

Minutes of 2010 Annual General Meeting of Forth Canoe Club

held Wednesday 19 January 2011, Royal Ettrick Hotel, Edinburgh

Present: Adam Boardman, Nicholas Street, Ben Golding, Polly Golding, Merial Sweetman, Robert Weetman, Poppy Croal, Ian McKenzie, Cynthia Berry, Lois Leaver, Sam Leaver, Stephen Churcher, Kay Eveleigh, Kirsten Eveleigh, Elaine Forbes, Alistair Riddell, Brian Horn, Calum Brickell, Matthew Brickell, Colin Smaill, Kathryn Carruthers, Kristina Medovcikova, Markus Kneen, Mick James, Jonathan Riddell, Annemarie Procter, Kelso Riddell

Apologies: Patricia Brignall, George, Jill and David Florence, Lisa Evans, Tracey Kenyon, Andrew Gallacher, David Dickson, Tony Leaver, Bradley Forbes

2010 Business

Written reports from Discipline Contacts were presented, appended to these minutes.

Kristina Medovcikova (Flat Water Racing) reported that Club paddling machines were now available at Boroughmuir Rugby Club at Meggetland and are available for use (£5). She urged members to take particular care around new sprint boats in the boathouse as even a small scratch can be significant.

Treasurer's Report was presented, appended to these minutes.

Colin Smaill reported that the group of Lightning (slalom) paddlershe coaches (12-15 persons) is too many - need to cap numbers. Different standards also cause problems. Colin would prefer to concentrate on existing paddlers -and is looking for assistance with coaching for newcomers.

The Commodore reported on the positive direction in which the club was going at the moment.

The Commodore's Cup is still missing. Any information gratefully received. The Commodor may look to source a replacement.

The Club recognised the huge contribution made in Coaching and running the Grandtully slalom by David Dickson and a bottle of malt whisky was presented (in absentia).

2011 Business

Election of Office Bearers/ Discipline Contacts

- Commodore: Kelso Riddell
- Secretary: Alistair Riddell
- Treasurer: Polly Golding

- Child protection officer: Annemarie Proctor
- Coaching coordinator: Cynthia Berry
- Website Editor & membership secretary Jonathan Riddell
- Hut Custodian: Mick James
- Slalom contact: David Dickson
- Wild Water contact: Cynthia Berry
- Polo contact: Meriel Sweetman
- Surf contact: Tony Leaver
- Flat Water Racing contact: Colin Smaill
- Sea Canoeing contact: Brian Horne and Lisa Evans
- Open Canoeing contact: Mick James
- Recreational paddling contact: Ben Golding
- Pool Sessions contact: Ben Golding

Mick James (Hut Custodian) reported on **boat storage**. After allocation for coached disciplines and club boats, there are 16 spaces left for private boats in the boathouse. It was pointed out that there is a risk of damage if too many boats are put into the boathouse. It was agreed to limit boathouse storage to a maximum of one space per member (two for family membership) to be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The **boathouse locks will be changed** on 23rd January 2011. New keys were issued at AGM and can be delivered by post. Coaches will get keys free of charge.

Subscription levels for 2011 are to remain as for 2010.

The Commodore pointed out that the SCA are now offering **insurance for private boats** with various levels of cover available.

Programme for 2011

- Grandtully Division 1 Slalom – David Dickson will organise.
- Ratho Marathon - Markus Kneen to organise. Proposal has been made to move the event to Edinburgh due to problem with barges.
- Rate Race – Annemarie Procter to coordinate.
- Canal Festival - Annemarie Procter to coordinate, Ben Golding will assist.
- Active Schools scheme – Mick James will coordinate.
- Festival of Sport – decision pending on whether the Club will participate.

The Committee is continuing to work on revising the **Club Constitution**. It is hoped that a draft will be available for members to comment on in the near future, with a final draft tabled for discussion and approval at an EGM later this year. It was agreed by a vote that the club should NOT require its members to be members of the SCA.

