

# Agenda of the Coaching Development Group Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022



## ***Present:***

- Steve Chinn, Martin Hall, Matt Clegg, Larry O'Connell, Joel Crampton, Malcolm Crampton, John Simmonds, Mark Corti, Catherine Dacey, Catherine Ayling

## ***Apologies***

- Melissa Sullivan, Ian Dann, Annie Davis, Rob Davis, Kathy Sypliwczak

## ***Agenda for the Meeting***

### **1. Beginner Course Update**

All going well. **Martin Hall** relayed that the canoe course is being well received and is fun! There are spaces on SUP courses and Kids Courses, but no spaces at all on regular beginner courses.

#### **1. New dates**

**Martin Hall** may be able to offer dates in July, to confirm.

**Mark Corti** to request new dates on the mailing list.

### **2. PAA Paddle Update**

A steady stream of paddles happening, although fewer on the WhatsApp group and website than last year. Regular Sunday & Wednesday paddles, as well as Geoff & Norman advertising regular trips and James Copeland also running plenty. **Larry O'Connell** and **Martin Hall** related that there doesn't seem to be any unmet demand.

### **3. Kids Club Update**

Going well! Some concern raised that it is becoming a victim of it's own success, and requires 3-4 volunteers to run successfully. However, there currently seem to be enough volunteers so all good!

### **4. Open Day Feedback**

This went well, despite no advertising or requests for volunteers. Not many booked in advance for this, although that may have been due to the booking problems left over from the last Open Day. Plenty of walk-ups, so worthwhile.

**John Simmonds** to look at signage, both specifically for the Open Day and also for the committee to consider signage outside the Clubhouse for general advertising.

**Melissa Sullivan** relayed that the rowers finish at noon, so it might be worth delaying the Open Day start. Discussion showed the general feeling to be that early slots are more popular than later, plus it's less worthwhile running an open day for two fewer hours.

## 5. FSRT Feedback

Feedback from this was all good; thanks voted again to Sammy Deans from Pirates Canoe Club for running this for us.

## 6. #shepaddles Champion

**Catherine Dacey** relayed information about British Canoeing's #shepaddles champion club program after attending a webinar. It was noted that the leader of this webinar was male. **Catherine Dacey** to verify if there is money available to promoted women's paddling, and then try to find a female champion within the club who wishes to take this forward.

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/guidance-resources/shepaddles/shepaddles-club-champions>

It was noted that this is the next stage from the Quality Club program, which **Mark Corti** is exploring with Paul Fife (this is the successor to the Clubmark program)

## 7. From previous meeting

### 1. Blankets for re-warming

**John Simmonds** volunteered **Catherine Dacey** to buy these.

### 2. Paddlesport Instructor course

One more space on this, which has been opened to other clubs and looks likely to be filled.

It was noted that a few people had hoped to do the course but were unable to gain their FSRT in advance due to date clashes. **Mark Corti** to consider pre-requisites better before organising any more courses.

### 3. FSRT

There is demand for another FSRT later in the year. **Mark Corti** to organise, hopefully with Sammy Deans again.

### 4. Safety Officers

**John Simmonds** followed up on the lack of Safety Officers at the Club. Every event open to non-members (e.g. Open Days, Hasler) must have a Safety Officer in attendance; the Club only has one active Safety Officer currently. **John Simmonds** and Paul Fife are attending a course later in the year, which seems to be a 3-hour Zoom meeting. **Malcolm Crampton** offered to do the course as long as it would not interfere with his barbecue duties. **John Simmonds** to circulate course details to the CDG and hopefully get others qualified.

### 5. First Aid course

This is under-subscribed. **Catherine Dacey** has pushed it out to other Clubs and we hope to fill it. It was confirmed by the committee members present that the course would run regardless.

## 8. Pool Sessions Update

Only two Maidstone members were at the pool session this week, plus some from Bewl. **John Simmonds** reiterated that the committee were committed to running the pool sessions even if the Club didn't make money on them.

