Burley Griffin Canoe Club Inc.  
Annual General Meeting



25th September 2021

Agenda

Held as an electronic meeting with nominations, requests for comments or objections, minutes and election done via email over a 4 week period.

1. Welcome

**Attendees:**

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**Apologies**

Minutes from previous AGM meeting (27th September 2020)

Draft Minutes from the AGM held on 27th September 2020 were accepted.

**Motion**: Accept Minutes for the 2020 AGM:

Proposed ; Seconded:

1. **From Previous Minutes** To formulate duty statements for all committee members and convenors - see attached
2. **Reports**
   1. *President’s Report:* below
   2. *Treasurer’s Report –* as per Annual Management Report attached
   3. *Boat Captain’s Report*
   4. *Safety Officer Report -*
3. **Convener Reports:**
   1. **Membership** – below
   2. **Beginners** - below
   3. **Canoe Polo** -
   4. **Whitewater/Slalom** -
   5. **Marathon**  - below
4. **Other business**

Treasurers Position

As previously notified, the committee agreed to outsource the Treasurers bookkeeping duties, while still retaining a Treasurer on the committee to oversee the clubs’ finances.   This was not a unanimous decision with Shadi (current Treasurer) concerned that we had not canvased the membership for a new Treasurer to take over the full duties.  However, experience has shown over the years that each new Treasurer has a preferred system or no system which has created many issues as well as costing us fines when Annual reports have not been prepared on time, or high fees for an auditor to fix.  The club has the funds and this decision takes away the need for a trained accountant to hold the position so we are confident that all the reporting will be done in a timely and consistent manner.  The cost will be $150 per month.   There have been no objections from the membership.

1. **Committee Election**
   1. Nominations and election for the Public Officer;

Nominated: Bob Collins Seconded: Patricia Ashton

b) As Acting Public Officer, in accordance with section 9 of the BGCC Constitution relating to annual general meetings, I declare the current committee dissolved from Saturday 25 September 2021 and, in the absence of any objections submitted to [Russell Murphy](mailto:Russell.murphy4@gmail.com) by email prior to that date, I further advise that I will proceed to Minute confirmation of the election of those members nominated to the positions listed in the attached Nominations list. As you aware, nominations were called for in advance and closed on Monday 6 September 2021.

Bob Collins

Public Officer

c) PROCEED TO VOTING ON NOMINATED MEMBERS for the Committee

Nominated positions were then declared elected as below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Person** | **Nominator** | **Seconded** | **Status** |
| President |  |  |  |  |
| V President |  |  |  |  |
| Treasurer |  |  |  |  |
| Safety Officer |  |  |  |  |
| Boat Captain |  |  |  |  |
| Secretary |  |  |  |  |
| Ordinary Member |  |  |  |  |
| Ordinary Member |  |  |  |  |

d) Nominations and voting / agreement for non-committee positions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Position | Person |
| Membership Secretary |  |
| Public Officer |  |
| Editor |  |
| Coaches rep |  |
| Webmaster |  |
| Assistant Boat Captain |  |
| Canoe Polo |  |
| Marathon |  |
| Marathon Event Co-ordinator |  |
| Time Trials |  |
| Slalom - ww |  |
| Social Convener |  |
| Publicity and Sponsorship |  |
| Recreational paddling |  |

Welcome new committee and convenors

1. Meeting Closed

**Beginners Convenor**

Taste of Paddling was well attended this season with about 50 participants over 6 sessions and made around $5200 for the club. We also ran 3 Come and Try sessions, one for Fortem, for first responders, Soldier On and Females in Training. These were run for a discounted fee but made us about $900.

The club attracted 91 new paddlers, many of them beginners who were well looked after with various regular sessions and coaching including 2 rescue sessions and a couple of technique sessions run by Margi. Many thanks go to David Gordon and Anne Cronin for their regular assistance with our beginners, as well as John Lockie, Russell Murphy, Helen Tongway, Craig Elliott, Bob Collins, Tammy van Denge, Christine O’Brien and Margi.

**Membership Secretary**

Memberships to end of June 2021 – total of 284 estimate break up is 90 female 194 male

As mentioned previously we had 91 new members, with quite a few starting in the colder months.