Proposed purchase of facilities at Meggetland

The Club's current boathouse is too small, with little possibility for expansion, and no running water. It is, however, close to the centre of town, and the canal there has few other users.

Jonathan Riddell and Kelso Riddell have been in discussion with St Andrew Boat Club (formerly tenants of current FCC boathouse) who wish to build a larger boathouse at their Meggetland site.

The current SABC boathouse is approx. three times the size of the current FCC boathouse. It has running water, showers and toilets. It is however on the 'wrong' (public) side of the canal, further out of town, and the canal is busier.

There is the possibility that FCC could buy the current SABC boathouse. £50k was suggested as a very rough estimate of purchase price.

JR has also been in contact with the local Councillor, who has suggested joint grant proposals with SABC.

SABC's new building is expected to be complete in the next 2-3 years. SABC want to start building as soon as Spring 2011 so FCC may need to commit very soon.

The meeting agreed to take this proposal forward. Anyone who may be interested in assisting, particularly with grant applications etc, should contact Jonathan Riddell.

Reports

Membership

Total members with subscriptions: 153

Senior members with subscriptions: 82; Junior members with subscriptions: 24

Family subscriptions: 18; Family members this represents: 45

Associate members with subscriptions: 2

Keys hired: 35; Boats stored: 24; Boats stored in the warehouse: 3

Members who are SCA members: 49; Members who are not SCA members: 104

Club Nights (Jonathan Riddell & Annemarie Procter)

We ran blocks of sessions for 1 star courses for juniors and seniors during June, July, August
Discipline taster sessions for open canoe, slalom, polo during September

We did a trip to Yellowcraigs to paddle around Fidra during September

Several paddlers from these courses continue to paddle with the club

More coaches and helpers always welcome on Club Nights (remember, Forth will pay for coaching courses)

Next year would like to do more of the same plus more advanced sessions such as 2 star courses

Baths (Jonathan Riddell & Annemarie Procter)

Weekly sessions at Portobello

Structured in half hour coaching slots with space available for those who don't need coaching

Successful rollers so far this term - Ollie, Susan, Matt

More coaches always welcome

January term bookings taken soon, e-mail Jonathan to get a coaching space

Events (Jonathan Riddell & Annemarie Procter)

A second fun canal festival in May. Many members took part in flotilla to Lochin Basin paddling alongside Iain Rankin on the Re-union (no corpses floating in the canal). Long queues for our kayak and canadian taster sessions. Spectators were impressed by our competitive polo match, Kelso cheated lots. Rounded off the day with barbeque back at the club.

Our multi-coloured rubber duck challenge attracted fewer competitors than last year but was still good fun. Raised funds for club. Any ideas for next year?

Edinburgh Festival of Sport. Craiglockhart Primary School Fair.

Steady stream of first time paddlers on sunny days of taster sessions.

Thanks to all who helped at these events.

Open Canoeing (Mick James)

A bit of interest in open boating this year with training courses run for Scottish Widows and other teams entering the summer rounds of corporate adventure racing. Also, a great club evening in September introducing lots of folk to single paddles. On a personal note loads of fun open boating in the Massif Central in the summer with some fantastic Grade 3s lovely warm water and cheap camping!

Slalom (David Dickson)

- Tully August Div1/2 slalom was successful, raising some funds for the club. Thanks again to all who helped
- This season Poppy, Helen, Michael and Jonny were all promoted to Division One.
- Michael won the Scottish U14 Championships
- Bradley won the Scottish U18 Championships and British Under 16 Championships and finished the season ranked 17th overall in Premier division
- Jonny won the Scottish and British U12 Championships

Polo (Theresa Meacham)

The polo section of Forth CC has grown this year with around 8 – 10 individuals turning up regularly to training. The team has benefited from Stephen Churcher's coaching on Thursday evenings, new equipment and is entered into Div 3 this season.

