CANOE CLUB 2016/2017

Captain’s Report:
2016/17 has been another very successful year for Canoe Club. We have had great results at competitions, paddled lots of rivers all over Scotland, expanded our interclub relations within St Andrew and with other Scottish Canoe Clubs, increased our charity and outreach, organised lots of fun socials and reached 100 paid members.

Competitions:
We have competed at many different competitions this year: BUCS WWR, BUCS Slalom, SSS Polo, North Esk River Race and P in the Loch as well as playing polo friendlies against different universities in Scotland. The stand out result would have to be BUCS Slalom, where we finished 6th and were the highest placed Scottish University! The team spirit this year was fantastic, with all of the new freshers and all of the older members joining together to cheer on St. Andrews and at BUCS standing alongside the other Scottish universities to support Scotland (all the while singing interesting renditions of the Proclaimers). With so many enthusiastic members putting in good performances this year, I am very excited to see what we can achieve next year.

Charity and Outreach:
Charity and outreach has always been a very important aspect of our club and this year has been no different. We have raised money for our three chosen charities - SAMH, Teenage Cancer Trust and Maggie’s Fife - through our yearly naked calendar, profits from Adrenaline Ball. As well as our charity fundraising, we have continued our work with BASE Fife (Blind Activities Support and Events) guiding blind people around the pool and gym every Wednesday, organised beach cleans on East Sands and Castle Sands, journeyed to Cambo Estate to help with their environmental initiatives and donated food at Christmas to storehouse.

Trips:
Every weekend this year we have had at least one trip planned, taking our members all around Scotland and allowing them to see beautiful places outside of St Andrews. Easter Trip was a highlight, with 22 people from Canoe Club and Mountaineering heading up to Aviemore to spend four days kayaking and hiking in the surprisingly sunny Scottish weather.
We also took a break from the usual kayak-heavy river trips and courses to spend a relaxing weekend canoeing across lochs in the Trossachs.

**Socials:**
Although it may seem like an individual sport, kayaking is actually very social and as a club we certainly reflect this. With twice-weekly pub socials at the Rule, sinners, pub/house crawls, our two Balls and film nights, our social calendar is very full and well-attended. This opens our club up to people who may not be keen for paddling rivers but are definitely keen for a pint of two in the pub and also allows members to bond outside of the sport.

It has been an amazing year for us and I haven’t even described half of what we have done. We have built upon all aspects of the club, bringing in lots of new keen members, many of whom are now on committee and I am certain the club will continue to improve and grow in the future.