

Maidstone Canoe Club meeting Minutes 21 July 2021

Present: John Simmonds, Jacob Baisley, Geoff Orford, Catherine Dacey, Reece Nelves, Paul Fife, Lee Horton, Richard Clarke, Catherine Ayling, Geoff Licence.

Apologies: Andrea Griffiths. Leanne Jordon, Charlotte Fife,

Agenda Item	Action
Chairman's Report: Open day great success, MCC2021 paddles going well, Junior paddle day and paddle club big success. White water trip to the Treweryn really good. All beginner courses full and bringing new members	

<p>Secretary's Report:</p> <p>From the last minutes</p> <p>The green katana isn't Michaela's it might be Brad's</p> <p>BC webinar for Clubs</p> <p>Geoff John and I had an hour with James Hinves our BC coordinator, we talked about the membership portal, clubhouse webpages and any help we required as a club. We had feedback on the membership portal basically saying that's how it is so we won't be buying the full version next year. Club house webpages quite informative any committee member logged as a committee member with BC can access. Worth a look.</p> <p>Jacob to look at a spread sheet based system for keeping tabs on who's is who's boat and if it is paid for.</p> <p>Also to look at costing a membership system to replace the BC one which we don't find fit for purpose.</p> <p>Open day 4th July</p> <p>Thanks to lee, Melissa and Jacob for their organisation and running of the Open day, and to Geoff and all the members who stepped up to help.</p> <p>All the people I saw had had a good experience.</p> <p>Racing boat report from Catherine A</p> <p>However I want to thank Leanne for starting to sort out the racing boats. Geoff I can confirm that Tom's boat has now gone and thank you for your help regarding that. I also would like for John to arrange a time where he can meet a group from the racers to see how we go forward. Currently there are some issues which need resolving.</p> <p>CD to contact paul Newman to get the key back for the store behind the clubhouse</p> <p>Getting keys back from members who leave needs to also be discussed. There are a lot of expensive boats in the boat sheds.</p> <p>MRUA Minutes</p> <p>Emergency works on East Farleigh lock this summer.</p> <p>Teston Sluice to be replaced next year.</p> <p>Sluice Weir to be dredged in September.</p> <p>712 vessels on the Medway, photographed and will be chased for river license payment 40% f boats do not have their registration on display.</p> <p>10 K paddleboard race to take place on 11th September, Start and finish at Allington Lock.</p> <p>EA t6o contact MBC about the bin in the river under the new road bridge and the vegetation along the town stretch.</p> <p>MVCP mentioned we had been part of the litter pick teams along with Tonbridge CC.</p> <p>From the Watts App group:</p> <p>Bryn's school stuff, needs formalising and I feel he should report to the committee, I have emailed him.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>1 the schools programme at Malling school is being held up with Funding application from Kent Sport, who have been asked to fund the coaching course for the staff as well as the BAs and possibly SUPs</p> <p>2 the Cookham Wood programme is through the first few hurdles with the MoJ and they are now looking at how to timetable it into their plans.</p> <p>This will be funded by Safer Kent and will use kit and boats that Safer</p>	<p>JB</p> <p>LJ /CA</p> <p>CD</p>
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<p>Treasurer / membership Report:</p> <p>Membership stands at 210, most beginners course participants are joining the Club.</p> <p>Finances sound, ¾ of expected income in, allowance made for new build of £40,000.</p> <p>Project year end £87,000</p>	
<p>New Build:</p> <p>Waiting for Architect report JB to chase.</p> <p>Some rubbish has been cleared by Darren, temporary electrics in, 3 sets of keys, the set Bryn had have been given to Jacob by Catherine D.</p> <p>Skip to be ordered once the architects documents are received</p>	JB

Environmental Officer :

Andi gave her apologies, this taken from the MRUA minutes:

Elvers:

The elver count this year is looking good with a current Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) rating of 7.8 – (404 elvers/eels over 52 surveys). There were a greater percentage of more mature eels earlier on but now the vast majority are the usual 65 – 85mm. Whether that increase in larger eels indicates disturbance downstream or just a healthy population we don't know. Last year the CPUE was 2.5 and the previous four years before that the figure was less than two. Although this sounds like good news – the bumper year in 2013 the CPUE was 166 – yes an average of 166 elvers per survey so still some way short of that.

