

Broadening Accessibility

Summary

Kirkwall Kayak Club (KKC) is a volunteer-run organisation established in 1973. The principle aim of the Club is to encourage paddle sports in Orkney.

Spring and summer Club activities take place outdoors at a wide range of locations depending upon conditions. Club members experience the natural history of Orkney at close hand, whether taking part in training sessions or circumnavigating islands.

In the winter months, between November and April, most club activities take the form of training sessions in the Pickaquoy Centre pool. Year round, Club activities are supported by Scottish Canoe Association qualified volunteer Coaches and Leaders who pass on the skills and technical knowledge needed to paddle safely in Orkney and beyond.

Club members have the opportunity to train and be assessed for nationally recognised qualifications beginning with the British Canoeing/SCA (BC/SCA) Paddlepower series for juniors and BC/SCA 2Star for adult members. Members will then move ahead to develop personal skills and, if they wish, progress to qualified coaches or leaders in their chosen paddling discipline.

Project Aims

The aim of the project is to ensure that we have craft and equipment available to suit paddlers whatever their age, size or levels of ability and mobility. To achieve this, they aim to purchase the following equipment:

- 6nr. Junior boats and equipment – suitable for small junior members aged 8 to 12 years.
- 1nr. Tandem sit on top kayak and equipment – suitable for paddlers in need of additional support on the water.
- 3nr. Small adult sea kayaks and equipment to enable small juniors to progress to full size craft as they grow, and to make smaller craft available for new junior members.
- 1nr. High capacity sea kayak and equipment to suit larger and heavier (XL/XXL) paddlers.
- 2nr. 20-foot shipping containers to store the new equipment in
- 1nr. Vehicle trailer to enable them to transport all the above equipment.

This will improve the experience and allow the full participation in Kirkwall Kayak Club activities of community members who do not fit or suit the craft that the Club currently has available to use. The Club coaching team has found that accommodating the following groups with existing equipment is extremely challenging:

Small juniors - paddlers aged between 8 and 12 years.

Growing juniors - paddlers between 12 and 16 years. Paddlers in this range are typically too small to fit properly in standard sized adult craft.

Paddlers with additional support needs - KKC works with disability groups with service users who would benefit from stable craft with maximum accessibility and the ability to accommodate a coach or assistant as well as the paddler.

Extra-large paddlers - very large paddlers, in terms of height or weight, can be difficult or impossible to accommodate in standard medium to large kayaks of the type that the Club currently has.

In order to remove barriers to full participation in Club activities and events that they run with community and disability groups KKC aim to address these gaps in provision.

The project includes the following elements:

Financial Information	£	%
Total project costs	£16,545.97	
Total eligible costs	£16,545.97	100%
LEADER funding	£7,859.33	47.499965%
OIC Community Development Fund	£7,859.34	47.500035%
Own Funding	£827.30	5%