



**Minutes of the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
of Canoeing Ireland – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
Via Zoom Webinar**

**1. President's Opening Address**

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Canoeing Ireland was opened by the President, Brian Ogilvie at 7.00pm.

The following Board members were present and were introduced by the President to the attending members – Brian Ogilvie (President), Luke Logan (Honorary Secretary), Aisling Conlan (Honorary Treasurer), Leigh Blackmore (Executive Member), Lynda Byron (Executive Member), John Murray (Dublin Representative), Brendan Quinn (Independent Director) and Moira Aston (CEO) was also in attendance.

The President asked attendees to remember members who had sadly passed away during the year.

The President welcomed all members to the AGM and confirmed that Canoeing Ireland are legally entitled to host an AGM via conferencing and that the meeting will be recorded. He advised the members that the AGM is being held within the required timeframe as set out in the company's constitution and rules.

The various methods of interaction and voting were explained to and tested by delegates.

**2. Apologies and Correspondence**

The Honorary Secretary, Luke Logan informed the meeting that no apologies were received and that correspondence would be dealt with at the appropriate point in the meeting.

### **3. Adoption of the Agenda for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The following Agenda for the meeting which had previously been circulated to members was proposed by Seán McIntyre (Wild Water Kayak Club) and seconded by Kris Kohls (Chairperson, Canoe Slalom Committee) and approved by the meeting.

1. President's opening address.
2. Apologies and correspondence.
3. Adoption of the Agenda for the 59th Annual General Meeting.
4. Adoption of Standing Orders for the 59th Annual General Meeting.
5. Confirmation of the Quorum for the 59th Annual General Meeting.
6. Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting.
7. Presentation and adoption of the Board Report & Review.
8. Presentation and adoption of the draft Audited Accounts for 2019.
  - 8a. Response to member's queries.
9. Motions received.
10. Nominations and election of members to the Board of Directors.
11. Appointment of Auditor.
12. President's closing address.

### **4. Adoption of Standing Orders for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Under rule 10.7, the standing orders are adopted by the Board.

### **5. Confirmation of the Quorum for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The Honorary Secretary, Luke Logan confirmed that 70 members were present at the time when the meeting proceeded to business. This exceeded the 20 members of which 5 were member clubs present in person required for a quorum.

## 6. Minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting which had been circulated to Members were proposed by Anna O’Keeffe (West Cork Kayak Club), seconded by William Irwin (Malahide Swords Canoe Club) and approved by the meeting without amendment. There were no matters arising.

## 7. Presentation and Adoption of the Board Report and Review

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Canoeing Ireland. The following is the Board Report for 2019.

### Board Composition

Following the 58th Annual General Meeting, the elected Board consisted of the following:

- President: Brian Ogilvie
- Honorary Secretary: Luke Logan
- Honorary Treasurer: Aisling Conlan
- Executive Member: Leigh Blackmore
- Executive Member: Lynda Byron
- Dublin Representative: John Murray
- Independent Director: Brendan Quinn
- Independent Director: Eoin Brereton

The position of Leinster Representative, Munster Representative, Connaught / Ulster Representative, Olympic Discipline Representative, Non-Olympic Discipline Representative and Training, Coaching and Accreditation Representative were unfilled.

### Register of Board and Executive Committee meetings 2019 / 2020

	TIME	VENUE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
19/06/2019	19.30	Sport HQ	Executive Committee	19-034

24/07/2019	19.30	Sport HQ	Executive Committee	19-035
21/08/2019	19.30	Sport HQ	Executive Committee	19-036
25/09/2019	19.30	Sport HQ	Board of Management	19-037
23/10/2019	19.30	Sport HQ	Executive Committee	19-038
02/12/2019	19.00	Green Isle Hotel	Board of Management	19-039
20/01/2020	19.30	Sport HQ	Board of Management	20-040
24/02/2020	19.30	Sport HQ	Board of Management	20-041
30/03/2020	19.30	Virtual Meeting	Board of Management	20-042
20/04/2020	19.30	Virtual Meeting	Board of Management	20-043
25/05/2020	19.30	Virtual Meeting	Board of Management	20-044
22/06/2020	19.30	Virtual Meeting	Board of Management	20-045
20/07/2020	19.30	Virtual Meeting	Board of Management	20-046
13/08/2020	19.00	Virtual Meeting	59 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting	20-047

### Staffing

Chief Executive Office	Moira Aston
Performance Director	Jon Mackey
Events and Development Manager	Ciaran Maguire
Training Centre Manager	Conor Ryan
Diversity Development Manager	Emer Carton
Training & Development Officer	Aidan Doran
Communications Executive	Samuel Curtis
Operational Support	Sheena Carroll

### Company Auditors and Solicitor

Company Auditor	KSI Faulkner Orr, 10 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2
Company Solicitor	Philip Lee Solicitors, 7/8 Wilton Terrace, Dublin 2
Company Accountants	Brendan O'Toole
Company Bank	Ulster Bank, Dundrum, Dublin 14

## **Board Statement to the Membership**

Dear Members,

For Canoeing Ireland, the past year has been an extremely positive and productive period with targeted objectives and achievements being realised. Together, we have accomplished many of our strategic and operational goals, and despite the onset of Covid-19, have strengthened the overall sustainability of the organisation.