So far there has been about 500 Chinese mitten crabs and these have ended up at the Royal Holloway University for the students to DNA test. Professor David Morritt has been coming to collect the frozen specimens. So not only is the elver data being collected for science, the by-catch is as well.

INNS:

Giant Hogweed: It's been a difficult year for Giant Hogweed control due to MVCP team capacity, landowner consent and wet weather. Ideally the project needs greater funding as then we could recruit more assistance, either internally or externally contracted but, funds for 21/22 are still not confirmed, despite our Giant hogweed control now coming to the end of the season. Since March 2021 to today (13th July) we have chemically treated just under 3000 Giant hogweed plants along the Medway Navigation and adjacent footpaths and despite some hotspot locations, our data indicates an ongoing reduction along the rivers. Plants have been observed in greater number on railway embankments and roads however.

Our 1 external contractor has done the work on the Teise and Lesser Teise, upper Beult, Gibbs Brook (Trib' of the Eden) and the Upper Medway (above Leigh). His data and plant count is yet to be fully collated and analysed. Data to come.

Floating pennywort:

So far so good this year. After a mammoth control year in 2020 we so far have not seen any patches on main river. We know the source pond has a large outbreak and MVCP volunteers have recently been working in that location. Another location which is being monitored is a side stream near Yalding and a manual task day is being planned for this location soon. Otherwise, we have so far not seen any mats on main river which is great. We are monitoring the situation. MVCP are now part of the new Floating Pennywort National Tactical Group.

Litter:

MVCP have begun working with South East Rivers Trust on their Preventing Plastic Pollution Project. As part of this project, which includes behavioural change elements, targeting businesses and analysing plastic types etc, MVCP have been asked to run the community engagement clean up events alongside Medway Swale Estuary Partnership. We will be doing 9 clean ups a year for 2 years. We have already done 3 with another 6 to do this financial year and 9 next financial year. MVCP are working with Maidstone Canoe Club, Tonbridge Canoe Club and local volunteers and schools to run these activities. Additional dates will be circulated soon.

Medway Blackwater Project Proposal:

With the objective of improving water quality and reducing H&S risk for river users, a project proposal, looking at establishing a capital grant scheme so static houseboat owners can install biodigesters to treat their sewage (alongside bylaw change and awareness raising) has been written by MVCP and circulated to

<p>Kids Club: Junior paddles Tuesday evenings, led by JS and AH with others joining in. Open to any under 16 member who is discover level. LH happy to run children only beginners course. Discussion about family members joining without being discover level, either because they are too young or are just joined as part of a family with no experience. It was agreed that under 8's should not be members due to the need to be of a standard to join. Under 8's should not be taken out in club boats. This was also discussed at the CDG meeting on 22 July and the lower age of 8 was agreed. BC say under 8 years often don't have the physical stature to paddle and specialist equipment is required.</p>	LH
<p>General paddles: Every Wednesday and Sunday, need to ensure that there are enough experienced paddlers on the water to look after the beginners who are not yet Explore level. Discussed a watts app group for leaders. This also came up at the CDG meeting, a trail to take place, where PAA's and Instructors / Coaches, add paddles to the Sunday slot to ensure that there is enough cover.</p>	All
<p>Care of Equipment: Following the report of a paddle board bursting in the heat, and the skegs on the touring boats being broken a plan has been made for everyone to look after equipment. JS to produce an information sign on the inflation and deflation of paddle boards and to stencil 'Skeg Up' on the wall of the jetty. Purchase of a new paddleboard when they become available will be looked into.</p>	All JS
<p>Racing Bosun: JS to arrange a meeting with the racing members of the club to put into place the payment for private boats and sorting of all the club boats to make the ones used more accessible.</p>	JS /LJ /CA
Next meeting Wednesday 15 September 7pm	
<p>For the committee from the CDG meeting: Pre lockdown under 16's were issued with a card to hand to the coach/ responsible paddler of their group. This needs to be reinstated now that we are having general paddles again. Please can Go and Cd arrange this for the under 16's in the club, this will ensure that the right child goes home with the right adult and we know who is on the water.</p>	CD/ GO