

Minutes of the Coaching Development Group Meeting

11th August 2022



Present:

- John Simmonds, Paul Fife, Charlotte Fife, Wally SHave, Jon Lock, Anj Hill, Mark Harris, Matt Clegg, James Copeland, Bryan Price, Paul Newman, Chris Manley, Mike Lambourne, Martin Hall, Mark Corti, Alan Nevard

Apologies

- Geoff Licence, Ian Dann, Kathy Syplyczak, Jacob Baisley, Melissa O’Sullivan, Carolyn Hawkes, Catherine Dacey

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Beginner Course Updates

All going well, nothing to report. Bookings are still very last-minute making it hard to judge demand.

1.1 Beginner Course Dates

There are still spaces on courses; **Mark Corti** to review after the upcoming Open Day and request more beginner course dates if required.

There are several new PIs who would like to run courses with others. **Paul Newman** is arranging a date with **Joel Crampton** and **Cameron Crampton**.

2. PAA Paddles Update

All going well, no unmet demand, lots of padding happening

3. Kids Club Update

All going well. It would be good to do a pool session, but transporting boats & children is tricky; it’s also late for the kids. **Mark Corti** related that it would be easy to arrange an extra pool session exclusively for the kids club if this was required.

4. Fun session update

These are going well. **Kathy Syplyczak** thanked again for organising this, with thanks also to everyone who has volunteered to assist.

5. Pool session update

Pool session frequency has been reduced to once per month (first Tuesday of each month) and reduced in duration to 1 1/2 hours. They're still poorly attended - only a handful of MCC members at the last session, plus a handful of Bewl members. Some discussion that a pool closer to the Club would be beneficial. **Alan Nevard** to approach Freedom Fitness.

6. Open Day Feedback

All good. Next Open Day is this Saturday (August 13th), and all is in hand. This is now a well-trodden path and runs very smoothly.

7. From Previous Meeting

7.1 Blankets for rewarming. This is still not done. **Catherine Dacey** offered to do this at the last meeting - **John Simmonds** to follow up.

7.2 Safety Officers. **John Simmonds** and **Paul Fife** are attending a course in October; this course is now full.

7.3 Racer Beginner Course Costs. At the last meeting it was noted that new novice racers don't pay the £65 beginner course costs that all other paddlers pay. **John Simmonds** was going to bring this up at committee; this has not yet happened. (Not currently urgent as no racing novices are being trained).

8. Upcoming FSRT and Paddlesport Instructor Course.

There is a PI course arranged in October, with FSRT courses on 27th & 29th August to support it. The FSRT course on the 27th only has one participant - there is unmet demand but this date is not convenient (**Jon Lock** and **Kathy Syplyczak** in particular would like a course but can't make this date). **Mark Corti** to cancel the 27th FSRT and try to arrange another date.

9. Paddlesport Leader Course

There was some discussion of what this actually is. A Paddlesport Leader can lead groups of peers on sheltered water, including the Medway chutes and parts of the Medway Estuary as long as tide is slower than 0.5kts. There are several people at the Club interested and it was agreed to run this course. **Mark Corti** to arrange with Grahame Moss and interested parties.

10. Competent Leader Record-Keeping

At the last meeting it was noted that British Canoeing is keen to facilitate non-qualified but competent leaders and coaches to run Club activities. (These to be referred to as Competent Leaders). They require any Competent Leader to be approved explicitly by the committee and a record kept of this approval, including exactly what / where / who they are approved

to lead. This approval needs to be reviewed regularly in the same way that coach updates are managed. A sample document for this was circulated (attached) and approved. **John Simmonds & Paul Fife** to show this document to committee and decide if the Club would like to adopt this.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Charlotte Fife requested clarification on getting reimbursed for her Paddlesport Instructor qualification. **John Simmonds, Jon Lock, Paul Fife** and other committee members reiterated that the Club will reimburse the cost of a PI course once the new PI has run two beginner courses for the Club. (This can include running a joint course with another coach, but in that case must have more participant spaces than a single coach can run on their own, e.g. 2 coaches / 10 participant spaces). It was clarified that this applies even if the course is not full. **Charlotte Fife** has run at least 2 courses.

11.2 Wally Shave is still interested in a Core Coach course. **Charlotte Fife** is also interested. We tried to run a Core Coach course at the beginning of the summer but had to cancel due to lack of interest. To be revisited next year.

11.3 Wally Shave asked for clarification on who can assess the Explore Award. Any Coach or above can assess the Explore Award. Any Paddlesport Instructor (plus some other qualifications) can assess the Explore Award, once they've been recommended by someone who can already assess this award. In practice, this is likely to involve assisting on someone else's Explore Award and then sending an email to coaching@britishcanoeing.org.uk recommending the new assessor.

11.4 Wally Shave asked how one got a Club Coach or Paddlesport Instructor t-shirt. Some coaches and PIs have these, others do not. **John Simmonds** to arrange this.

11.5 Bryn Price flagged up the recent law change making it illegal for any coach, or someone in a position of authority, to have sexual relations with any under-18 or vulnerable adult who is under their authority. All coaches have already been made aware of this by both British Canoeing and an email to the CDG mailing list.

11.6 Mike Lambourne is planning to do his Legacy assessment at Lee Valley, and asked if anyone else was interested. **Mark Corti** to put him in touch with James Battle, new member and ex-whitewater paddler, who also wants to. **Anj Hill** to add Mike to the WhatsApp group for this.

11.7 Chris Manley introduced himself. He's a long-term ex-member who has worked as an international basketball coach and latterly in coach education, and has offered his expertise to assist the club. **Mark Corti** to liaise in the first instance.

11.8 Martin Hall wants to run a fun session for a private group. It was confirmed that this is fine as long as he organises assistance from competent paddlers as usual,

and that the cost remains at £5 / paddler to be sent to Geoff Orford.

11.9 Alan Nevard has had a couple of people drop out of his Explore Award, which is annoying and unfair to others who missed out on spaces. Some discussion around this, with no good solution. **Mark Corti** to put a general statement on the website about commitment and volunteer coaches.

Date of next meeting – TBC via email discussion