Paddle Scotland

Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Canoe Association T/A Paddle Scotland – 18 December 2025, 19:00

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

DRAFT

In Attendance:

Directors – Allan McKay (Interim Chair), Stewart Pitt (President), Alison Byers (Chair-elect), Andy Dorin, Mark Mulrain, Ken Nicol, and Richard Sant.

Other – Kevin Pringle (Interim CEO), Paul Stark (Governance Advisor) and various Paddle Scotland members and staff.

Apologies:

Alison Craig (**sport**scotland Partnership Manager), Andy Dorin and Niamh Lee.

#	Ordinary Business
1	**Welcome and Apologies** The Chair welcomed the members, staff and directors who were present for the meeting, and extended the apologies from those directors who were unable to attend. The Chair also apologised for delaying the AGM from its previously scheduled date due to a governance oversight. The Chair offered many thanks to the staff team on behalf of the Board for hard work, professionalism and resilience over the past year, and announced it would be their last year as Interim Chair.
2	**Confirmation of Quorum** The Chair confirmed that with 34 members attending virtually and 5 members attending by proxy, giving a total of 39 members, the meeting surpassed the minimum requirement of 25 and was therefore quorate.
3	**Introduction of Paddle Scotland Chair** The Chair introduced Alison Byers who would be taking over the role of Chair from 1 January 2026. Alison introduced herself to the membership and expressed her excitement at this opportunity.
4	**Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting** The Chair confirmed that all votes would be valid even if you did not attend the 2024 AGM, as there is nothing in the Articles or Companies House to suggest otherwise. Following live voting, and adding in the previously submitted proxies, the votes totalled: 24 For / 0 Against / 10 Abstain. **DECISION**: The Minutes of the 2024 Paddle Scotland Annual General Meeting were approved.
5	**2024-2025 Annual Report** The Chair explained that the Articles do not declare that the membership approve the Annual Report and Accounts as has been done previously, however he will still hand over to Kevin Pringle, Interim CEO, to present on these topics.

	The Interim CEO expressed his pleasure at working with the Board and staff since taking over in February 2025. He provided an overview of activities for the 2024-2025 year including a Paralympic silver medal, over 1,500 qualifications and awards delivered, and the re-opening of the campsite which is generating income that can be re-invested in paddlesport. No questions were raised.
6	**Receipt of the 2024-2025 Accounts** Kevin Pringle, Interim CEO, presented on the Annual Accounts, including a very strong reserves position of over £437,000. One question was asked regarding how much income the campsite is expected to generate annually. The Interim CEO confirmed that the campsite is on track to turn a profit of £50-80,000, with a small part of this looking to pay off depreciation.
#	**AOCB**
7	**Environment** A question was submitted in advance regarding the priority Paddle Scotland gives to environmental matters, and what its environmental objectives are for 2026-2027. The Interim CEO responded by reassuring that the environment remains a key focus for Paddle Scotland and will be a feature of the new strategy and culture for the organisation. He also confirmed Paddle Scotland had taken on a paid freelancer one day per week for a short term period to support the organisation's work around environment and access, working to move forward a number of initiatives.
8	**Standards for Deployment** A question was submitted in advance regarding the necessity for the Standards for Deployment when only undertaking recreational activities, especially as these restrictions do not exist in other sports. The Interim CEO responded by recognising it as a challenging issue and suggesting other sports are likely to follow suit in future. He provided an overview of support and future commitments including being hopeful to provide more clarity and improved communication for clubs in the new year following further discussions with Paddle UK. The Interim CEO also acknowledged all the work that Development Manager Adam Burns has been undertaking in supporting clubs in this area and committed to continuing that.
9	**Willing Hands Quaich** A question was submitted about the Willing Hands Quaich award, which the Interim CEO confirmed will be received by the Volunteer of the Year winner in Paddle Scotland's upcoming Recognition Awards - as soon as it is tracked down. A discussion followed with some guidance on where it might be.
10	**Closing Remarks** One final question was asked about the election of new Board members, and the Chair confirmed we are at capacity for elected directors but will be looking to appoint additional directors in the new year. Thanks were expressed to the paddlesport community. The meeting closed at 19:47.