Tournaments played:

- January 2010: Div 3
- Nov 2010: Div 3 cancelled due to the snow.

Upcoming tournaments:

- February 2011: Div 3
- May 2011: Div 3

New kit:

- 2 new boats; one of which was donated to us and one bought second hand
- 7 new helmets with faceguards
- 5 new polo buoyancy aids.

Sea Kayaking (Lisa Evans)

The club's official sea-kayaking activities remain unfortunately very limited. This is because of a lack of members qualified to lead club activities on the sea (4* 'sea leader' qualification required), as well as a lack of seaboats available to club members.

Activities that did take place:

- Jonathan led a trip out to Fidra - although not in sea kayaks.
- A joined BBQ and paddle was arranged with Lothian Sea-Kayak Club at Seacliff beach.
- Some members undertook independent trips, for example Jonathan and Annemarie to Knoidart, and Lisa and Brian to Loch Sween and also (with Glenmore Lodge) to the Summer Isles.

Forth Canoe Club AGM

Scottish Canoe Association
Kristina Medovcikova
Development Coach

Agenda

- After school activity 2010
- Summer courses 2010
- FCC sprint sessions 2010
- Winter sessions 2010-2011
- Results 2010

After School Activity 2009

- Spring/Summer
 - Fettes College (9 kids) – 1 session a week both terms
 - Sciennes PS – 1 group of 3-4 kids for 1 session a week = introductory sessions
 - Morningside PS – 2 groups of 11 and 12 kids for 1 session a week = introductory sessions
 - Craiglockhart PS – 1 group of 9 kids for 1 session a week
 - Drumbrae PS – 1 group of 10 kids for 1 session a week
 - Gillespie's health week – 90 kids – 1

■ Autumn

- Managed to find a coach for the sessions – Sam Ritchie
 - Active school coordinator misplaced the paperwork that had to be done and the result was no sessions
 - Fettes College – 9 new kids for 1 session a week
 - Craiglockhart PS – 2 groups of 8 and 7 kids for 1 session a week
- Money in : £320

Summer Courses 2009

- Very popular – having a good reputation by now
 - 5 weeks, 12 courses
 - 1 course for 5 days
 - 1 session = 2 hours
 - 110 kids during the summer
- Money in £3000 (paid £1500 to the coaches)
- Coaches – Kirsten, Poppy, Euan Hamill and Kristina
 - Already have a booking for 1 week for

FCC Sprint Sessions 2010

- Lightnings – 2 sessions a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Colin Smail and occasionally plus Kirsten on Thursdays
- During season – paddling
During winter – swimming and gym
- K1s- 6-10 sessions a week
- During season – paddling, run and weights
During winter – swimming, running, weights

Winter sessions 2010-2011

- Lightnings – Tue – swimming at Sciennes PS
Thu – Meggetland, weights and paddling machine with **Colin Smail**
 - K1s – regular 6-10 sessions
- Mon – weights and paddling machine, Meggetland
Tue – am swim, pm run
Wed – weights and paddling machine, Meggetland
Thu – am swim, pm run
Fri – weights, Meggetland
Sat – NDS or testing day at Stirling Uni or 2 individual sessions

Results 2009

- FCC members took part in many local competitions both sprint regattas and marathons
- Scottish Champs – (10 paddlers)
 - 2 gold, 10 silver, 7 bronze medals
- British Champs – (5 athletes – Jack Brickell, Oliver Carruthers, Poppy Croal, Calum Brickell, Benjamin Carruthers)
- Best results from crew boats – U16 Boys K4 500m 4th with U18 boys (2nd U16 boat), K4 1000m 5th (2nd U16 boat) – Oliver and Jack in the K4

Paddling Machines

- 3 new Kayak Pro paddling machines at Meggetland available for use to any FCC member out of sprint group times
 - any day after 6pm