

Company number 01525484

**BRITISH CANOEING
37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Held at Macdonald Manchester Hotel, London Road, Manchester, M1 2PG
On Saturday 25th March 2017 at 2.30pm**

In Attendance:**Voting Members:**

Alan Laws; Andrew Jackson; Andy Maddock; Andy Maxted; Carl Von Berg; Helen Slater; Cathy Wynne; Chris Arrowsmith; Chris Hawkesworth; Christine Laws; Derek Playford; Colin Woodgate; Dave Spencer; Dr Tim Brabants; George Wynne; Graham Lyon; Greg Spencer; Howard Blackman; Ivan Lawler; Jane Gibson; Jacqui Best, Jim Rossiter; Jenny Spencer; Joe Parkin; John Anderson; Kevin Dennis; Lee Pooley; Linda Pooley; Mary Smith; Mike Chandler; Paul Carroll; Paul Ratcliffe; Peter Schofield; Peter Thorn; Richard Bowyer; Sam Rankin; Stan Missen; Sue Hornby; Teresa Gregory Terry Best; Stuart Smith SCA; Brian Chapman SCA, Ashley Hunter CANI; Liz McCreery CANI; Mo Moule; Peter Moule; David Walton; Andy Train; John Chamberlin; Dave Rosseter SCA; Mark Butland; David Wakeling Canoe Wales, Victor Buckley, John Griffiths

British Canoeing Board Members:

Clare Dallaway; David Belbin; Dee Paterson; James Fry; Richard Boreham; Stephen Craig; Bronagh Kennedy; Steve Linksted; David Joy, Chief Executive. Professor John Coyne CBE, Chairman.

Other Staff Members in Attendance:

Urvashi Naidoo, Mandy Delaney, Susan Hicks, Lisa Bryant, Rob Knott, Ruth Norfolk, Laura Peberday, Rebecca Lovatt, Heather Williams, Gemma Wiggs.

Apologies:

Albert Woods OBE, Greg Smale, Paul Mander, Roger Fox, Colin Broadway, Tim Scott, Alan Williams, Duncan Winning, David Green, Adam-Peter Gair, Mike Sunderland.

1. Welcome by Professor John Coyne CBE, Chairman, British Canoeing

The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He then invited the meeting to remember two members who had passed away recently and would be sadly missed: Alan Baker, Chair of Canoe Wales and a Board Member of British Canoeing, and Frank Goodman who was in his own words, "obsessed with Canoeing." A minute's silence was observed.

It was noted that as the Articles had been amended at the EGM, the Chairman was entitled to Chair the AGM.

The Chairman then introduced himself explaining his professional background and his interest in and commitment to British Canoeing. He then invited new Board Directors, James Fry, Richard Boreham, Clare Dallaway, Bronagh Kennedy and Dee Paterson to introduce themselves and each spoke and provided an introduction to their professional and canoeing backgrounds.

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2. To Appoint Tellers for the Meeting

Derek Playford, Jenny Spencer and David Wakeling were appointed as Tellers by consensus.

3. To Adopt the Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Minutes of the 36th AGM were approved. This was proposed by Alan Laws and seconded by Mo Moule.

The minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting were then accepted by consensus.

4. To consider matters arising from the minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting

Brian Chapman referred to item 9.11 in the minutes of the 36th AGM. He felt that documents should be amended to reflect that only the Independent Directors should be ratified by the AGM and not those nominated by the National Associations. This was noted and would be considered for the next AGM.

5. To Announce the Appointment of the President

The Chairman confirmed that as Mr Albert Woods OBE had withdrawn his candidature, Mr Ivan Lawler MBE was appointed to the post of President of British Canoeing unopposed. The Chairman congratulated Mr Lawler on his appointment and wished him every success in the new role.

Mr Lawler thanked the members for their support and stated that his journey to becoming President had received many interjections from various members, demonstrating a desire from the membership to have more say in the decisions made by the organisation. Ivan also paid his respects to the previous President who had devoted 25 years to the role.

6. To Ratify the Appointment of Directors Appointed since the 36th Annual General Meeting

6.1 To ratify the appointment of Professor John Coyne CBE

The Chairman invited David Belbin, Vice Chairman, to chair the item relating to his ratification.