### **A Year of Positive Change and Impact**

Three years ago, the Board issued a statement to the membership outlining how Canoeing Ireland was working with Sport Ireland to set out a sustainable pathway for its future. This required demonstrating a unity-of-purpose to achieve progress in an agreed project plan that included

- a fit-for purpose governance structure and procedures;
- a sound long-term strategic plan;
- elimination of the financial deficit; and
- the staged introduction of a suitable management and staffing level.

Today, significant progress has been made in all of these.

Our finances have stabilised with an increase in revenue and better expenditure oversight. There were no financial concerns which arose in the period. Budgets are in line with projections.

Member numbers are up 25% in 2018 / 2019 and membership interaction with the National Governing Body has increased substantially. Management and staffing roles have been restructured and expanded.

Successful events such as the 60<sup>th</sup> International Liffey Descent in conjunction with a targeted communications strategy have positively promoted our sport nationally and internationally.

Governance structures and policies are being strengthened. The Board continues the review and updating of individual policies and implementation of a risk register in line with the 'The governance code for community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland'. This is part of an ongoing process to collate policies into a common policy document and structure. An Audit & Risk committee

has been established and a Risk Appetite statement implemented. Training in Governance has been undertaken by the Board, CEO and Discipline committees.

Last year the Board committed to a three-pronged approach of enhancing Clubs, building Collaborations and enabling Competitors in line with the strategic plan 2017-2020. We have successfully introduced a range of actions which are positively impacting our strategic direction.

### **Enhancing Clubs**

For clubs, the facilitation and implementation of new initiatives to support their development has been a priority. January 2021 will see the introduction of a standardised membership year. To enable the transfer to this new process, membership fees have been charged at 50% from July 2020. In conjunction, a new online club portal and upgraded member's database is close to finalisation and will be soon rolled out to clubs on an incremental basis.

After widespread consultation with the Irish paddlesport community, the Canoeing Ireland Award Scheme Review was published as an infographic identifying 13 recommendations. A full report will be issued in Quarter 3 2020. The report highlights an opportunity to develop the award scheme further into a robust pathway which provides flexibility for paddler progression.

We have redefined the insurance cover for club activities. A club now will have the freedom to self-determine whether an activity is safe. The activity will be covered by Canoeing Ireland's insurance once it has been risk assessed and approved by the club's committee. This represents a necessary change to allow paddlers to improve when compared to the previous insurance cover.

A new category of Associate membership has been introduced which will allow parents / guardians and other volunteers to become involved in off-the water club activity. A club forum and working group has been established to facilitate networking and communication.

### **Building Collaborations**

The Board has explored new opportunities for partnerships which promote and develop paddlesports where there are mutual and synergistic objectives.

In September last year, Canoeing Ireland and the Educational and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the aim of promoting their respective activities in order to enhance the sporting and educational opportunities available to their members, students and the

general public. The ETBI represents Outdoor Education & Training Centres (OETCs) across Ireland who provide an outdoor education service to schools, colleges and youth services in addition to a range of adventure sports and related courses. The partnership aims to support and enhance the development of canoeing and kayaking in Ireland.

Other linkages were established to develop new and existing youth participation programmes. The 'Paddles-up' program remains popular with young kayakers, while 'Kayak Attack', a pilot programme that focuses on introducing paddlesports in disadvantaged urban areas will be rolled out during 2020 / 2021 in line with the objectives of the current strategic plan. The 'Good2Go' participation programme has received €40,000 funding from the dormant accounts fund and the 'Bridge the Gap' Women in Sport programme, which focuses on increasing the number of females participating in sport has been funded €80,000 over 2 years.

### **Enabling Athletes**

The third key focus of Canoeing Ireland's growth strategy this year has been to put supports, processes and policies in place to expedite athlete performance in all disciplines. Since the appointment of a High Performance Director and the establishment of a High Performance Oversight Committee, Sport Ireland has acknowledged that Canoeing Ireland has moved from a position of stagnation and decline to a position of stability and growth. This is underpinned by our new performance strategy and having the relevant leadership competencies in place.

Good working relationships have been established with Sport Ireland, The Federation of Irish Sport and the Olympic Federation of Ireland. Significant work has also been carried out in linking-up with Performance Directors in other sports most significantly Paralympics Ireland and Rowing Ireland. A number of athlete's conferences have been run and very well received by our athletes.

This last year has seen exceptional performances and results at an International level and we would like to congratulate all our athletes who have competed so well in all disciplines throughout the World and in particular, to those who have supported and assisted them to their success. The qualifying of a boat for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics by Robert Hendrick last year was a tremendous achievement. Liam Jegou and Patrick O'Leary's qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic games respectively have showcased our sport on the International stage.

## **Implementing the Vision**

2020 sees the end of our current strategic plan and a period over which we have had to successfully turnaround Canoeing Ireland. We are moving to a new era for our organisation. We now have an opportunity to build on the achievements of all our efforts, commitment and work.