So far for this 2021-22 membership year we have 185 members. The majority of those with keys and or storage have renewed though we are chasing a few people. Last year memberships were reduced due to Covid, but earlier in the year it looked more positive for 2021 so we and PNSW went back to full membership fees….

Patricia

**BGCC MARATHON CONVERNERS REPORT 2021**

The year that was in Marathon racing in 2021 … a replay of 2020 I short. Race 1 of the season at Wagga Wagga pulled a very good number of club paddlers (35) and while results were not what we’d have hoped for, the appetite for racing again, at long last, was evident.

Race 2 at Windsor saw fewer BGCC paddlers and the trend downwards for our participation was flagged early. The Canberra even was well run, tough the circuit had to be shortened due to wind. BBCC numbers for this race were marginally more than Wagga Wagga a month earlier and we had the lead in the points tally to that point in the season.

Race 4 at Brisbane Waters exposed an undeniable lack of club commitment to retaining the Brian Norman Trophy .. we had three paddlers take on some atrocious conditions. Here Lane Cove River Paddlers took the points tally lead.

The Batemans Bay challenge, a week on from race 4, attracted a small number of BGCC paddlers in stark contrast to the same event in 2020. Cockle Creek, Race 5, the furthest away race of the series for BGCC saw a small number of Canberra paddlers compete.

Lane Cove, Race 6 and the state doubles event, saw the club trailer loaded up and towed down the Federal Highway. LCRK put on an excellent even and the conditions were favourable.

Though we were not to know it at the time, Penrith Race 7 was the last race for the 2021 series. Late June saw Covid driven restrictions result in the postponement and ultimate cancellation of Woronora and all subsequent 2021 Marathon Series races.

At the time of this report the Ultra marathon series will not proceed. There is some hope that The Morrison will run in late November. Hope springs eternal!

So, I’m not sure if LCRK have been declared winners of the 2021 series. If not I boast an unblemished record … we retain the Brian Norman Trophy for a 3rd year!!! We were also narrowly ahead in the ICCF points tally too.

The most glaring question for BGCC to ask ourselves is how serious are we about challenging for the Brian Norman Trophy in 2022? And what needs to be in place to convert this commitment to affirmative action?

Richard Fox

Marathon Convener 2021

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

**2020–21**

At the AGM in September 2020, outgoing President Mr Jeremy Cook said in his conclusion:

*‘2019–20 is not a year we want to repeat.’* Unfortunately it seems that, in part, that is exactly what has happened. Although surrounded by States with high Covid19 numbers, we in the ACT have been largely insulated from the effects of Covid19.

Up until mid-August we were able to go to the shed, train as normal and even shower after training. As you know, that has since come to a crashing halt, however, those of us lucky enough to live near one of Canberra’s lakes have been able to continue training.

Membership and Finances

Club membership totalled 282, up from the 232 of the preceding year. To the end of August 2021, we had approximately 100 private boats stored and 120 keys issued, providing a stable and regular income for the Club.

As we now lease/own the premises annual land rates, lease and utility costs and shed insurance mean that our overall ‘administrative’ costs are in the vicinity of $15,500pa. At the moment we are getting a Sport & Recreation Operational Grant of $6,000pa.

Despite these costs and the effects of Covid19, BGCC has a healthy bank balance. Closely monitoring Club Revenue and Costs has enabled the Committee to update and purchase new boats and equipment during the 2020/21 Financial Year.

Committed expenditure and other expenditures that are likely to come up in the next F/Year and need to be considered by the incoming Committee are:

1. Canoe Polo has been given the OK to spend up to $10,000 on boats and equipment (funds already committed);
2. Replacement of main pontoon.  Quote is just under $30,000 (cost to Club will be $15,000 if we get a Grant);
3. Establishment of a firm, safe path from the bank to the Canoe Polo pontoon and firmly securing the pontoon to the bank – estimate $500;
4. Concreting of muddy section in front of the shed- approx. $2,500
5. Consideration to be given to purchasing a competitive K2 – Margi estimates approx. $8,000 (Proceeding with this will depend on Committee agreement and the state of BGCC’s finances)
6. Construction of a pergola – Shane is working on a quote.  This is not a priority this year.

Club boats

We have indeed been fortunate in having a very switched on and well organised Boat Captain in 2020/21 by the name of, Jeremy Cook and luckily for us, he has renominated for another 12 months.

