



Coaching Development Group – Meeting Minutes

27th February 2020

Attendees: Mary Cutts (Chair), Mark Corti, Mark Harris, Annie Davis, Rob Davis, John Simmonds, Richard Clarke, Bryn Price, Ian Dann

Apologies: Paul French, Steve Chinn, Catherine Ayling, Lee Horton, Alan Nevard

Course Dates:

Beginners courses – Season dates April – Mid- October 2020

CDG Agreed that we should keep the price at the 2019 prices for this season.

In Oct '19 meeting it was felt that although the 1 day courses meet the needs of coaches better, they weren't so successful for beginners as they need the consolidation time and 1 day courses are very tiring and not suitable for younger children. In 2020 the CDG will strive to encourage a mixture of courses.

- Wednesday 15th April 6pm (4-week course) – Mark C
- Thursday 21st May 6pm (4-week course) – Annie D
- Saturday 25th April (1-day course) – Annie, Mark H, Ian
- Saturday 30th May (1-day course) - Mary

Mark C to e-mail coaches for more dates for beginners courses.

Explore Award –

It was generally felt that by the CDG that we should encourage participation in the Explore Award, due to it's focus on becoming an independent paddler. It was discussed that we could be using weds and Sunday paddles as skills practice, not just paddling up and down the river. But this needs coaches to attend.

Annie and Mark C are looking at explore award dates.

Other Courses –

7/8th March 2020 – Easier WW Trip – Mark C, Mary C, Paul F

TBC – Taster Sea Kayak – Rob D

TBC – Intro to WW – Lee Valley – Mark C, Mary C

TBC – Intro to Open Canoeing – Annie D

Touring Awards – 2x – **MC** to contact Lee Horton on possible dates.

TBC – Next Step Paddles – Annie D and Ian D

Kids Club – No Mention

Other Dates:

13th March – AGM

17th March – BC Club Conference – Bryn, Brian, Mary, Ian, Rob and Annie currently attending.

18th April – Demo Pool Session

31st May – Open Day

14th June - Maidstone Marathon – It was discussed that we need GP support for this, especially on youth races.

27/28th June – Leeds Castle – Safety Cover and Taster Sessions – Mark . H

5th July – Open Day

12th July – Group of 7 for fun day – Mark H – We discussed date, and suggested it be moved to a Saturday.

Discussion

- **Chairperson** - Mary Cutts resigning as CDG chairperson. CDG thanked Mary C for her time in post. John Simmonds was the only one to stand to take over the position. This was agreed by all members of the CDG present.
- **Club/ Peer Paddles** – Following from 2x incidents regarding members feeling they have not been lead effectively and a generally feeling that the club needs to be clearer what each of these mean.
 - John S has contacted British Canoeing (BC) regarding the definitions and differentiation between club and Peer Paddles. Spoke to Chris Earle (Head of Participation and Club Services) and Stephanie Roberts (Membership & Data Officer). A club activity needs risk assessments, and someone taking charge if the activity, whereas a peer paddle is for independent paddlers, where paddlers aren't coached or guided.
 - The club has a duty of care to keep members safe while they are on trips organised and run by the club. Juniors - the club has a complete duty of care and therefore peer paddles may not be suitable, unless a coach or leader is happy to take responsibility for the safety of the junior.
 - Risk Assessments are needed for all club activities, Mary C suggested doing a generic risk assessment for each discipline and making sure coaches and leaders are dynamically risk assessing the water conditions, environment and ability of the group on the day. Beginner course RA already completed – **Mary C to send to all CDG.**
 - Peer Paddles must have a description on the trip/ paddle information to make it clear that it is a peer paddle, without any coaching/ leadership. And that paddlers must be able to assess that they are competent to be paddling on the trip. **Mark . C to write up a note for the bottom of all peer paddles.**
 - Wednesday/ Sunday Regular Club Paddles – It was agreed that some members have the

experience to treat these as peer paddles, where others did not. And that yet again it was discussed that there should be a coach/ leader rota to ensure those members who aren't ready for peer paddles or were a junior can come paddling in a safe environment. This rota could be equally staffed by experienced members, not just coaches. Rob D mentioned the BC Paddlesport Activity Assistant may meet the clubs needs in this respect. **John S.** to organise a rota

- **Experience Levels/ Categories of Activities –**

- It was discussed that giving members a set experience level would be difficult to manage. Mary C suggested a traffic light method used at Adur Canoe Club, but again it was felt that with 200+ members this would be difficult to manage.
- The CDG felt it would be necessary to be more specific about experience level in calendar descriptions, and this would be subject to change if conditions worsened.
- Colour Coding on the calendar was discussed. **Mark C** to look into.
- Annie asked if the Next Step Paddles could be signed up via the website rather than through e-mail. Agreed.
- The CDG agreed that only peer paddles should be put on the Maidstone Canoe Club Paddlers FB group.
- During the winter Wednesday nights should be peer paddling only.

- **Club Consultation Document** – Only Q9 is relevant to the CDG, John S is going to write a reply.

- **Juniors** – there was a question on how the junior system was working, as most of the coaches don't attend regular club paddles. **John S.** to ask the committee

Equipment

- **Paddles** – Mark H. requested some slightly longer paddles for sea kayaks/ touring boats
- **Airbags** – Mary C, wanted to make sure all boats we take beginner out in have air bags. And do we have a stock of spares?

AOB –

Mark C - Wanted to understand how a racing session should work with 2 juniors, he took some out and worked between the 2 bridges. Bryn said the experienced paddler should always have sight of the people being coached.

Peer Coaching

- Mark C ran a WW rope session which was well received and very useful.
- Bryn P happy to run a session in K2's
- Peer Coaching to continue once it becomes lighter in the evenings.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 24th March 2020 – 19:30