The Board and CEO commenced the planning process for our new strategic plan 2021-2023 earlier this year with the establishment of a steering group, agreement on approach and internal analysis. A consultation phase which focused on information gathering, inclusive dialogue and review with our members, clubs, disciplines and other parties is close to completion. There has been a strong contribution to this process which will define Canoeing Ireland's vision, values and culture. The outcome of this phase has established key strategic priorities that will provide succinct and clear direction with a unity of purpose for our members.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank our board members, our CEO Moira Aston, our community of volunteers, our committee members and all our staff for their exceptional contribution over the past year. I would especially like to commend them for their continued commitment, adaptability and support throughout the current Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the uncertainty and restrictions which have altered many aspects of daily life for everyone, Canoeing Ireland is now well-positioned for the future. We would like to thank our membership for abiding by the Return to Paddle Protocols and recommendations.

I would like to recognise the wider Canoeing Ireland family here today. These are uncertain times so to those keeping the paddling spirit alive by organising club paddles and checking in with fellow paddlers, thank you. To the many families who have found comfort and a sense of peace on a family day out paddling together, I hope these will be memories that will carry us all through.

Brian Ogilvie

President

Canoeing Ireland

The Board Report was proposed by Peter Thomas (Salmon Leap Canoe Club), seconded by Sean McIntyre (Wild Water Kayak Club), approved and adopted by majority vote.



## CEO Report

Substantial progress was achieved in relation to operational targets during 2019. As we near the end of the current strategic plan, we are confident that strong foundations will be in place to support the ambitious goals and targets which will come into effect with the activation of the new strategic plan in January 2021.

The increase in staff levels, which was made possible by a number of successful grant applications submitted during 2019, created the capacity to move into areas of strategic importance for Canoeing Ireland, specifically participation and inclusion. We are very grateful to Sport Ireland for their continued support and for underpinning their confidence in our capacity to deliver quality programme by providing the funding to do so.

### Membership Statistics & Support

There has been an upward trend in membership over the past three years. While this in itself is positive, the trends towards increased junior membership and greater gender diversity is particularly pleasing.

%	JUNIOR	FEMALE
2017	16%	29%
2018	20%	31%
2019	23%	33%

We are continuing to focus on diversity and inclusion and are working with partner organisations to increase our capabilities in these areas. The Bridge the Gap programme, led by Emer Carton, has been a superb success, thank you to all of our ambassadors who are increasing the visibility of female paddlers and providing opportunities for female participation.

### Pathways

We have put some thought into creating entry and progression pathways for new and existing members. Two current areas of focus are participation, with the 'Good2Go' paddlesport programme, funded by a Dormant Accounts grant, and the Junior Pathway, specifically designed for our younger

members. Both of these programmes were due to be launched this year. We will continue to work towards this goal while we await any potential easing of lockdown restrictions.

### **Facilities**

While we have made some progress on facility development, specifically with Dublin City Council on the proposed Whitewater Course and Leitrim County Council on the Lough Rynn development plan, we have considerable ground to make up on other sports. We are very conscious of the limitations and expense this places on our performance athletes and will continue to work hard in this area. I would like to thank Dermot Morley and Ike Jacob for their hard work and generous sharing of knowledge in relation to the Georges Dock development.

The training centre has been restocked and any work required to keep it in good condition has been undertaken.

### **Training & Development**

We have a very good working relationship with the current TDU, Chaired by Jon Hynes. The election of a TDU Committee in November 2019 was very welcome and the Training & Development report included in the AGM report outlines the excellent work undertaken in this area. There are a number of initiatives in progress which we hope to bring to a close before year end. This is very much dependent on future Covid restrictions.

### **High Performance**

A new structure in High Performance commenced in 2019. We are very grateful for the collaborative approach taken by the Slalom & Sprint Committees. It is fair to say that we had some robust discussions during the year, which is normal in a time of intense change. I would like to thank both committees for their continued support and for generously sharing expert knowledge during this time. Although there tends to be a focus on the Olympic Disciplines in relation to activity required by Sport Ireland, as we further develop our systems and practices we look forward to working closely with all Committees and performance athletes regardless of discipline. I would also like to draw your attention to the anti-doping report prepared by Jon Mackey (below), our Anti-Doping officer. Thank you to all of our athletes for ensuring that we retain an exemplary record in terms of clean sport.

## **Communications**

We have invested in the development of our website and social media channels since Sam Curtis joined the team in December 2019. We have enjoyed fantastic response rates across all channels and are continuing to develop this area. Sam has also taken on the publication of Flowstate which continues to grow in popularity with our membership.

## **Events**

While we are currently somewhat restricted in our capacity to host and support events, 2019 was a bumper year for events, crowned by the 60<sup>th</sup> Liffey Descent, preceded by the launch of Iain MacLean's book in City Hall. I would like to thank Shane Cronin for his exceptional management of the event over the previous three years in conjunction with the Marathon Committee. We are delighted to welcome Ciaran Maguire (Events and Development Manager) to our team. Ciaran is immersed in a valiant attempt to keep Liffey Descent on the calendar for 2020 against all odds. We will have more information on this in the coming weeks.

## **Conclusion**

We are nurturing a collaborative and responsive environment so that we can fully support our members, clubs and stakeholders. I would like to thank everyone who has made this possible.

We were very aware of community support during the onset of Covid-19 and when we began the process of restarting sport. It was this sharing of knowledge, and willingness to engage in safe practices which ensured that we were in the first tranche of sports to return to play. Although this occurred in period not specific to this AGM, it is important that we applaud the excellent response from all members in real time.