**Mark Corti** to a) reduce frequency to monthly, b) reduce duration to 1 ½ hours, c) reach out to other clubs.

## 9. Fun Sessions Update

Kathy Sypliwczak has done a great job with this on short notice, and thanks were raised to both her and to all the coaches, PAAs and others who have stepped up to assist. It was noted that where these clashed with the regular Kids Club, arrangements had been made and all was in hand.

Some concern was raised at the resources required to run these – **Catherine Dacey** and **John Simmonds** related that the committee was aware of this and had a plan going forward as follows: early next year, limited days / dates to be allocated for Fun Sessions. Then organisations were invited to those specific dates, with priority given to those who have used us before. Cost also to be considered by the committee – this has been £5 for at least a decade.

## 10. Competent Paddlers – record-keeping

**Mark Corti** related that British Canoeing are supportive of competent (but unqualified) paddlers acting in the roles of coaches and leaders in the Club environment BUT that this has to be approved and recorded by the committee on an individual basis. e.g. a document needs to be kept stating that “*Bob Paddler has been deemed qualified to lead groups in a moderate sea environment*”. British Canoeing has sample documents and guidance here:

<https://britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/Competency-of-club-members-leading-paddlesport-sessions.pdf>

It was suggested that the CDG take the lead in this, with committee ultimately responsible for signing off.

There was much nuanced discussion about how this would work in practice, with the take-home points being

- the approval must be for a specific environment (and it makes sense to use the BC Environmental Definitions)
- the paddler should be recommended by two known-competent club members
- the usual Club-wide DBS / safeguarding checks need to be applied
- the record of these paddlers should be kept on the website so it can be kept current and easily consulted.

It was agreed to try this. **Mark Corti** to wrangle the British Canoeing templates into usable form.

## 11. AOB

### 1. Race Team Beginners

**Catherine Ayling** asked how new racers (i.e. prospective new members rather than existing members taking up racing) ought to be inducted into the club. It's currently fairly *ad hoc*. Good discussion around this with wide input. The key points were:

- Fairness is vital. All new members must either do a beginner course; or be assessed as competent by a coach / PAA. Racing is no different.
- There's little point in forcing a potential new racer to do a recreational kayak

beginner course. (This is analogous to the SUP or canoe beginner courses we run). There aren't enough new racers for it to be worthwhile running regular full beginner courses, so continuing with *ad hoc* introductory coaching by willing race coaches seems sensible. This can be revisited if demand outstrips availability.

- It was noted that the Club is only insured for max 4 sessions by non-members; after that, potential new members must join the club or stop paddling.
- There is currently no record-keeping for these *ad hoc* sessions. Importantly there has been no consent forms / medical info collected. This has to change immediately. **Mark Corti** to mail the racing mailing list with details of this.
- It was noted that all other novice paddlers have to pay £65 to do the beginner course (they then get 30% off membership, but these do not cancel out). It was considered unfair that racers do not pay this. **John Simmonds** to discuss this at committee.

## 2. New Paddler Assessments – Consent

**Steve Chinn** noted that prospective new members being taken out for assessment do not currently complete a consent form / medical info. This also should change – **Mark Corti** to send consent forms to all prospective new members, and also to mail the wider CDG with this info.

## 3. British Canoeing Bursary

**John Simmonds** related that there appears to be money available for Clubs from British Canoeing for training. Application to be made by the Club rather than the individual. A brief list of people wanting training was created- **John Simmonds** to ask more widely and flesh this out before committee decision on application. Incomplete list as follows:

Martin Hall – Paddlesport Leader; Jacob Baisley – Advanced Canoe Leader; Alan Nevard – Sea Kayak Leader; Mark Corti – Sea Kayak Leader; Jon Lock – Paddlesport Instructor; Michaela Wragg – Paddlesport Instructor. (Plus others already attending the PI course in August)

## 12. Date of Next Meeting:

**AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

(Note no Coaches Paddle beforehand due to lack of interest)