Votes for: 103

Votes against: 82

Abstentions: 450

This was approved.

The Chair resumed to chair the rest of the meeting.

6.2 To Ratify the Appointment of Richard Boreham

Votes for: 147

Votes against: 32

Abstentions: 438

This was approved.

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6.3 To Ratify the appointment of Clare Dallaway

Votes for: 141
Votes against: 7
Abstentions: 471
This was approved.

6.4 To Ratify the Appointment of James Fry

Votes for: 137
Votes against: 17
Abstentions: 460
This was approved.

6.5 To Ratify the Appointment of Bronagh Kennedy

Votes for: 165
Votes against: 9
Abstentions: 441
This was approved.

6.6 To Ratify the Appointment of Dee Paterson

Votes for: 142
Votes against: 10
Abstentions: 462
This was approved.

7. To Adopt the 37th Annual Report of British Canoeing for 2015/2016

The CEO spoke to the Annual Report highlighting the amount of activity during the period that it had covered. Six new Board members had been appointed including the appointment of a new Chair and the Board was now extremely settled and clear in its role.

The CEO then focused on various highlights and key areas of work during the year, including:

- Membership – Identified as a key area of growth; membership review had started and would explore how to improve the offering to members.
- Success at the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games across all Olympic and Paralympic disciplines; 9 medals were won, including 5 golds.
- Access, Waterways and Environment Team remained engaged in trying to increase access to inland waterways.
- Development programmes continued to increase opportunities for more paddling.
- 8 of British Canoeing members were elected onto ICF committees.

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It was noted that 2016 had produced a number of challenges and that the next 12 months would focus on improving policies and procedures.

Greg Spencer then spoke and said that the content of the report did not help members to engage at grass roots level. He felt that many of the aspects of the sport were not represented, and that overall, the report did not represent the interests or achievements of members.

Mr Spencer's comments were acknowledged by the CEO who said that he would welcome written comments to advise on the Annual Report content in future years.

David Rossetter then suggested that future Annual Reports should clearly identify which parts were 'British,' i.e. covering all four Home Nations, and which were English. For those items of activity that were not entirely British, the report should be implicit in stating where the activity was taking place.

Mr Rossetter also asked why the National Centres had not been consulted on the Strategy. He was informed that the Home Nations (Scottish Canoe Association, Canoe Wales and the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland) were all consulted and they had been invited to advise how consultation was managed within their Associations.

Further comments on the ambitious nature of the Strategic Plan were made, and questions were asked in relation to how the membership would be increased from 33,000 to 75,000, particularly as the regional development officer team had been reduced in number. The CEO agreed that the situation was challenging; however, evidence suggested that there were circa 200,000 people paddling every month, the majority of whom were not members, and that it was planned to engage with them to encourage them to become members.

The Annual Report was then approved by consensus.

8. To Adopt the Accounts for the Financial Year 1.11.15. to 31.10.16.

The Vice Chairman spoke to the accounts. These presented a small year-end surplus. He provided some detailed information regarding major sources of income and areas of expenditure. There were no questions to the accounts.

The accounts were adopted by consensus.

9. To Appoint 'Haysmacintyre' as the Auditors for the Financial Year 1.11.16 to 31.10.17, and to Authorise the Directors to fix their Remuneration

The Vice Chairman explained that there would be a tender process in the forthcoming year as Haysmacintyre had been accountants for British Canoeing for a very long time.

The accountants were approved by consensus.

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10. To Consider the Motion Proposed by Teresa Gregory and Ivan Lawler

Mr Ivan Lawler spoke to this motion, which called for the Board to become more accountable for athlete welfare within the Talent and World Class Programmes and to ensure thorough, robust policies and practices. The Chair confirmed that these were important matters for the Board and agreed that all aspects of welfare must be at the heart of the sport. The Chair confirmed that this item was already on the agenda for the next Board meeting (the following day) at which the new President would be in attendance and that the Board would require that matters within the AGM motion should be reported to the Board during the next few months.

This proposal was approved by consensus.

11. Any Other Business

The Chairman confirmed that the draft minutes would be made available on the website, together with minutes from the earlier EGM and an amended copy of the revised Articles.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their continued work in support of British Canoeing, and wished them a safe journey home.