

Minutes of the Coaching Development Group Meeting

22nd July 2021



Present:

- Emily O'Callaghan
- Alan Nevard
- Ian Dann
- Catherine Dacey
- Anj Hill
- Matt Clegg
- Melissa Sullivan
- Jacob Baisley
- Mark Harris
- Mark Corti
- Martin Hall
- Steve Chinn
- Trish Cadman
- Kathy Syplywczak
- Paul Fife
- Charlotte Fife
- Ricahrd Clarke

Apologies

- Annie Davis
- Rob Davis
- Joel Crampton
- John Simmonds

Minutes

1 Beginner Course Feedback

Some discussion about the difficulties of running mixed-age courses with both children and adults. It can work very well but occasionally doesn't. It was noted that it very much depends on the individual children involved, but in any event it's important to ensure there's at least one other person assisting on the course whenever children are enrolled.

2 PAA Paddles feedback

These are working well, with PAAs reporting that the qualification formalised the

relationship with the group but after adjustment this was a positive thing. There seem to be enough paddles going on, and they are popular. Lee and Jacob are still running PAA training on demand.

- it was requested that website approval for PAA events is removed so that PAA paddles appear on the website immediately. **MJC** to sort

- it was related that the guidance video for adding PAA paddles is on the website under Contact Us – FAQ

(<https://www.maidstonecanoeclub.net/joomla/index.php/2012-05-01-19-15-08/frequently-asked-questions>)

3 Explore Award feedback

All going well. Several courses currently scheduled; probably demand for one more towards the end of August / early Sept. **All** to think about dates.

4 Care of Equipment

Lee Horton sent a message that one of the inflatable SUPs had burst after being left in the sunshine. John Simmonds is planning to create a poster outlining how to look after these craft. Lee Horton also sent a message asking people to look after skegs.

5 New coach support and onboarding.

Melissa Sullivan and **Jacob Baisley** have now assisted on a beginner course; **Paul Fife** is assisting **Mark Harris** shortly. **Melissa Sullivan** offered a one-day course on August 24th on which **Charlotte Fife** will assist. From the first batch of new Paddlesport Instructors, only Reece Nelms yet to assist on a course. **MJC** to contact him and ask if he'd like to.

There is another Paddlesport Instructor course running at the end of August and there will be more new people to onboard.

6 New Junior Race Team

Bryn Price mentioned he was considering starting a junior race team. No further information.

7 New Junior Paddle Club Feedback

Jacob Baisley reported that it all went well. Good to have some really talented junior members along (e.g. Joel and Cameron Crampton) who really inspired the younger kids. Several juniors are currently on beginner courses and these will be encouraged to join.

8 Kids-Only Beginner Course

Lee Horton has offered to run a Kids-Only Beginner Course, which was enthusiastically received. This will support the Junior Paddle Club (which only takes kids of Discover Award standard). This led to a more general discussion about age limits and Club junior members, which followed on from an earlier discussion on the Committee:

- We've had a long-standing lower age limit on the beginner courses of 8 years old; this due to physical and emotional maturity
- All members ought to be of Discover Award standard when they join. Apparently junior members have been allowed to join without this. This has also meant that some under-8s have been allowed to join.
- BCs latest guidance is that children under 7 are likely to need specialist equipment (small boats, paddles etc.). We have 3 craft suitable.
- It was recognised that the Club's ability to support members under about 8 is extremely limited.
- It was therefore agreed that the lower age limit of 8 for beginner course should be retained.
- Current junior members who do not have their Discover Award should be assessed and brought up to Discover Award standard if required, regardless

- of their age. **Committee** to identify these people.
- A question was raised regarding young children of members, and how they should be accessing Club boats and equipment. This is currently being discussed by the **Committee**.

9. Beginner Course Dates

Paul Fife offered to run a course 21st / 22nd August

Alan Nevard offered to run a course 9th October

Melissa Sullivan offered to run a course 24th August

10. Sunday & Wednesday Regular Paddles

These have now restarted post-Covid. These were generally thought to provide a good social point of contact which was otherwise unavailable through the Club; however there are long-standing concerns about looking after inexperienced members. With the new PAA system working well, now is an ideal time to solve this issue.

- Geoff Orford is organising a schedule of experienced paddlers / PAAs / coaches for each Sunday & Wednesday session.
- To ensure that river leader : participant ratios were maintained, it was suggested that the current PAA website booking system be used for these paddles. Inexperienced members would be asked to book in to ensure there was someone able to assist them; experienced members would just turn up as usual. Everyone can then paddle at the same time, and as newer members gain experience they can join the main group. This suggestion to be put to Geoff Orford.
- A question was asked regarding the system where under-16s had to bring a junior member card with them before using Club boats on these sessions. Is this system still being used? **Catherine Dacey** to investigate – the system was put in place for safeguarding reasons and needs to be maintained.

11. Date of next meeting

Thursday 26th August