



## Board Address for the 52<sup>nd</sup> ADM of Canoeing Ireland

We would like to welcome you all to this the 52<sup>nd</sup> ADM of Irish Canoe Union Ltd T/A Canoeing Ireland.

Canoeing Ireland has had some very turbulent times, since the last ADM in October 2012

We are currently engaged with Deloitte Ireland on a Corporate Governance review. This is the first in a series of steps to our governance arrangements that the Board feel is necessary. All of our policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated and brought into line with best practice over the coming year. As requested by the members all Board and Executive minutes are currently on line for members to review at [www.canoe.ie](http://www.canoe.ie). A consultant has been engaged to facilitate the preparation of a new Strategic Plan. Given the circumstances we found our organisation in we have held off on any further Strategic Planning until the Board has been repopulated.

As you will be aware in December 2012 The President resigned his position citing that his position was "*untenable as the Board had voted against him for a second time*". Following his resignation the rest of the Executive also resigned. Regrettably, this left Canoeing Ireland in uncharted territory. It was agreed by the Board in order to ensure that Canoeing Ireland continued to operate it would take over all relevant responsibilities to ensure that the company did not breach any company law. Due to the President also resigning as a director of the company Brendan O'Brien and Eamon Fleming became directors of the company. The remaining board members continued to work with the General Manager and the staff in the best interests of all members and stakeholders.

All decisions that have been taken by the board have been in the best interest of Canoeing Ireland.

Upon further reflection the board felt that there had been a serious break down in the relationship between the Executive and the Board an example of this, was the running of a Strategic development work shop without the knowledge of the majority of Board members. The Board felt that this was neither open nor transparent and had many questions about this course of action that remain unanswered.

The Board has worked within the organisations Memorandum and Articles of Association to serve the members and has taken hard decisions in the best interests of Canoeing Ireland. While mistakes may have been made along the way; the Board would like to assure the members that its decisions were in the best interests of Canoeing Ireland.



The Board would like to thank all the Staff for all their help, throughout this difficult time – Karl, Kris, Benny and Shane.

The board has also agreed that it would be a good idea for the two Executive positions that have no job titles be assigned portfolios as regional representatives with a view to ensuring improved Regional representation at Board level.

All Board members are volunteers who freely give up their time and talents for the good of our sport and are always available to speak with the members on any canoeing related matter. The Board would also like to thank all the other Volunteers that give up their free time to ensure that canoeing prospers and that as many people as possible can continue to enjoy our sport.

The Board is strongly of the view that what is needed now is a period of healing and reconciliation.

Yours in Paddling

The Board of Canoeing Ireland