

# Coaching Development Group Meeting

## MINUTES

26<sup>th</sup> August 2021



### ***Present:***

- Alex Corti
- Ian Dann
- Martin Hall
- Emily O’Callaghan
- John Simmonds
- Matt Clegg
- Catherine Dacey
- Joel Crampton
- Larry O’Connell
- Lee Horton
- Paul Fife
- Mark Corti

### ***Apologies***

- Rob Davis, Catherine Ayling, Steve Chinn, Alan Nevard, Annie Davis, Kathy Syplwczak

### ***Minutes of the Meeting***

#### **1. Welcome new PI / Coaches. PI course feedback**

**Holly Sherwood, Martin Hall, Stewart Wheadon, Alex Corti, Anj Hill and Matt Clegg** all became PIs last weekend – congratulations! Course feedback was good.

#### **2. Wednesday & Sunday Paddles feedback**

The new system (experienced paddlers just turn up, inexperienced paddlers book on with river leader) seems to be working well. **Catherine Dacey** is currently scheduling leaders to run these sessions using Doodle, and has filled all slots bar one for September. Most people who ought to book seem to be doing so. Noted

that it will take some time for this system to become recognised as normal. **Mark Corti** to put reminder in newsletter.

### 3. PAA Trips feedback

These are still running well. Several regular paddles are happening – Geoff Orford & Norman Brooks are running one on Tuesdays, Alan Nevard on Wednesdays, and others, as well as ad hoc paddles. There seems to be a good match between paddles and demand, so all good. Website booking is working well and has become accepted as normal.

### 4. Junior Club & Junior Beginner course feedback

Junior Club is doing really well, with confidence increasing each week. **John Simmonds** is getting lots of support from coaches & experienced paddlers which he is very grateful for. John relayed several points regarding this:

1. John is considering some kind of tangible progression system like the old Paddlepower. Kids love a certificate and a sticker! We still have some Paddlepower leaflets in the filing cabinet.
2. With the nights drawing in and the water cooling, continuing the current very-wet sessions on Tuesday evenings will become impractical. John is keen to keep something going and is considering moving to Sunday mornings and changing the emphasis to drier sessions.
3. John explained the paperwork system so that other coaches can lead the session if required. There is a folder specifically for the junior club in the filing cabinet third drawer:
  1. A consent form needs to be signed by the parent when a new child joins junior club for the first time
  2. On each session, an attendance register must be filled out
  3. On each session, consent forms need checking for all children present in case of medical or other issues the coach needs to be aware of
  4. There is also a record of capsizes / spraydeck capsize etc.

**Lee Horton** related that the junior beginner course was also a success, and he pointed the kids towards the junior club. Another kids-only beginner course is scheduled for October.

### 5. Beginner course feedback

All going well. **Paul Fife** noted there have been a couple of clashes recently between beginner courses and other activities at the Club causing issues with boats, clubhouse access, and pontoon use. These can often be worked around as long as everyone knows in advance. **Mark Corti** to take more care to ensure this doesn't happen, as well as to communicate with coaches when there are clashes which can be easily solved through communication.

**Alan Nevard** relayed via email that a participant lost a pair of glasses on one course; reminder that there is a stock of neoprene bands for glasses in the filing cabinet which should be offered to participants. **Committee** to consider buying a large stock of glasses bands and leave them in the boatshed; they will be regularly lost but are cheap and this is perhaps just a cost of doing business.

### 6. Explore Award feedback

Going well; **Annie Davis** course was going well, **Lee Horton** related the same. Nothing to report.

### 7. Other course feedback (FSRT, First Aid, anything else?)

**Lee Horton** related his FSRT went well but overran; one more coming up.

#### 8. Beginner courses – new dates & new coach onboarding

All current courses are full. There is demand for more courses.

**Martin Hall** offered to run a course September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Paul Fife** offered to run a course mid-September

**Matt Clegg** offered to run a course with **Anj Hill** 2/3rd October

**Holly Sherwood** is assisting **Lee Horton** on a course in October; most other new PIs have already assisted on courses. **Alex Corti** to arrange to assist on a course once school year has started.

#### 9. Explore courses – demand & new dates

There are at least 3 people wanting Explore awards. **Mark Corti** to consider running a course.

#### 10. Other course demand? FSRT, First Aid, PAA?

**Lee Horton** is running another FSRT later this year. A first aid course is also scheduled.

**Lee Horton** and **Jacob Baisley** have been running PAA courses as required. Demand has trailed off; we need to ensure that the PAA qualification continues to remain in people's minds as an obvious progression. Probably worth a reminder at the beginning of next year.

**Lee Horton** is planning a couple of rescue improver workshops for people who may be rusty after an FSRT or otherwise want to practice rescues.

#### 11. Upcoming trips – WW, anything else?

Intro to WW (full): 18/19<sup>th</sup> Sept

Grade 2/3 peer paddle whitewater trip 18/19<sup>th</sup> Sept

Georgi Delchev is running an overnight camping trip on the Medway.

#### 12. Ideas for winter?

**Mark Corti** is running a Ropework and Rescues Refresher for people rusty after a WWS&R course

**Catherine Dacey** is going to run another Breakfast Paddle and volunteered Keith Dacey to cook breakfast at the Club

**Lee Horton** is planning a couple of first aid refreshers; topics to start with will probably be CPR and another on hypothermia.

**Ian Dann** offered to run a session on moving water tactics for the Medway when in flood

#### 13. AOB

**John Simmonds** raised a query from the committee regarding club members occasionally bringing along non-members for a paddle; and also training their own children who might be too young for beginner courses. The CDG was asked if it had any recommendations for the committee as to whether this should be allowed to continue; and if so, what restrictions if any should be placed on it. A discussion ensued, summarised thus:

1. Bringing along occasional friends / neighbours etc. has always been part of Club

culture and is in general a good thing. This is similar to the more-formal Fun Sessions organised for workmates, cub groups, etc.

2. If a parent brings their child on the water then this is their responsibility. However, if Club equipment is being used then the Club also has a clear duty of care.
3. This duty of care is unlikely to be removed by means of a disclaimer.
4. It was considered that the Club has a duty to ensure the parent is sufficiently experienced to be able to make their own decisions as to whether they are capable of ensuring the safety of their own child on the water. Therefore a minimum experience level should be mandated before members are allowed to take non-members on the water.
5. It was suggested that Explore Award is probably sufficient experience for this. This award focusses on trip planning and should provide the right information for parents to be able to make their own decisions on this, as well as basic rescue skills. Extra guidance and support is always available from coaches, committee members, and other experienced members. People taking non-members out on the water – particularly children – should be encouraged (but not mandated) to do further rescue training e.g. FSRT.
6. It was noted that the Club doesn't have suitable equipment for all ages and sizes; this needs explaining to any members considering taking out e.g. the very young, or those with extra needs.

**John Simmonds** thanked the CDG on behalf of the **committee** who will discuss this and make a decision at their next meeting.

#### **14. Date of next meeting**

**Anj Hill** relayed a suggestion via email that the next peer paddle might look at commonly-encountered disabilities and how we might adapt to them. Anj's professional speciality lies in this area; **Annie Davis** is the SE Paddleability Rep also, so we have expertise within the Club which could be shared.

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