I would like to thank the board for their ongoing support, advice and excellence in leadership and the staff, for the energy and enthusiasm and unique set of skills each of them bring to the team. Thank you.

Moira Aston

CEO

Canoeing Ireland

## Anti-Doping Report

### Registered Testing Pool

There are currently 5 Canoeing Ireland athletes in the Registered Testing Pool. There were 2 new addition to the RTP in 2020.

Discipline breakdown: Sprint (3); Slalom (2)

*\*One athlete has applied for TUE and is awaiting confirmation from Sport Ireland Anti-Doping.*

### RTP test totals

Period of report: May 2019 (last AGM) – August 2020.

<b><i>Sport Ireland Programme</i></b>		
<i>Canoeing Ireland</i>	In-Competition tests	Out of competition tests
<i>Quantity</i>	0	12

### Negative test results

Canoeing Ireland issued 12 negative test result letters to athletes between 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

### Summary

Canoeing Ireland continually works with the Anti-Doping Unit of Sport Ireland around Anti-doping rules, Registered Testing Pools and testing at competitions. Education programmes were organised for 2020 through the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Education Coordinator but were cancelled due to the Covid restrictions. An anti-doping seminar will be hosted in 2021 to replace the cancelled programmes.

## **High Performance Report**

### **Strategy**

A new Performance Strategy has been drafted by the Performance Director and has been presented to the Board and High Performance Unit. Presentation to all discipline committees was curtailed due to COVID restrictions. This activity will resume during Q4.

### **Talent Development Coaches**

Two talent development coaches (Sprint & Slalom) have been contracted by Canoeing Ireland to support and develop the pathways for talented athletes in both disciplines.

### **Raising the Levels**

The HP operational Plan, "*Raising the Levels*" which targets the Paris Games in 2024 and Los Angeles Games in 2028 is near completion. The consultation phase of the programme will commence in Q4.

### **HP Self-Assessment**

Canoeing Ireland recently underwent the Sport Ireland biennial self-assessment process. This is a very extensive and wide-ranging assessment of performance systems, processes and plans. The feedback was extremely positive and supportive of progress to date and future plans and included the following comments:

- There is a lack of depth to the talent pool – overall this is a sport which needs to focus intensively on development and building the base for a number of years, before having the strength in depth to then focus on performance.
- The work done by leadership in recent years – CEO, Performance Director, governance etc. is impressive and laudable – it has come a long way since 2017.

## **International Carding Scheme**

*Canoeing Ireland has 4 athletes on the ICS:*

Jenny Egan (Sprint)	World Class
Patrick O'Leary (Sprint)	World Class
Liam Jegou (Slalom)	International
Robert Hendrick (Slalom)	International (new addition in 2020)

## **Tokyo Preparations**

Liam Jegou's continues his Tokyo preparation programme, supported by his coach Nicolas Peschier. Recent lockdown restrictions impacted on his ability to train and travel, however Liam is in good form and good health and is looking forward to getting back on the start line in September.

Pat O'Leary was also in Tokyo at the end of 2019 for the Paracanoe sprint test event, supported by funding from Paralympics Ireland. Pat is fully engaged with his training programme post Covid-19 and undergoes regular physiology testing and training.

## **Future Olympic Qualification Events**

Slalom have one more Olympic qualification event. This will take place in Ivrea, Italy, May 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Sprint have two Olympic qualification events. The first will be World Cup 1 – Szeged Hungary 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2021. 2 boat quota spaces are available. The final Olympic qualifier will take place in Barnaul, (RUS) on the 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1 boat quota space is available.

## **Non-Olympic Disciplines**

We endeavour to support performance athletes across all disciplines as far as possible. We recognise that excellence in performance is not restricted to Olympic events and we are hopeful that our support and collaboration with non-Olympic Disciplines will grow over time as we increase our capacity and resources.

## **Athlete Resilience**

It has been and continues to be a fractured, stressful and difficult year for all performance athletes. Your resilience is admirable and will stand to you in the coming months. We wish you the very best of luck in achieving your goals and overcoming the challenges created by Covid-19.

## **Child Protection & Garda Vetting**

All members of Canoeing Ireland who are working with children are to be commended for keeping their garda vetting and child protection certification current, but more importantly, for creating a safe and fun environment for children in our sport. This is something we do exceptionally well. During 2019 we processed 307 garda vetting applications and facilitated four Safeguarding 1 courses.

## **Training & Development Report**

### **Main focus 2019**

- Improved communication with members in relation to the Awards Scheme;
- Establishing key objectives and consolidating relationships with the TDU, Sport Ireland Coaching and other stakeholders including associated governing bodies, NGO's, educational establishments and commercial providers;
- Redefining Awards Scheme administrative structures between Canoeing Ireland and Sport Ireland Coaching;
- Membership of the technical advisory group for Blueway accreditation;
- Development of the Good to Go paddle sport participation award;
- The re-ignition of the award scheme review;
- The first meeting of the Sport Ireland Coaching Instructor developer in several years;
- Redevelopment of level three instructor award for canoe and river kayak;
- Coaching awards training aligned to core grant funding.

### **Highlights**

- Awards scheme review project targeted completion 2020;
- Good to Go Paddle sport participation award targeted completion 2020;

- Successful completion of 25 instructor training course across all awards on the adventure sports framework;
- Redevelopment of Level three awards for Canoe and Kayak.

