



Irish Canoe Union

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Irish Sport Council
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Dear Fiona

I have decided to forward the 2007 Annual Grant Application directly to you in order to highlight a number of aspects in this year's grant application from the Irish Canoe Union.

From the summary on page 6 you will see that the Canoe Union is seeking a significant increase in Core Funding.

Over the past few years the Canoe Union recognises that it has received a series of substantial core funding grants in addition to operational grant funding. These grants, however, have been primarily used to provide support for strategically important projects such as website development, increased participation, etc. It is some time since there has been a substantial increase in funding for the core administration of the organisation.

The Canoe Union constantly seeks to increase self generated revenue to run the Canoe Union. There are, however, a limited number of sources from which such self generated revenue can be gained. It has been suggested that the Canoe Union has more or less reached the limits of revenue it can generate from membership fees, competition entry fees, training courses. Unless the Canoe Union can substantially increase income from sponsorship or some other source, the level of self generated revenue is likely to remain relatively static and consequently the development of the services the ICU can provide. The Canoe Union is finding it increasingly difficult to meet general operational costs while as the same time improve the services delivered and expected from the organisation.

In line with increased operational funding the Canoe Union is also seeking support to establish 3 new permanent posts on the Canoe Union staff.

The first post proposed is that of Club Development Officer. This position was funded for an 8 month period during 2006 through the allocation of a grant from Tiglin. It was not possible, however, to maintain the post beyond the end of 2006 due to uncertainty about the continuation of funding. The proposed Club Development Officer responsibilities will deliver a range of club development services that will include the direct delivery of training courses in skills development, club management, safety awareness, child protection officer development, etc. The Canoe Union is concerned about the slow progress it has made in relation to the acceptance and implementation of the ICU Code of Ethics among clubs, and the poor uptake of positions for Club Child Protection Officers. It is envisaged that the Club Development Officer would ensure that this extremely important area is comprehensively delivered and managed.

The second post envisaged is that of Coach Education Officer with responsibility for developing canoeing qualifications within the NCDP. The recent Review of Adventure Sport Training recommended the establishment of closer links between Adventure Sports NGBs and the NCTC. The proposed new post would ensure that the new relationship with the NCTC will deliver the successful development of a NCTC recognised system of canoeing qualifications.

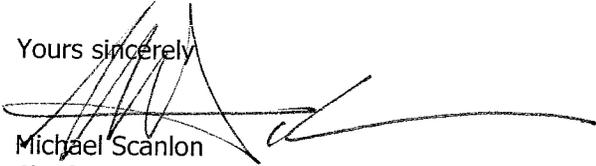
The Canoe Union increasingly recognises the need to maintain a strong and ongoing approach to the organisation's financial and governance management. The third post envisaged will support the work of the Chief Executive and maintain a constant overview of the financial and governance management of the Canoe Union operation.

It is hoped that the increased funding proposed for the Canoe Union can be sourced through a re allocation of the funding previously allocated to Tiglin. As you will be aware Tiglin primarily operated as an NGB support delivering high level adventure sports training. The canoe training previously undertaken by Tiglin is now being delivered directly by the Canoe Union.

The work previously delivered by Tiglin; and other strategically important areas within the Canoe Union, can only be effectively delivered through the allocation of additional operational funding and the employment of the necessary personnel.

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss these proposals further with you should you consider it necessary.

Yours sincerely



Michael Scanlon
Chief Executive
Irish Canoe Union