



Minutes of 16/09/2025 General Committee Meeting 8 p.m. via Zoom

In Attendance: Jonathan Males (JM), Abdul-Rauf Ashgar (AR), Irina Medunyak (IM), Jake Brown (JB), Jon Halden (JH), Laura Fagg (LF), Marie Bauerova (MB), Martin Davies (MD), Martin Smyth (MS), Peter Nash (PN), Scott Benton (SB)

Apologies: Carl Upsall (CU), Catherine Pulis (CP), Ciaran Edwards (CLE), Karen da Silva (KdS), Marc Diggins (MDI), Mark Corti (MC), Pam Phillips (PP)

The meeting met the requirements for being quorate.

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

JM welcomed-in the new General Committee year and the Committee members.

Introductions were made for the new committee members.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Agreed: Minutes of the General Committee meeting on 11th March 2025 were taken as read. [AGR 250916 2.0.1]

The agenda for this meeting focussed on priorities for the year ahead as outlined in a previously circulated note by JM. The note circulated by the Chair after the meeting describes the detailed actions agreed.

3.0 Club Development

JM introduced the paper he had sent round to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

Background

Work in progress was described, as background, to the discussions:

- The recent AGM including the agreement to the membership year shift back to an April 1st start;
- Local Outreach project;
- Lee Navigation access;
- Slalom programme and especially getting parents involved;
- The Muslim Scout Foundation; and,
- Club Merchandise.

Discussion matters

Committee succession and back-up for roles. Discussion on who we could approach and the process for maintaining the momentum to gain resilience. Each role was discussed and agreed to be progressed.

Club Rep Role. We are making it work, but it is possibly not robust enough, as currently configured, if there were a serious incident. JH - can it be done if someone is paddling on the water but has a radio and is contactable? JM - Yes. The current SPOND list isn't working, and pick-up is a bit random, could be a



more positive response if the individual is active but on call. PN suggested a bib to help identification. JB suggested polling for early and late coordination as well as having someone as the lead coordinator. JH provided a reminder that coaches have been told to support on all H&S matters and coaches are readily identifiable.

JH suggested that the sign-in sheets include a responsibilities' column for the officers of the Club, with contact details. That way, anyone who needs it during a Club session, can access the information and call upon the appropriate person. Possibly a whiteboard as well by our 'reception' point (JM).

PN suggested the value in conducting training for different scenarios.

Action: JM to re-write the Club Rep brief, source bibs, and collect and laminate photos.

Funding. What would be our wish list of targets for funding?

Suggestions included: juniors, outreach, additional sessions for juniors, training courses for coaches 100% funded; funded water fees - which would create the money for other initiatives; equipment for beginners and a charitable membership - to reduce the barriers to paddling; club open day prime time to introduce local community to paddling; a festival that draws in other clubs and people; transport for facilitating our members to engage in paddlesport activities as many don't have. Support for the events we do host eg. the slalom competitions.

WebCollect. Martin, Scott, and Marie to start work on identifying our needs and possible solutions so that we are better served.

Comms Vacancy. Discussion took place on how we are communicating, how do we stay connected - not very cohesive at the moment and improvement options would be explored.

Organise a winter paddling weekend. Agreed, Yes.

It was discussed that MSh (Coach and heavily involved in Freestyle at national level) - has offered to lead a trip. The Committee was asked what it thought of the principle. IM spoke on the ethos of the club being first and foremost based upon a club lead and peer paddling. It was supported that we don't pay our coaches (as we are a volunteer based club) and it would not therefore be right to buy-in coaches or leaders unless it was necessary to do so because Club Members could not provide these roles. The differentiation was affirmed by the Committee between where we have trained experienced members who can lead, and where we need to hire someone because we can't cover it. JH suggested getting a Club diary going, so we can book in advance and get the Club coaches booked.



PN said he would be happy to lead a trip to Cardiff or a South Wales river and will check calendars for a date.

Clubhouse. Various views were discussed on the rationale for a clubhouse and what a 'clubhouse' could be for the Club: not limited to Centre within the gates; a place to meet; access to river; refreshment facilities; boat storage; meetings; toilets; changing rooms; Part of a multi-service building could possibly be made to work with either new builds or existing facilities.

MS will draft a baseline document to describe the Club's identified needs and wants. SB and AR to keep on their funding radar in case they pick-up on anything that could be relevant.

19 AOB

AR expressed an interest to get more young people engaged with the Club - eg TikTok content. Jake and AR to discuss.

JB - in the compound there are two trailers that are usually used for events at the Centre - one is now serviced and is usable by the Club.

IM - Merchandise was on JMs list - Pam has been working on it in the past, and was happy to place some orders. IM has undertaken some research for some improved designs for kit to wear so that it is nice to wear and to keep. IM has identified a company with a wide range of styles, has green credentials, and can give samples. This would result in higher grade more bespoke merchandise! The Committee expressed support for the idea as improved quality and range of gear is more likely to be purchased and worn by Members.

MB asked if the Club's main shed is always open during the whole of club night which seems to be leaving our kit vulnerable. The discussion on improving security also covered further work to improve/update Club markings on inventory.

LF outlined her idea to start a freestyle league with a soft start on 15th October. She summarised her plan: the first event would be a test, and then an annual league quarterly next year; the event would supply additional bank staff for management and safety; there would be a small entry fee to cover some prizes; the event would be inclusive with different categories, all paddlers, all boats. The Committee agreed in principle. Safety will be organised to include 'traffic lights' and control.

PN asked if anyone would like to represent the Club at the school pool nights, to see if there are any introduction opportunities. To be followed-up by JB and AR, MD for Saturday flatwater sessions.