



Annual Report
1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021



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1. Annual Report

This report has been written by Keith Brocklehurst (Deva CC Secretary) and approved by John Lewis (Deva CC Chairperson).

2. Cover Photograph

A Deva member demonstrates the feeling we all had after coming out of a 5-month period of inactivity. (Photo used with permission from Terry Hudson and Niall Stone)

3. Welcome and Introduction

After almost five months of Covid-19 inactivity since 23 March 2020 we eventually started club activities, albeit initially with restricted attendance, on Thursday 13 August 2020. On 5 November 2020 we had to close again for a month and, on New Year's Eve, for yet another 12 weeks.

With almost all of our regular Riverside, Northgate Arena pool, away-days, Lakes weekend and Dee Mile swim events cancelled we tried our best what little of the year remained ensuring everyone stayed safe within the Covid-19 regulations that were imposed on us.

On the brighter side, at least we remained safe, healthy and perhaps a little less wet than normal.

4. Lockdown Activities (...or lack of)

Although club activities have been severely restricted, we have not been totally inactive.

Members have been regularly contacted and given updates about the regulations and what you are allowed to do. We have passed on information from British Canoeing to members, and encouraged people to share experiences on the club Facebook page.

The club officers have also been active and have met by Zoom to look at future plans.

Peter and Keith are working with the aim of securing our long term occupancy of the Riverside Centre. This will be important if refurbishments and improvements to the building are made in the future.

5. New Members

The officers and committee extend a very warm welcome to the 37 new members that joined us in our 22nd year and sincerely hope that you are all enjoying yourselves.

6. In Memoriam

We were saddened to hear about the death of member John Jones in January 2021 and the club sends sincere condolences to his family. He was a frequent paddler with the club and particularly enjoyed his Tuesday mornings with the OFs at MEM.

7. Contact us

You can contact any of the club's officers by e-mailing devacanoeclub@gmail.com

If you need to contact a particular officer then please include their first name in the subject line.

If you wish to participate in a specific Deva event or reply to a recent club email then could we please ask that you reply only to the relevant email(s).

We deal with over 1000 emails throughout a club year and if you use an earlier unrelated club email to contact us, where the subject titles may be different, this could result in your message being missed as it may not be obvious to the club officer concerned that it is for them.

Officers are always available to chat to at our Riverside Centre sessions and at the Northgate Arena Canoeing sessions on Monday evenings during term time.

8. Constitution

Members may request a copy of our constitution by emailing the Secretary.

9. Subscription Rates

The membership fee for 2020-2021 has remained unchanged since April 2015 at £15.

Membership	£15	
Additional family member	£5	
Riverside Centre Sessions		
Members	£3	
Non-members	£5	
Equipment hire:	<u>Riverside Centre</u>	<u>Club trips</u>
Non-members	£2	N/A
Members	£0 (free)	£5 per day

The committee was aware that we had not been able to operate for a substantial part of this season, that immediate future was uncertain and that some members may have experienced the economic consequences of the pandemic. As regards annual membership it was decided to proceed as follows:

Everyone who paid membership last year (2019/2020) was listed as a current member for this year (2020/2021) regardless of whether they have paid!

Those that could were invited to pay as normal and those who found that difficult were offered a 'no questions asked' membership payment holiday.

There were 25 male and 12 female new members since the beginning of April 2020 and 40 existing members (36 male and 4 female) paid their membership making a total of 77 (61 male and 16 female).

Total membership is currently inaccurate as no-one was "delisted" last year due to our emergency arrangements.

We do however expect a significant drop in membership next year from the 170 male and 50 female (220) names we currently have on record.

If you joined after 1 September 2020 your membership is valid until 31 March 2022, for everyone else membership subscriptions become due on 1 April 2021.

10. Officers and Committee (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

Officers:

President: [Peter Cook](#)

Chair: [John Lewis](#)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: [Simon Carver](#)

Secretary: [Keith Brocklehurst](#)

Committee:

Safety and Welfare Officer (and representing Cheshire Scouts): [Alan Reay](#)

Co-opted Committee

Deputy Welfare and representing Female members: [Judith Lathaen](#)

Representing Chester Riverside Canoe Club and BRIO (Northgate Arena):
[Ian McMullen](#)

Representing Sea Kayakers: [Colin Hayward](#) and [Keith Peek](#)

Representing Kayakers: [Yvette Schutten](#) and [Mike Evans](#)

Representing Open Boaters: [Steve Cartney](#)

In October 2020 the officers were delighted when [Mat Sefton](#) accepted their invitation to join the committee as a co-opted member with a role of "IT help and support".

11. Committee Meetings

The club's officers talked regularly via Zoom video conferencing and a similar full committee update took place on Friday 3 July. 13 of the 14 committee members participated. Our annual full committee meeting planned for late-January was cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic.

12. Loan of Club boats

The club only loans-out its boats and kit for official Deva events and not for peer group paddles or one's personal use.

