Paddle Peak Annual Report 2025

Well, it's been a heck of a year!

We started the year on 4th January with a pool session in Bakewell to keep some momentum going for the Peaksters into the New Year. There were pool sessions the first weekend of Jan, Feb and March. They've proved so valuable to boost confidence and get some of the kids rolling confidently.

March also saw us take the chasers group back to the river, so good to get back on moving water and feeling strong after a winter of canal training. Huge thanks to Manor Adventure Willersley Castle and Cromford Mills for allowing us to offer the gates and river access.

We had a new group start on the canal after Easter, which meant the '24 Sprogs became Chasers! What a sight to see so many kids buzzing around and having the time of their lives on a Tuesday night. It does feel like we're getting places now.

Promotions started in January for the Peak Challenge 2025 too - building excitement for the bank holiday weekend in August and drumming up entries.

Racing
The Stone mini slaloms were well attended by the Peaksters despite the January weather! We had seven paddlers at some of the races which was great to see, and the kids all really encouraged each other on.

There was a slew of races thereafter, starting with Stone (proper) and Symonds Yat, followed by a Div 2 at Matlock. Continuing through the year, we had quite a few of the Chasers competing. Sam got a win at Oughtibridge in May, Lottie and Eli won their classes in Marple, and Lottie was promoted in June to Div 3. Some of the Peaksters raced at the Daleks race at HPP in June - a step up in water for some, so great work all round. Later in the summer, we saw Eli and Rowan win at Oughtibridge too.

A really great year of racing, final placing for all ranked paddlers are:

Div 3
C1W – Eadie Whiting 7th
K1m - Lucas Pick 4th
Bodie Ramsdale 1st
K1W – Lottie Howe 3rd
Div 2
K1M - Eli Hill 69th
Daniel Pick 42nd
James Cooper 1st
K1W - Eadie Whiting 9th

Awesome paddling from the Paddle Peak kids - looking forward to another great year in '26!

Other notable occurrences this year include the official planning approval of the new Peak HQ, and along with that, a new club facility for Paddle Peak. While there's still a lot of work to be done and funds to be raised for this to happen, it's a major step forward. Huge thanks to Pete and the Peak team who are making this happen.

There's been a bit of training going on this year too. Pete organised with Plas Y Brenin to run a Rec Outdoor 2-day first aid course for a whole bunch of us, ticking off some boxes for the new club requirements, but also boosting our confidence that we're able to deal with anything that may happen! It was also a good bonding trip; sitting down and bandaging or stretchering our

fellow volunteers is a great way to get to know them a little more!! Just after this, Andrew Whiting went on a 2-day Core Coach weekend, and followed it later in the year with a Slalom Coach DST course, on his way to become a Slalom Coach.

Another tick in the box, but also a great learning experience and hopes of helping things grow a little more. April saw a couple more significant happenings - through the work of Ben Seal at Paddle UK, Paddle Peak were fortunate to take the Steve Reed, the Secretary of State, on a river clean around Belper. A great opportunity for him to witness firsthand the condition of our waterways, and the efforts we go to as volunteers to address some of the litter we sadly see almost every time we get on the river.

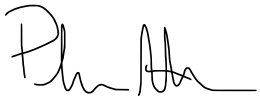
The Derwent Valley Trust has also announced their plans to lobby for the Derwent River Way— a national trail following the length of the Derwent, with access for a cycleway and potential for river access points. It would build on the legacy of the Derwent Valley UNESCO heritage status, and from the dams to the confluence of the Trent. Paddle Peak representatives Allan Mellor and Pete Montandon are part of the Derwent Valley Trust and working on paddlers' behalf to move this forward.

Later in the summer, the Derwent Wildlife Trust got together with Paddle Peak on a river clean and put together a great little film about the Derwent, and again our efforts to clean it up. They focused on the grassroots and community aspects and how our actions really do benefit the environment. It's an awesome little film, you can catch it on the DWT Facebook page.

And so to the Cromford Adventure weekend, and Peak Challenge 2025. There's a full write-up on our social media pages, but to summarise, Pedro Montgomery and his huge team of volunteers put yet more kids through come-and-try sessions over the three days. How can it keep getting bigger?!

The Peak Challenge attracted over 80 competitors from all corners of the sports, and all ages. You'd be hard-pushed to find more smiles in a weekend than we had there. Slalom racing, downriver sprints, kayak cross with a start ramp, and coaching and chats from GB Team paddlers and Olympians, topped off with two nights at the awesome Willersley Castle with adventurous talks and local music legend John Gill performing. What a team. What a weekend. What a year. Thanks so much to all the folks that make these things happen, and to our sponsors and partners: Peak PS, Cromford Mills, Manor Adventure at Willersley Castle, Pyranha, P&H, Ainsworth Paddles, Paddle UK, Acclimbatize. Mount Cook, Rapid Horizons, Thornbridge Brewery, Dagger Kayaks, and Charlie and Jane.

Can't wait for 2026!

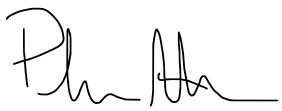


Signed. Peter Astles Chair. 6th October 2026

Paddle Peak Profit and Loss Accounts 2025

Income	Donations	£ 1,021.23	
	Entry Fees	£ 4,391.03	
	Total	**£ 5,412.26**	
Expenses	Pool Fees		£ 908.10
	Sundry		£ 376.44
	Venue / Site		£ 148.75
	Website		£ 55.52
	Insurance		£ 287.69
	Club Fees		£ 165.00
	Event Costs		£ 3,382.76
	Qualifications		£ 88.00
	Total		**£ 5,412.26**
	Net Profit / loss		**£ -**

Signed: **Peter Astles. Chair. 6/10/2026**



Registered Charity: 1194192Paddle UK Club: CL000123
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