## **Discipline Reports**

### **Slalom Report**

2019 was a year of many accomplishments and a lot of activity for Canoe Slalom.

We had 3 Selection Events, Senior in La Seu Spain, Junior at Sluice and 2020 Senior & u23 in Lee Valley, England. An historic Event achieved by Robert Hendrick, who qualified a C1 Boat place for the 2020 Olympics at the Senior World Championships in Spain. Congratulations to our 2019 Irish Canoe Slalom Team, these athletes achieved the most Semis to date and major personal achievements by our Athletes. It was a very busy summer for all the Racing between World Cups and U23 and Junior events. While back here in Dublin the Flat Water series was keeping the young paddlers competing.

We are now in our 10th Year of Operation, it was 10 years ago that the slalom committee was revived. 10 years ago there were maybe 5 slalom boats in the country! Now look what we have achieved, but it is time to get back to grass roots and start again.

With the qualified boat place, a race off was underway for the athlete to become the nominated Olympian for 2020 Olympics. This was secured by Liam Jegou, who will represent Ireland, we wish him the very best in his preparation for the games.

#### **The high level of semi-final and final results from the season were:**

- Noel Hendrick, semi-final placing in WC2, U23 WCH and U23 ECH.
- Eoin Teague, semi-final placing in U23 WCH and WC Final.
- Jake Cochrane, semi-final placing in WC4 and WC Final.
- Liam Jegou, semi-final placing in ECH, WC1 and 3rd in final of U23 WCH.
- Robert Hendrick, 11th place in the WCH semi-final and qualified an MC1 quota place for Ireland at Tokyo 2020.

A positive set of results on previous seasons and indication of improving performance of our Athletes, which shows their continual dedication to their sport.



One of our struggles is not having good white water in Ireland. Fingers crossed the White Water course at Georges Dock will become a reality. As Canoe Slalom is constantly upgrading, from the intense courses you see across Europe, to the equipment that the athletes are using. To have a facility in Ireland for our Athletes, is a dream we are awaiting.

The Canoeing Ireland HPD & HPU structure was introduced and we now have support for the Committee and Athletes when it comes to HP issues. The importance of a good working engagement between Canoeing Ireland with Sport Ireland and Olympic Federation of Ireland is vital to our sport. It also facilitates the decision process on several aspects of the sport in an independent and transparent manner.

Domestic racing season got off to a good start following on from a very successful 2018 season. As the season moved on we struggled a lot as water levels were too low to run events. The flatwater series was a great success again this year even stronger than 2018 with people travelling around a bit more competing in the full championship. This class is full of enthusiastic young paddlers who without a doubt some of them will be on the national team of the future.

#### **2019 Irish Canoe Slalom Division Awards:**

Senior K1M: 1st Oisín Farrell 2nd Sean Ansell

Senior K1W: 1st Aisling Conlan 2nd Ciara Farrell 3rd Michelle O Herlihy

Junior K1M: 1st Ethan Dowling 2nd Tom Morley 3rd Adam Vaughn

Junior K1W: 1st Roisín Hannon

Noel McDonagh Perpetual Trophy winner: Oisín Farrell

We want to take this moment and thank all of our Athletes, Committee Members, Parents and Volunteers. All the coaches who supported our athletes throughout the year. Ken Ansell for the racing calendar and flat water series. Last but not least, Canoeing Ireland, CEO Moira, HPD Jon and all the CI Staff. Without all of you, we would not be able to give the needed support to our Canoe Slalom Family. We become stronger together to help support all of those who love the sport of Canoe Slalom.

Kris Kohls

Chairperson

Canoe Slalom Committee

## Paddlesurf Report

Vessel Categories Covered (3)	
High Performance (HP)	Short Boat
International Class (IC)	Long Boat
Waveski	

### Events Hosted

All Paddlesurf Ireland hosted events are open for all Canoeing Ireland members and members of other countries paddlesports governing bodies to attend.

**Comp 1:** Spanish Point, Co. Clare, 23<sup>rd</sup> March with 19 HP and 17 IC entries.

**Comp 2:** Inch Beach, East Cork, 18<sup>th</sup> May with 15 HP and 10 IC entries.

**Comp 3 (Irish Open):** Easkey, Co. Sligo, 28<sup>th</sup> September with 23 HP, 24 IC and 9 waveski entries.

Our annual “**Summer Sessions**” was held at Inch beach and Gowlane beach in Co. Kerry on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August. It is a great opportunity for new and old surf kayakers to meet up outside of competitions enabling some fun surf, work on manoeuvres and do some peer coaching. This is particularly a opportune event for those who want to give paddlesurf a try without experiencing the nerves of a competition day.

**Development Squad training** was held in Co. Clare on 16<sup>th</sup> November, the focus being similar to the Summer Sessions event to introduce new people to paddlesurf with HP, IC and waveski.

### Foreign Events Attended

#### British Open – Wales, October 2019

The competition took place over 3 different breaks with a hugh variety of swell from small to massive. Megan Gable 4<sup>th</sup> in women’s IC, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Junior IC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior HP and won Junior womens!! Brigettte Egan 3<sup>rd</sup> in womens IC, 3<sup>rd</sup> in masters HP and won masters IC. Chris Hobson won open IC. Aidan McElhinney came 3<sup>rd</sup> in waveski. Aisling Griffin 4<sup>th</sup> in womens HP and 5<sup>th</sup> in womens IC. Jodan Collins got to 2 semi-finals in open HP and IC. Darragh Walsh 3<sup>rd</sup> master IC. Jamie Gamble semi-final finish in open HP.