13. Insurance

Please note that the club's third party liability insurance does NOT cover your boat or kit and therefore members should consider having their own appropriate personal possessions insurance.

14. On Home Water

The Riverside Centre, the building that Deva Canoe Club, Chester Riverside Canoe Club and Cheshire Scouts rent from the Queen's Park High School, is our base and home to our Thursday evening (Spring / Summer) and Sunday afternoon (Autumn / Winter) River Dee and Weir sessions.

The year's home events included the customary night paddle from the Riverside Centre to the A55 bridge and back on our last Thursday evening of our summer session.

Many thanks go to those who helped and supported us during this difficult year. As usual, there are too many to name individually but your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Please remember that the club cannot operate without the help of its members so please offer to help and don't wait to be asked!

15. Tuesday morning group (aka Deva OFs)

You don't have to be retired to accompany the OFs. It's open to any member who has their own boat, time to spare on a Tuesday morning and is confident in paddling on grade 2-3 white water.

On occasions when Covid legislation stopped us going into Wales but allowed us to paddle, the OFs restricted their activities to the River Dee (from Sandy Lane), Shropshire Union canal in Waverton and the upper reaches of the River Weaver at Winsford Flashes.

16. Further Afield (Mile End Mill, Llangollen)

DEVA has become well recognised and respected at MEM.

We were sorry to hear that Kirsteen (owner of River Active Llangollen) left MEM on 31 May 2020 to pursue other opportunities.

We wish both Kirsteen and MEM's new operator, TNR Outdoors, every success for the future.

17. Further Afield (Day trips and away-days)

Sadly, all but one of our proposed trips and events had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. The only one run was a Sea kayaking trip around Hilbre Island in September led by Alan Reay.

Don't forget to check the calendar on the Deva Canoe Club website for future trips
www.devacanoeclub.co.uk

18. Annual Kit Inspection

The annual kit inspection took place on Sunday 28 March 2021 with Peter Cook, Simon Carver, John Lewis and Keith Brocklehurst in attendance.

19. Boat Inventory at year end

21 Inland kayaks (+5 awaiting sale or disposal), 10 Sea kayaks and Tourers, 2 Sit on Top Kayaks, 1 Stand Up Paddle Board and 10 Open Canoes.

20. New purchases

In October 2020 we moved into the 21st century by purchasing a contactless card payment machine.

21. Donations to the Club

The club wishes to acknowledge the kind generosity of members however a decision has now been made to decline any future offers of used safety kit (BA, helmet, ropes etc.).

22. Supporting the RNLI

As mentioned in last year's annual report, the fish and chip social and charity evening in aid of the RNLI planned for Thursday 19th March 2020 had to be cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

All those intending to attend kindly donated their ticket price towards the RNLI.

In September 2020 John Lewis organised a raffle and, aided by his Granddaughter Aoife, drew winners for the super prizes kindly supplied by Andy Lees of Go Kayaking (NW) in Runcorn.

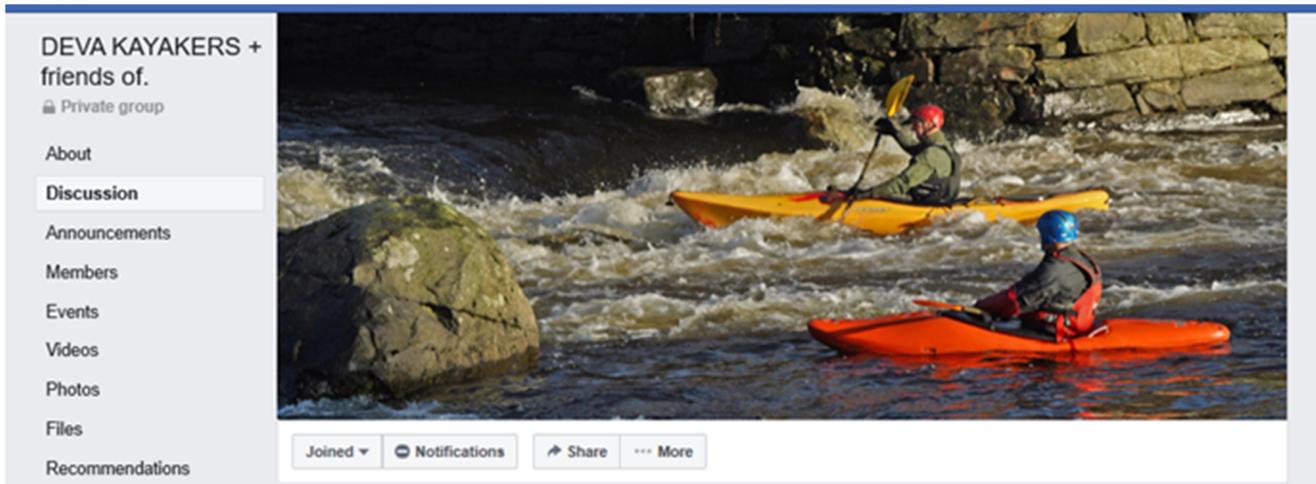
The lucky prize winners were;

Linda Shuttleworth	= £50 voucher
Ray McCann	= £25 voucher
Colin Hayward	= Dewerstone T shirt
Stewart Shuttleworth	= Dewerstone T shirt

The club sent a cheque for £233 to the RNLI and we received a letter of thanks from them.

