1. Name

The Club shall be known as MAIDSTONE CANOE CLUB (“The Club”).

1. Objectives

To provide facilities for and to promote participation in the amateur sport of Canoeing and Kayaking (Paddlesport) in Maidstone, Kent.

To provide the facilities, expertise, and experience to enable those interested in paddlesport to enjoy the sport in the company of like-minded people.

We aim to foster the growth and development of paddlesport, particularly in the Maidstone area and on the River Medway and with emphasis on meeting the needs and interests of young people.

We support the objectives of British Canoeing (BC) and require members of Maidstone Canoe Club to become individual members of BC if they intend to paddle on the River Medway or other waterways covered by BC access agreement.

We will encourage club members to improve and develop their paddlesport skills in whatever area of paddlesport they are interested in, the main aim being the enjoyment of paddlesport.

When asked to do so, and where possible, we will make our facilities and expertise available to the local community through organized training/fun events.

1. Officials and Committee

The Club’s affairs shall be conducted by a General Committee (“the Committee”), consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Welfare Officer and up to nine committee members, all elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

The Committee shall be entitled to fill vacancies arising between Annual General Meetings, and to co-opt non-voting members for specialist advice.

The Committee shall meet as and when it thinks fit.

1. Membership

Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application, regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or other beliefs, except as a necessary consequence of British Canoeing .

The Membership Secretary may refuse membership, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal may be made to The Committee.

Written applications for membership must be on the prescribed form and lodged personally with the Membership Secretary. Application may also be made using the British Canoeing ‘Go Membership’ online portal.

The application must be signed by the applicant (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years of age) and be accompanied by such subscription as hereafter provided for.

The application will be processed by the Membership Secretary.

Subscriptions

The annual subscription for membership shall be such sum as may, from time to time, be decided at the Annual General Meeting of The Club and shall be due on the 1st day of April in every year, or the member can choose to pay membership and boat storage by monthly installments.

Subscription will be kept at a level that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating. Junior members will have reduced fees and there will also be reductions for members of the same family.

The Committee shall have power to instigate arrangements for new members joining mid-year to pay a reduced subscription on a pro-rata monthly basis, where appropriate.

1. Default in payment of Subscription

All members whose current subscription shall not have been paid before the 1st day of June in any year, and who neglect to comply with a written request for payment within 14 days after the same shall have been posted to them, shall cease to be members on the expiration of such 14 days at the discretion of the Membership Secretary.

1. Expulsion

The Committee shall have power to expel any member who offends against the rules and code of conduct of The Club, or whose conduct shall, in the opinion of the Committee, render such member unfit for membership of The Club. Before any such member is expelled, the Secretary shall give such member 7 days written notice of the complaint (during which time the member shall be suspended) to which member attends a committee meeting or dismisses the complaint or moves forward with the expulsion.

If no written representation is received the Committee may proceed as if representation had been received within 7 days.

The Committee will act according to the latest issue of The Club’s disciplinary procedure document.

the member may give written representation. The Committee shall consider this representation and may request the Boat storage facilities

Members may apply to the Membership Secretary for boat storage space and, where available, this will be granted on payment of an additional annual charge. Such sum as may be from time to time be decided by the Annual General Meeting of The Club, payable at the same time as subscriptions.

All boat storage is at the owners own risk, and no liability is accepted by The Club for loss or damage to paddlesport equipment.

Where members fail to renew their annual boat storage fee after the 1st day of June in any year, and fail to remove their boat from the Clubhouse, The Club shall have deemed the owners consent to use the boat and related equipment, until such time as the owner sees fit to remove the boat and related equipment from the Clubhouse.

1. Access to Clubhouse and boat store

Committee Members shall hold keys to the Clubhouse and boat stores. Other members may hold keys at the discretion of The Committee and on payment of a key deposit. All keys must be surrendered to the Membership Secretary on cessation of Committee or Club membership. Any member who has duplicate keys cut, without the permission of the Committee shall be liable to expulsion from The Club.

1. Voting

Each full member, over 18, shall have one vote at General Meetings of The Club, to be exercised in person, except that where necessary the person presiding shall have, in addition, a casting vote.

1. Conduct of business

The business of The Club shall be conducted in accordance with this Constitution.

1. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of The Club shall be held in every year, not later than 31st March, to transact the following business:

1. to receive the Chairman’s report
2. to receive, and if approved, to adopt the statement of The Club accounts to the end of the preceding year
3. to consider, and if approved, sanction any duly made alterations of this Constitution
4. to appoint the Officers and other Members of the Committee
5. to decide the annual subscription and cost of boat storage facilities
6. to deal with any special matters which the Committee desires to bring before the Members and receive suggestions from the Members for consideration by the Committee.
7. to dissolve the club

Notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the Members not less than 14 days prior to the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

Any proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Secretary no later than 7 days before the Annual General Meeting.

1. Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Committee, and shall be convened within 14 days of the receipt of a requisition, in writing, signed by not less than 10 members, specifying the object of the meeting for any of the following purposes:

* 1. to consider, and if approved, sanction any duly made alteration to this Constitution
  2. to deal with any special matter which the Committee may desire to place before the members, including the expulsion of a member
  3. to receive resignations of any members of the Committee, or to remove any vacancy or vacancies caused thereby
  4. to dissolve The Club
  5. to deal with any special matter which a member requires the Committee to place before The Club

Notice convening a Special General Meeting shall be sent to members not less than 14 days before the meeting, and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

1. Finance

All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in The Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.

The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of The Club and shall open a bank account in the name of Maidstone Canoe Club. All cheques will be signed by two committee members.

All expenditure must be approved by the Committee and major expenditure included in the minutes of Committee meetings.

A summary of the accounts will be reviewed at each Committee meeting and at the AGM. The accounts will be independently audited when this is deemed necessary by the Committee.

1. Real Property and Leasehold Property

Any real property or leasehold property held, or to be held, by The Club, in any way whatsoever, shall be vested in no fewer than 2 members of The Club for the time being, to the intent that they shall hold the same upon trust for the members of The Club. Such Trustees shall be appointed by the Committee.

1. Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of The Club, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of The Club, but shall be given or transferred to one or more of the following approved sporting charitable bodies:

1. A registered charitable organisation(s)
2. Another registered CASC
3. British Canoeing
4. Alterations to the Constitution

Alterations to this Constitution may be made by not less than four fifths of the Members of The Club, present voting, at a General Meeting convened by the Committee for the purposes of considering such resolution.

1. Service of Notice

For the purpose of these rules, notices of any matters shall be deemed to be duly served upon members if the same shall have been sent to the last known address of the member by the Secretary, either physical or electronic.

1. Quorum

At Committee Meetings, 5 shall form a quorum. At General Meetings, 15 shall form a quorum.

1. Legal liability

All members attending at any premises of The Club, or at any premises for the time being used by The Club or attending at or participating in any activity of The Club, or with which The Club is connected, do so at their own risk, and no contractual liability for any loss or damage shall attach to The Club or its Officers, or to members of the Committee.

All members attaining the age of 18 shall indemnify the Officers and Committee of The Club against any personal liability of a contractual nature properly incurred when acting on behalf of The Club.

1. Affiliations

The Club shall be affiliated to British Canoeing and such other organisations as the Committee shall consider appropriate.