## **World Championships – Peru, July 2019**

The World Surf Kayak Championships were held in July 2019 in Huanchaco, Peru.

Our team of 10 people who represent Ireland were:

Megan Gamble, Robbie O’Driscoll, Jerry O’Driscoll, Conor O’Driscoll, Aisling Griffin, Donie McLoughlin, Darragh Walsh, Mick Barry, Chris Hobson and Jordan Collins.

Team Ireland came 3<sup>rd</sup> (behind England in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Basque Team 1<sup>st</sup>).

Megan Gable won the Female Junior World Championship and also took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Junior HP Open.

Chris Hobson finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in IC Open.

Jordan Collins and Aisling Griffin both made the semi-finals

## **2019/2020 Paddlesurf Ireland Committee**

Committee:

- Chairman - Donie McLoughlin
- Secretary - Alan Dorgan
- Kayak and Waveski Rep - Marty McCann
- Equipment Controller - Anthony Coyne
- Ordinary Member - Richard Greaves
- Ordinary Member - Darragh Walsh

Donie McLoughlin

Chairperson

Paddlesurf Committee

## **Wildwater Report**

The 2019/2020 Season consisted of 8 scheduled races organised by local clubs and the Wildwater Racing Committee. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Clubs and individuals for their time & skills in organising these events.

Unfortunately, like most sports this Year our Calendar was curtailed due to the Covid-19 crisis. We do look forward to coming back for the 2020/2021 Season and hopefully people’s pent up demand for the outdoors and exercise will lead to good numbers for the upcoming Season.

Selection events were organised, completed and a Team was selected for 2020 but like the domestic Season the International events suffered in 2020 and we hope that our paddlers who put in so much effort for this Year's World and European events can be rewarded and look forward to travelling abroad in 2021 with renewed motivation.

One big positive for the Year was a joining training camp held in Westport between the Irish and Czech Junior teams, despite the weathers best efforts in February this turned out to be a great success with the Czech young people returning home with happy memories of their trip to the beautiful West of Ireland.

We look forward to welcoming all members of Canoeing Ireland to our 2020/2021 events and for further information you can link through to our website from [www.canoe.ie](http://www.canoe.ie) or [www.irishwildwaterracing.com](http://www.irishwildwaterracing.com)

Tom Claffey

Chairperson

Wildwater Committee

### **Training & Development Unit Report**

Dear fellow Canoeing Ireland members. We would like to wish you all well in these very changeable times and also acknowledge the fantastic work done by our management and administration team and indeed the Board in guiding all of us through these very different times.

This report covers from November 2019. It's fair to say that there had been some uncertainty around the future of the TDU. There was an attempt to hold a TDU AGM earlier in 2019 but as a quorum was not achieved it was postponed and held in November 2019 with a very vibrant and well attended meeting. A new Committee was successfully elected and subsequent to this a number of members were also co-opted.

Since then, a strong working relationship has been formed with the CEO and Training and Development Officer. We had two face to face meeting in University of Limerick before lockdown happened and since then we have had 4 Zoom based meetings. We have also created an online space using the Basecamp platform where we have carried out a lot of our work.

We have supported the TDO in his work in terms of feedback on various projects.

We have provided feedback to the CEO on a range of issues and indeed supported the new Strategic Development plan which we believe will be a great driving force for future activity.

The main question at this point is around the function and role of the TDU. The governance for Canoeing Ireland has changed and improved so much in recent years and with that the TDU needs to change. We are preparing a package of proposed changes and indeed working closely with the office in terms of our Constitution and Terms of Reference. These will be presented to members in due course and at the next AGM we envisage voting will take place on such changes.

We also supported the office in the online delivery of online Safety workshops which have been very well attended and broke new ground in how we interact with members. A big issue for us is engagement with College Canoe Clubs, before lockdown we offered a trial day to UCC Canoe Club and we feel strongly that more safety supports have to be extended to such clubs EVERY Autumn in order to avoid tragedies which have occurred in recent years. We cannot have enough emphasis on safe practice and proper training.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and voluntary efforts by all our committee members and they have embraced the challenges of this year and built a good working platform with the CEO and office. We look forward to continuing this work into the future.

Jon Hynes

Chairperson

Training & Development Unit

### **Canoe Marathon Report**

The 2019 season saw solid progress in marathon racing. A full calendar of events was organised with racing in all four provinces. The number of juniors and of girls in particular was most encouraging. There was good racing across all divisions with division two being particularly competitive.

Our National k1 Championships took place in Lough Rinn with exciting racing in sunny conditions. The inaugural short course National K2 Championships at Salmon Leap was a great success. The mixed K2 race saw the largest field of K2s in recent memory take to the water. The inaugural Schools Canoe Marathon National Championships was also successfully hosted by Celbridge Paddlers. Our International paddlers once again did us proud with outstanding results at World Level.