Being heavily involved in the club’s boat replacement program and overseeing boat repairs has ensured that our fleet of Club boats is always in good condition and suited to the needs of all members.

Events

Unfortunately Covid19 again destroyed the PaddleNSW Marathon racing season with only about 5 events being held. On top of this, the PNSW Ultra marathon series, the Myall, Hawkesbury and Murray marathon were all cancelled.

At this stage we are not sure if the BGCC 24 Hour Paddle Challenge will go ahead.

Weekly time trials, due to commence with the start of daylight saving may also be cancelled if ACT Covid19 restrictions are still in place.

COVID-19

Margi Bohm and Patricia Ashton continue to keep abreast of ACT’s Covid19 restrictions and will continue to send out emails to members keeping them informed of the effect of current restrictions on our Club.

In conclusion

It seems obvious that COVID-19 is not going to go away any time soon so all that we can hope for in the short term is a return to the freedoms we experienced earlier in 2021.

We continue to be relatively fortunate in the ACT, where paddling and exercise are still possible, although with restrictions.

Stay safe.

Bob Collins

President, BGCC 2020–21

**Canoe Polo 2020-21 AGM Report**

Laura Kleinrahm

At an interstate/ international level, unfortunately the Canoe Polo calendar, like all disciplines, has been marred by COVID-19 cancellations and delays. After repeated delaying, the World Championships, to be held in Rome, were finally cancelled. The Women’s Team included BGCC paddlers Laura Kleinrahm and Jen Stevens, with the Men’s Squad (a team wasn’t named due to lack of selection events) including James Deakin, Adam Hofmeyer and Michael Lawrence-Taylor. This event was due to be held in August 2020, and then various deferred dates in 2021. Another international event was the 2021 Oceania Championships, which were to be held in Hawke’s Bay, NZ this December. Around 2/3 of ACT players nominated, however unfortunately the worsening situation in both countries saw this event cancelled, as well as the 2021 National Championships, which were being hosted by Victoria in Nagambie.

On a brighter note, we did squeeze in a smattering of events, with ACT arguably being the most successful/ lucky in event timings that coincided with breaks of open borders. Our ACT players were lucky to have the ‘power of (QANTAS) flight’, and were able to attend the Adelaide Summer Series in January, with several players needing a refresher on flight etiquette, particularly regarding tools and airport security! In March we hosted the inaugural ‘Cheesecake Competition’, in place of the usual Shoalhaven ‘Mudcake Competition’, with delicious cheesecakes sponsored by ACDC Electrical and several members from Shoalhaven Canoe Club attending. In April we held the Canberra Invitational, with players from SA, VIC, NSW and QLD attending, making it the largest competition in the March 2020-now period. ACT performed strongly, with the ‘older gentlemen’ taking out first, and some of the more ‘youthful’ members coming second (I’ll leave everyone to make what they will of that..). With borders remaining open and the outlook sunny, Shoalhaven was able to host their Mudcake Competition, with a strong contingent of ACT players heading down, Jen featuring in the winning team, and several ACT players in the second placing team. Finally, on the June long weekend Adam and I revived the ‘Nambucca Header’ a competition last held around ten years ago in Nambucca. Aimed at encouraging junior and division 2 participation in Northern NSW, and providing a more localised event for the growing Brisbane polo community, the event proved to have perhaps one of the best polo venues in the country, with cabins on the lagoon, warm weather and a pub mere steps away! With the interstate polo calendar now pretty bare, maybe we can aim for things to be looking better by next June!

Our weekly competition has enjoyed some refreshment with several new players attending, in addition to the usual crowd. This brought our average numbers to around 16 each week, which allowed for set teams and a schedule, very organised! Winter training continued this year, with many cold nights trying to find the goal in the dark. Adam also held weekly youth training sessions for our three youth players, focusing on areas such as improving boat control and decision making.

We have also carefully inventoried all our equipment and digitised it, which allowed for addressing several boats that were at the end of their tenure, or required repairs. BGCC’s commitment of up to $10,000 for new equipment was an exciting and a much appreciated development, with a focus on new paddles and CPS boats a priority. The inventory revealed we have quite a few (around 20) boats, however each one is quite specific (this one needs a large cockpit deck, this one has a small seat etc.) making it difficult when hosting groups. CPS now make plastic boats that are ‘one-size’, which would make life a lot easier, with Brisbane using a fleet of these boats and enjoying their versatility for a range of different sized players. In addition, we currently only have a couple Shotover paddles, meaning we need to source carbon paddles from players when we have new players. We were full-steam ahead with organising these gear purchases when lockdown hit, which has unfortunately paused the process, so we will look to get back on track soon.

