on 31 October 2020 £498.06, 2023 £3917.45 and this year on 31 October 2024 £5,781.52

   In summary, our assets (which are kept at MYC) are worth around £20,000

   Total income is £12,136.88

   Total Expenditure is minus £7,625.50

   Resulting is a profit of £4,511.38

6. **Membership report – Scott Matheson (read out by JP)**

   Current Membership Statistics:
   - Total Members: 101
     - 18 new members joined in 2024
     - 34 female members
     - 25 senior members

- 2 family memberships

2024 Membership and Payment System Update:
This year, we saw good uptake in the use of EOLA for processing membership payments. While it served its purpose, EOLA presented several limitations that impacted functionality and user experience. To address these issues and provide a better service to our members, we will be transitioning to a new membership management system for 2025.

This change aims to offer members improved control over their personal data, streamlining processes and enhancing the overall membership experience. Further details about the new system will be shared soon.

Data Requirements for 2025 Membership:
As an affiliated club, we are required to share membership data with Paddle UK. For the 2025 membership cycle, it will be mandatory for all members to provide their Date of Birth.

This includes members who are not direct members of Paddle UK. Providing this information allows us to correctly register you as an MCC Club Member under Paddle UK, ensuring appropriate insurance coverage and compliance with their guidelines.

7. **Events report – Derek Clark**

Good evening all and thanks for coming.
Its been a varied year of paddling trips, we have tried to do something for everyone.
Weve had touring trips on the Cambridge backs, the rivers Stour, crouch and Deben and the Blackwater tour. Running alongside the Wednesday night paddles on the Chelmer.
Sea kayaking trips on the Blackwater estuary, Thames and Crouch.
Rescue skill trips and night paddles from Maylandsea and a club trip followed by a BBQ at Maldon Yacht club.
White water with trips to Wales and our Lee valley club hire.
Many sea trips have been short notice due to making the most of the weather around the tide, which isn't ideal but it's the nature of the beast.
We had 2 weekend Kayak Surfing trips as well this year.

We have had a few weekend trips away in Wales and a week in the Farnes.
All our trips away this year have been great fun both on and off the water, with plenty of socialising after a great day on the water usually involving food and alcohol. BBQs and taking over the local restaurant being the norm
Summer is definitely our busy time with the weather scuppering many of our weekends during the winter making it awkward to organise trips. So, keep a look out for last minute messages on WhatsApp.
Pool sessions have been steady but not over busy averaging at about 15. Winter being the most popular with a high of 20 and a low of 10 during the summer.
We are still making a profit. Despite loosing 3 sessions at the end of this year. Grossed £1.890 Net £642. £380 of that being raised from boat hire. £262 from pool fees.
Wednesday club paddles have been really popular this year especially for new paddlers and beginners making some nights a bit hectic, July and August especially. with our highest being 27.
It's a great way to advertise the club and increase our membership with an average of over half of those coming for the first time becoming members. £1090 was raised from boat hire just on Wednesday nights. Adding that to the pool and various trips a total of £1540 has been raised from boat hire this year.
The increase in membership and the money raised. That's all down to you the members. all of you make everyone feel so welcome and a part of the group, you muck in and all help each other, you lend your boats without question. All of which makes our lives much easier on an already busy night. So from myself and the Wednesday coaches id like to thank you all, it's a pleasure to paddle with you and we are proud of our members.
Please let me know if you have any ideas for new trips or would defo like to repeat a favourite, or one you missed out on.

8. **Election of officers – the following were elected to the positions shown and will be the 2025 MCC Committee:**

Chairman	Steve Hunter
Vice Chairman	Rob Wilson
Treasurer	Rob Wilson
Club Secretary	Judy Podd
Membership secretary	Scott Matheson
Health & Safety	Adrian Harding
Welfare Officer	Tracie Barry
Events Officer	Derek Clark
Website Officer	Steve Hunter
Equipment Officer	Adrian Harding
Sub committee	Stephen Gristwood

9. **Address by incoming chairman – Steve Hunter**

Thank members for voting the new committee in and trusting us to take the club forward.
Thank Rob for his work standing is as Chairman during this year.
Thank all committee for their work getting the club to the position it is in today.

What do people want the club to focus on the future?Discussion points to drive.
Trips - should we focus on, anything specifics?

White water,Sea,Touring,Camping etc..

Could we do something different on Wednesday nights?

Are we happy with Pool Sessions or could we improve them?

Focus on Coaching and development of paddlers and coaches, would people like to see a structured learning plan working towards awards.

Membership, should we focus on growth bringing in new paddlers, or concentrate in improving skills of existing paddlers?

After general discussion and Q&A's the consensus was to concentrate on the current membership, paying particular attention to coach development and coaching, and club events

10. **Constitution changes – Steve Hunter**

Committee 5 (a) - change "Head Coach" to Development Officer..

5 (d) Full stop to be added after "60 Days" . Insert Online **committee** meetings are acceptable
6 (e) – change "cheques" to "monies above £200".
Change all references to BC, British Canoeing or BCU to Paddle UK.
All present agreed to changes

Membership Fees – Proposed increases' as follows: adult membership up to £30 from £28, Seniors up to £20 from £17, family and junior to remain unchanged at £45 & £12 respectively. But not to until until March 2025 – membership paid before that will remain at 2024 prices.

All present agreed to proposed changes