Like other disciplines our activities this year have been curtailed by the Corona virus pandemic. The two events that took place offered reason for further optimism and seemed to indicate progress from last year. The fact that three trailers, 50 boats had been booked to travel to Spain for the International Descent of the Sella also indicates a growth in numbers and the quality of racing here. There were multiple podium finishes by our juniors at this race last year. The standard of racing and competition among the young guns in division 2 at Belturbet ranking race was truly exceptional. The breakaway quartet would not be out of place in division 1. The excellent attendance at the Nore ranking race was most welcome. The number of new faces reflects the excellent work being done at a number of clubs around the country. The number of boats entered for the cancelled event significantly exceeded those of last year. We hope that the curtailment of domestic and international racing will not impact too adversely on the steady progress achieved in recent years.

Deaglán Ó Drisceoil

Chairperson

Canoe Marathon Committee

## Canoe Sprint Report

Our year started with a trip to the 1st BCU Regatta in March in which Pat O' Leary competed in both the KL3 and VL3 events which qualified him for the upcoming international season.

We returned to the April regatta which was a K1 selection event for both GB and Team Ireland for the 2019 international season. The team selected was Barry Watkins, Ronan Foley., Jenny Egan, Ryan O'Connor.

<b>Paracanoe European Championships, Poznan, 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May</b>		
<b>Patrick O'Leary</b>	7th A Final KL3	9th A Final VL3

<b>Paracanoe World Cup, Poznan, 21st-25th May</b>		
<b>Patrick O'Leary</b>	8th in A Final VL3 200m	4th in Semi-final KL3 200m

<b>Senior Canoe Sprint World Cup 1, Poznan, 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May</b>			
<b>Jenny Egan</b>	Silver Medal K1 5000m	5th C Final K1 200m	
<b>Barry Watkins</b>	7th K1 5000m	8th B Final K1 500m	7th K1 5000m

<b>Ronan Foley</b>	14th K1 5000m		
<b>Ryan O'Connor</b>	5th in Heat K1 200m		

#### Senior Canoe Sprint World Cup 1, Poznan, 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May

<b>Jenny Egan</b>	Silver Medal K1 5000m	5th C Final K1 200m	
<b>Barry Watkins</b>	7th K1 5000m	8th B Final K1 500m	7th K1 5000m
<b>Ronan Foley</b>	14th K1 5000m		
<b>Ryan O'Connor</b>	5th in Heat K1 200m		

#### Senior Canoe Sprint World Cup 2 Duisburg, Germany 31st May - 2nd June

<b>Jenny Egan</b>	Bronze Medal K1 5000m		
<b>Barry Watkins</b>	6th in B Final K1 500m		6th in C Final K1 1000m
<b>Ronan Foley</b>	15th K1 5000m		
<b>Ryan O'Connor</b>	8th in Heat K1 200m		

#### European Games Minsk, Belarus 25th-27th June

<b>Jenny Egan</b>	4th K1 5000m	8th in B Final K1 500m	8th in B Final K1 200m
<b>Ronan Foley</b>	16th K1 5000m	9th in Semi-final K1 1000m	

#### Paracanoe and Senior Canoe Sprint World Championships, Szeged, Hungary 21st-25th August

<b>Patrick O' Leary</b>	*5th VL3 200m	1st B Final KL3 200m	
<b>Jenny Egan</b>	**11th in K1 5000m	6th in C Final K1 200m	8th in C Final K1 500m
<b>Barry Watkins</b>	15th K1 5000m	6th in B Final K1 500m	9th in B Final K1 1000m

\* Qualified for the Paralympics in Tokyo 2020

\*\* New Irish National Record time in K1 200m of 40.64 seconds

#### Junior & U23 European Championships, Racice, Czech

<b>Matt McCartney</b>	*3 <sup>rd</sup> B Final K1 500m	**2 <sup>nd</sup> B Final K1 1,000m
<b>Ronan Foley (U23)</b>	***4 <sup>th</sup> B Final K1 500m	12 <sup>th</sup> Overall from semi-final times K1 1,000m
<b>Ryan O Connor</b>	K1 200m semi-finals	

\* 12<sup>th</sup> Overall    \*\* 11<sup>th</sup> Overall    \*\*\*13<sup>th</sup> Overall

<b>U23 World Championships Pitesti, Romania</b>		
<b>Ronan Foley</b>	K1 500m 3rd B final world ranking 12th	K1 1000m 6th A final
<b>Ryan O Connor</b>	20th from semi final	

Our National Championships were held in Lough Rynn on Saturday 21st September.

We had over 60 competing on the day, it was a very successful event.

Thanks to all the volunteers, athletes and Leitrim County Council.

Thank you to the following for all their help throughout the year:

Canoeing Ireland, Sport Ireland, Olympic Federation of Ireland, BCU Paracanoe Team, Nelo Kayaks, Dansprint, Czech Republic Federation, Polish Canoe Federation and Australian Canoe Federation.

Tom Egan

Team Manager

Canoe Sprint Ireland

## **Canoe Polo Report**

2019 had a few bumps, with a delay in getting coaches and managers for squads appointed and several competitions being cancelled that normally have a great turnout.

Despite these setbacks squads have done extremely well attending a large number of competitions including placing first at Hull for the mens squad and womens placing their highest at the Europeans in years(7th). Although there were not many competitions in 2019, those that were held had a slight increase in teams taking part with some new and junior teams making an appearance.