23. Club Facebook Page and Peer Group Paddling

The club has a Facebook page, **Deva Kayakers + friends of**, administered by John Lewis, and currently has 297 registered followers.



Our Facebook wall is used by club members to post ad-hoc peer group trips and if you wish to access this page and unsure what to do then please email John Lewis at devacanoclub@gmail.com and he'll send you instructions.

Deva's Officers are aware that members organise 'Peer Group' paddling events through Facebook and wish to encourage this however, we feel that it is important to make clear that such trips are informal, NOT the responsibility of the club and NOT covered by the club's liability insurance. Members paddling on such trips should consider having their own appropriate liability and personal possessions insurance.

It is the responsibility of each member to decide whether a proposed activity is suitable for them, in particular, beginners and those with limited experience should be aware that some trips may be too difficult.

If you wish to participate then feel free to ask if you can join in even if you are unsure if you meet the required ability level, as long as you are honest about your own ability. After all none of our regular members will purposely put you at risk on water that you won't cope with, so the worst that can happen is they reply with "not this time due to your ability level or the current water level".

Often (water level allowing) you will find that they will willingly take you and look after you if it is at the top end of your ability, so thank you to all members who have been doing this and as such helping less experienced paddlers to improve their skills.

But please remember, anyone wishing to organise a trip on Facebook should ensure they make it clear that it is a peer group paddle and not a club organised trip as well as indicating what standard of paddler the trip is suitable for (e.g. Grade 2/3 must be competent paddling the Lower Tryweryn).

24. Club Website

In November 2020 club member Mat Sefton kindly offered to redesign our 'ageing' website. You can now see the result of Mat's much appreciated efforts at devacanoeclub.co.uk



25. Club Clothing

Club branded Hoodies, Polo shirts and T shirts are available to buy at: <https://www.myschoolstyle.com/shop/clubs/deva>

Your name can also be embroidered on the garments for a small additional charge.

26. New Community Watersports Centre

We were informed by CWaC in June 2020 that this project was not financially viable and had been abandoned.

27. Next Year (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022)

Our 23rd paddling year and Thursday evening sessions both commence on 1 April 2021.

28. Your Personal Information

When you first joined the club you advised us of any current health issues.

If your health has changed in a way that it may now affect your paddling ability then it is your responsibility to inform the leader of every Deva trip/event that you participate in.

The Membership Secretary should also be informed so that your personal details can be updated.

Email Simon at devacanoeclub@gmail.com

29. Data Protection Statement for members

This is a summary of the Deva Canoe Club data protection policy and procedures.

- The full data protection policy is available on request.
- We record whatever information you give us on the membership application form in a computer.
- If you gave any medical information, this is kept on paper only.
- We record any payments you make in the computer except weekly attendance fees which are kept on paper until the end of the financial year and then destroyed.
- We will not pass any information about you to any third party.
- When you cease to be a member your record, and all 'backup' copies, will be deleted and you will be removed from the email distribution.
- We will use your email address to keep you informed of club activities.
- If we do not have your email and permission to use it then we will not be able to contact you.
- You may 'unsubscribe' from the email, but remain a member, by sending an email request to the membership secretary through the club email.
- You may terminate your membership by sending an email request to the membership secretary through the club email.
- You can obtain a copy of your membership record by asking the membership secretary.
- If you find an error in your record we apologise and will correct it when you tell us by informing the membership secretary.

30. Treasurer's Report for 2020/2021

Despite the effects of Covid-19, the financial position of the club continues to remain healthy thanks to the efforts of our Honorary Treasurer, Simon Carver.

The year-end accounts for 2020-2021 are given below.

 Deva Canoe Club	DEVACANOECLUB balance sheet	01/04/2021
cash at start	£251.16	
bank balance at start	£8,720.92	
B/F	£8,972.08	
membership	£1,045.00	
riverside centre	£1,060.84	£1,077.50
BCU	£0.00	£392.40
capital boats	£0.00	£0.00
other capital	£0.00	£0.00
lakes	£0.00	£0.00
training	£0.00	£0.00
miscL	£0.00	£515.84
totals: receipts + b/f	£11,077.92	£1,985.74
balance	£9,092.18	
cash in hand	£12.80	
bank balance	£9,079.38	
less cheques not presented	£0.00	
total c/f	£9,092.18	

Simon Carver
Treasurer, Deva Canoe Club
1 April 2021

31. Deva Canoe Club AGM – 2020

The 2020 AGM, due to take place in April 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The club's officers decided the new committee (shown in section 8) would take immediate effect without the usual AGM process of naming / proposing and seconding