



Coaching Development Group – Meeting Minutes

3rd October 2019

Attendees: Mary Cutts (Chair), Mark Corti, Richard Clarke, Rob Davis, Annie Davis, John Simmonds, Ewan Simmonds, Paul French

Apologies: Ian Dann, Catherine Ayling,

Course Dates:

Thanks to all coaches for their support and commitment during the 2019 season. The coaching team have arranged 30 coached courses/ session during this season including 12 beginners courses. A number of these have been cancelled due to lack of uptake from club members.

Beginners courses – Finished for 2019.

Number Crunching – MCC offered 110 beginner spaces over 12 courses during the 6 months we run them (averaging 2 courses a month). 86% of the spaces were filled. 73% of participants were male, 27% females and 8% children. The most successful courses were run in June and September.

End of season debrief/ feedback –

- The coaches unanimously felt that the change to the new Discover Award went seamlessly and they liked the independent paddler element to the new award.
- It was felt that 2 coaches or 1 coach and a helper gave a better course to participants and was less hard work for coaches. The CDG will be promoting this into the 2020 season. But will not stop coaches running courses by themselves as ratios allow.
- We ran a lot of 1 day courses in both the 2018 and 2019 seasons, and although this can suit the coaches better, it was felt that participants benefit for the consolidation periods during either 4 session or 2 ½ day session courses and make them better paddlers. CDG to encourage the running of these courses, but understands availability for coaches may mean some one day courses are necessary.
- There was a low participation rate for children, which was felt came mainly from the running of 1 day courses. The age on these is capped at 14 yrs as this is a long day with a lot of activity. Again the promotion of the 4 session or 2 ½ day session courses will make it easier to have more children participating in the courses.
- One 4x session course was run on a club night and there was also a Cub group organised for the same night. This caused complete chaos and meant that the beginners course struggled with boats. When things are being booked into the calendar it should be noted and amended if there are courses running.
- Admin – Mark felt it generally went ok, but there were some issues when he tried to make

it that all participants pay before the course. He will attempt to fix this in the 2020 season.

- Complaints:
- 1 participant and his Son didn't turn up to a session as they felt the weather was too dangerous. The coach on the day had not cancelled the session, and felt it was safe to run with good management. The participant then complained that the session wasn't cancelled.
- 1 participant was late to a session and then complained that he missed the detail of the information given. The coach did run through a quick brief with him.
- There were a few complaints from females during the courses that the changing rooms were dirty and not big enough. *It was felt by the female coaches, that there is often wet kit hanging up in the changing room (3 lots sometimes), this reduces the amount of space and makes the changing room smelly. JS did comment that the committee are aware of the inadequacies of the ladies changing rooms and will be something put in the plans if the club buildings expand.*

Other Courses –

05/10 – Explore Award – 2nd Part – Annie and Rob

Explore Award – There have been 2 Explore award (kayak) courses running this year, Annie and Mark have run both. Running them over 2 days with a consolidation period in between. A whatsapp group was set up by AD so participants could co-ordinate practice with each other. This consolidation/ practice period was meant for participants to paddle together, and complete peer practice.

Other Dates:

Introduction to Whitewater Course – Went well, we had 3 participants. 2 days of coaching. Very successful, would like some more participants next time.

Discussion

Surveys – These were discussed last meeting to get an idea of what club members want from the coaching team. Mary C, had put her name down to do this, but is struggling with time, so asked if another member could do this. *Mark C, said he would spend some time on it.*

Course and trip Posters – It was discussed previously that Mark C does a really good job at advertising courses and trips online, but maybe some visual posters at the club would help. *John S to make some up for forthcoming trips.*

Equipment

Stickers on kit – There seems to be a lot of new equipment which hasn't been labelled up appropriately. This means it is difficult for coaches to know what is club and what private kit is. Also it is at greater risk of going missing. *John S to investigate stickers and labelling of kit.*

Larger Paddlers – Coaches have on occasion struggled with finding appropriate boats for larger paddlers. The Elements are inappropriate to run beginners courses from. It was felt that if there were more boat purchases maybe another 1 or 2 larger GP/ whitewater boats could be purchased.

Appropriate sized equipment – It has been noted that on a number of club trips/ regular paddles that members are often in boats which are inappropriately sized for them. As a club it is important that we guide less experienced paddlers to use equipment which is suitable for them.

AOB –

Mark C – Intro to WW went well.

Rob – BCU South East Region ACM and Club Matters - 30th November 2019 – Wey Canoe Club , Workshops during the day and ACM early evening.

- Happy to run another instruction to Sea Kayaking taster session.
- Last BCU Regional Development Team Meeting talked about 3 incidents on the Thames. One included an incident which involved MCC members, one who capsized next to a barge and was pulled out by the Police boat. Port of London Authority are aware of the incident. CDG unsure whether or not this is a club trip. Rob concerned that it probably hasn't been reported through official channels – BCU incident form. *JS to make enquires.*

Discussion about appropriate reporting of incidents - *Mark C to make an online form. MC to send an e-mail to remind coaches of their responsibility for reporting near misses and Accidents.*

Annie – Currently working on BCU Paddleability Guidance notes for coaching paddlers with disabilities.

Next Meeting:

27th February 2020