The weekend before lockdown we hosted a ‘Women’s Come & Try’ event at the pool, which had 12 participants and was coached by Adam and Toni, and assisted by Jess and I. This event was advertised through the ‘Women’s Adventure ACT’ Facebook as a trial, and it was great to see the results of a targeted approach, with everyone having paddled before (amazing!) and being extremely resilient to going under. The second session of this course has been put on hold until after lockdown, so hopefully we will be able to retain this enthusiasm when we return to ‘normal’, and be able to offer some sort of polo competition (potentially a local Canberra Invitational in place of the planned November one) to encourage continued participation.

Overall, another year of COVID disruptions, but continued participation at the local level. We were extremely lucky compared to some other states, being able to train normally and still attend some competitions this year. There was lots of energy and enthusiasm prior to the lockdown (there were even whispers of hosting the 2022 Nationals..) which will hopefully return once we get back on the water. For now, we’re enjoying the time off, some people are paddling locally, and some of us are getting very familiar with our lap around the block!

**Safety Officer’s Report** September 2020-2021

The last year has continued to present BGCC with the challenge of COVID, however, these have been simplified thanks to the work we did last year in setting up our COVID Plan and Return to Play documents. This, in addition to the lack of cases in our region until recently, has meant that the club has been able to respond to changing ACT and NSW restrictions quickly and for the most part, members have been compliant. We tried to limit the number of COVID related emails to the membership, informing them only of changing conditions in clear, concise instructions. This was an important strategy to ensure that our membership did not experience information overload and remained committed to beating the virus by adhering to the law. When the shed is allowed to operate, members are encouraged to (1) arrive, train, leave; (2) careful attention to personal hygiene; (3) social distancing rules set by the ACT and Federal governments of 1.5 m apart or no more than 1 person per 4 m2; (4) treat all communal surfaces as COVID contaminated. Hand sanitiser and disinfectant is supplied at numerous locations through the shed, including all hand basins and showers, and in all bays that do not have direct access to the main shed. Members are now required to sign in using manual sign up sheets or via QR code with signs at all doors and in the shed. Showers are available for use with members being reminded of the risk of using showers, requested to clean the showers and to identify that they used the showers when they sign out of the shed. When the shed is locked out by ACT regulations, members are encouraged to take their personal boats from the shed. Car topping exercise to lakes in our local region is permitted under current COVID lockdown rules (local regions are defined as Central Canberra, Belconnen, Gungalin, Woden and Molonglo, Tuggeranong). NSW residents from Queanbeyan can access the ACT as long as they meet the NSW regulations. At present, the QPC LGA is still under stay at home orders and residents cannot travel further than 5 km from their home if not in their own LGA. This precludes access the shed. Several members are training on the Queanbeyan River instead. Finally, all documentation regarding COVID are available on the BGCC website.

The Molonglo River came down in flood several times during the year and with more wet weather predicted for spring and summer 2021, sporadic high flows in the river will continue. The buoys have been retrieved from the ACT government facility and some cleaning has occurred. When things settle down, we will endeavour to reinstall them in the river but for the meantime there is no rush as the flood danger is high with Googong Dam at 100 % capacity.

Racing and Canoe Polo events ran sporadically over the last year as lockdowns prevented interstate travel.

Administratively, the duty statement for the Safety Officer has now been prepared and a procedure for safety related decisions has been developed and used to great effect. This procedure is that major safety decisions are made by the committee based on white papers presented by the Safety Officer as these decisions should not be made by the Safety Officer alone or in isolation and all committee members need to be involved in this process.

Recommendations for Safety Officer for 2021-2022:

* There is currently no mechanism for members to report safety issues to the Safety Officer. It would be nice if we could introduce a web based reporting system for members to report issues to the Safety Officer and committee.
* There needs to be a protocol for all committee members to review and contribute to key safety decisions in a timely fashion. Everyone’s input is important in these issues as safety covers a wide range of experiences.

Margi Böhm, PhD