

**COMMENTS from the Chair Nov 2023**

Good evening all and thank you for making the effort to join us LIVE this eve

Another year flown by.

A HUGE thank you to all our Cumbria Canoeists Management team – Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Website, Comms, our Discipline reps, event organisers, CPD delivery team, volunteer coaches and leaders who have made this another memorable year. Not forgetting the waterways and environment team for keeping an eye on access and all the hassles that pop up every year.

Inspired by lock down to do things differently, the discipline leads have continued to develop their work and make progress – for example:

The sea kayaking team has developed a 7night wild camping event in the Inner Hebrides, an amazing DOUBLE tour of the Outer Hebrides and maintained the Muck Coaching Experience – while continuing to support the weekend lead paddles.

The Open Canoe Team have been busy and piloted a Loch Ken Coaching Residential, which was a great success.

The Polo team have developed some outstanding training opportunities for both coaches and players, working out of our base at Killington Lake and establishing a permanent training hub.

The Youth River Running Team have forged links with Carlisle Canoe Club and are working with a diversification project.

The newly formed group “Women into Paddling” was launched last year and you will hear all about the successful season and future events.

The Access/Egress team have partnered with Eden Rivers Trust and have designed an outstanding Access/Egress facility, below the Armathwaite bridge, to merge in with the Ainstable Parish Council public Car Park scheme, planned for 2024/5.

The Management team are working even closer with British Canoeing, benefitting from both a new event booking system merging into the free financial management support and system we are using to ease the Treasurers work and improve BACS payments benefitting from NO payment of VAT on Capital items eg new equipment.

An apprentice Treasurer was recruited last year and he has worked closely with the BC Finance Department and established some simple monitoring protocols, but unfortunately will not be able to continue in this role, due to personal circumstances.

So, we continue, (as always), to be **Cumbria Canoeists** – Regional Paddle Support Group – British Canoeing Cumbria.  Claiming our annual £1K bursary from BC.

Governance has developed and final decisions and essential new touches to our paper trails will be concluded at the start of the 2024 season. Including improvements to Safeguarding, event Safety, event budgeting, shoring-up and improving our “boundary fence”, and reviewing our Terms and Conditions

To celebrate the work of all volunteer contributors we organised a “celebration meal” FRRE to all our volunteers who could make the October date – a good night was had by all.

As “success breeds success” we hope to have an even bigger celebration event next year.

One final word of **appreciation and thanks** and that is to Killington Sailing Association – who have developed an important relationship with us and we are working even closer, supporting their events, spring cleans, club nights, sea kayaking and open boating and they with our polo venue development – more about this later.

So enough of the behind the scenes planning and management, on with the annual achievement reports and plans from the Clubs and Leads, offering further paddling opportunities and developments for us all in Cumbria, delivered by our teams of AMAZING volunteers.

THANK YOU ALL.

Mike Sunderland

Chairman of Cumbria Canoeists

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**STANDING down as Chair at next year’s AGM – Nov 2024**