6 Development days in Kilcock, Mullingar Harbour and Monaghan. The demonstration day held at Peters Lake at the center of Monaghan town, was well received and hopefully it could see the formation of another club much like in Mullingar. Our junior development weekend Overload now in its second year is starting to find its feet, with more attendees and more fun for all.

Coaching Programme



New Coaching Programme specific to Canoe Polo was developed by Michelle Power in coordination with Canoeing Ireland. The first pilot delivered in May with 14 trainees from Kilcock, Kilkenny, Laois, Athy, Tullamore, WWKC, Cavan. New coaches became an essential part of Junior Development, and helped drive the sport in places like Tullamore, Mullingar Harbour, Monaghan and Overload.

To help in the 20x20 initiative by Sport Ireland, Canoe Ireland produced Bridge the Gap - Women In Paddlesports initiative. Canoe polo Ireland put forward names to help highlight the sport as well as encouraging women in the sport.

### **Mahon Cup Canoe Polo Fundraiser Event**

It was an all female fundraising competition for Breast Cancer Ireland. It had beginners and experienced players as well as both junior and senior women having a great day out learning and having fun all for a good cause.

Continuing our ongoing education and training for referees a number of courses were organised and run with good turnout.

Damien Byrne

Chairperson

Canoe Polo Committee

## **8. Presentation and Adoption of the Draft Audited Accounts for 2018**

The Honorary Treasurer, Aisling Conlan presented the 2019 Draft Audited Accounts which had previously been circulated to members.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Kris Kohls (Chair, Slalom Committee), seconded by Jon Hynes (TDU Chair), approved and adopted by majority vote. No members abstained from voting.

### **8.1 Response to Member's Queries**

No member's queries were received.

## 9. Motions Received

The president presented the following motions to the AGM:

**MOTION 1.** THAT: The references to The Olympic Council of Ireland and Just Sport Ireland be amended to reflect their current title:

- (i) The Olympic Council of Ireland to be amended to The Olympic Federation of Ireland
- (ii) Just Sport Ireland to be amended to Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland.

Proposed: Canoeing Ireland Board; Seconded: Finbar O'Donovan, Laois Kayak & Canoe Club.

Approved by majority vote of the meeting (In favour 600 / Against 0).

**MOTION 2.** THAT: RULE 21 shall be amended to reflect the current professional structure of the executive as follows:

1. "The Olympic Discipline Representative (ODR) shall have a broad representative role on the Board on behalf of the Olympic Disciplines of Canoe Slalom and Canoe Sprint.
2. The ODR will maintain an agreed level of contact with the chairs or nominated representatives of the Canoe Sprint and Canoe Slalom Committee and liaise with them in relation to development/funding initiatives.
3. The ODR will be a voting member of the High-Performance Unit."

Proposed: Canoeing Ireland Board; Seconded: Chris O'Loan, Balto Kayak Club.

Approved by majority vote of the meeting (In favour 545 / Against 56).

## 10. Nominations and Election of Members to the Board of Directors

**(a) Honorary Secretary:** Luke Logan was nominated by the Board and elected by majority vote of the meeting.

**(b) General Executive Member:** Lynda Byron was nominated by Wild Water Kayak Club, seconded by Inny Kayak Club and elected by majority vote of the meeting.

**(c) Leinster Representative:** As no nomination was received, the co-option of a Leinster Representative was passed to the incoming Board.

**(d) Connaught / Ulster Representative:** As no nomination was received, the co-option of a Connaught / Ulster Representative was passed to the incoming Board.

**(e) Olympic Discipline Representative:** Deaglan Ó Drisceoil was nominated by the Sprint Committee and seconded by the Slalom Committee and elected by majority vote of the meeting.

**(f) Munster Representative:** (1-Year Term): As no nomination was received, the co-option of a Munster Representative was passed to the incoming Board

**(g) Non- Olympic Discipline Representative:** (1-Year Term): As no nomination was received, the co-option of a Non-Olympic Discipline Representative was passed to the incoming Board

**(h) Training, Coaching and Accreditation Representative:** (1-Year Term): As no nomination was received, the co-option of a Training, Coaching and Accreditation Representative was passed to the incoming Board

## **11. Appointment of Auditor**

On proposal by the Board, KSI Faulker Orr Ltd. were appointed as auditor. The Board was granted permission by the members to change the auditor if required, approved by majority vote.

## **12. President's Closing Address**

On behalf of the Board and CEO, I would like to thank everyone for attending this evening's AGM and for your continued support as part of our Canoeing Ireland community.

I would like to congratulate and welcome our elected Directors to the Board and look forward to working with them over the next term.

In January of this year when we celebrated the achievements of our sport at the Annual Awards dinner, no one could have predicted how the world would change so quickly in the following months.

Despite there being many uncertainties which have the potential to impact our sport, I can assure you that Canoeing Ireland is in a good place and well structured as a National Governing Body to address unknowns which may arise in the future.

Integrity, transparency and professionalism are at the core of our ethos as we move towards our new strategic Plan 2021 – 2023. It is these values which have allowed us to strengthen our organisation for the better.

I wish you and your families well. Mind each other and stay safe.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm      Minutes recorded by Honorary Secretary, Luke Logan