

# Agenda for the Coaching Development Group Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> May 2023



## ***Present:***

- Melissa Sullivan, Mike Lambourne, Wally Shave, Larry O’Connell, Kathy Syplywczak, John Simmonds, Martin Hall, Mark Corti Paul Fife, Bryn Price, Mark Harris, Malcolm Crampton, Joel Crampton, Cameron Crampton, Jon Lock

## ***Apologies***

- Carolyn Hawkes, Steve Chinn, Annie Davis, Rob Davis, Dean Sherrin, Anj Hill, Ian Dann, Jon Lock, Geoff Licence, Alan Nevard

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

### **1. Site-Specific Induction**

**Mark Corti** delivered the Site-Specific Induction to all Paddlesport Instructors present.

It appears records of who has received the site-specific induction are not currently being stored by the Club in a useful way. **Mark Corti** to investigate and rectify.

### **2. Beginner Courses**

#### **1. Feedback**

Only one session so far, but it’s reportedly going well.

#### **2. New dates**

**John Simmonds** related that it’s not practical to run beginner courses on Tuesday evenings due to the popularity of the junior club.

**Melissa Sullivan** offered to run a course, probably weekday daytime during the summer.

**Wally Shave & Larry O’Connell** offered to run a course, dates TBC

**Joel Crampton & Cameron Crampton** offered to run a course, dates TBC.  
(**Joel Crampton** has recently turned 18 and needs a DBS check)

**Paul Fife** offered to run a course, dates TBC

### 3. Canoe Course

**Martin Hall** to liaise with **Jacob Baisley** and find a date for this.

### 4. SUP Course

**Steve Chinn** emailed to relate that he's unable to run a course this year, and that it's unclear if there is real demand for one. He is happy to help out if anyone else wants to run one; and he will be putting some dates in the diary for informal SUP training for existing members.

### 3. PAA Paddles

There are not many of these happening, but this is because there is no demand. Almost all existing members are competent to paddle. This will change as new members join over the next 4 weeks. **Kathy Sypliwczak** to liaise with **Catherine Dacey** to discuss the rota, including possibly for Wednesday evenings

#### 1. New PAAs?

An advert was put on the website requesting volunteers to become PAAs. **Mark Corti** to follow up with **Jacob Baisley** and see if anyone responded.

### 4. Explore Courses

**Alan Nevard** is running one in July.

**Mike Lambourne** and **Wally Shave** offered to run an Explore Course in August, by which time we anticipate there being demand.

### 5. Junior Club

The new system of splitting the group by ability is working well. Currently three groups: the "advanced" group, the "normal" group, and the "new intake" group. There is still plenty of time where they're all together. This is allowing the more-experienced juniors the opportunity to progress, as well as giving the coaches & volunteers some variety.

**John Simmonds** has produced a "progress card" which juniors can complete, similar to the old Paddlepower Passport. On completion they will gain their Discover Award.

A similar thing is planned for the "advanced" group to achieve their Explore Award. **John Simmonds** to look at the first draft of this, and then circulate for comments.

The junior club is still growing, and is almost at the point where equipment will become a limiting factor. With the huge support it is getting from coaches & volunteers it's very successful.

**John Simmonds** to ensure that all helpers – including parent helpers – are DBS checked. A suggestion for identifying non-DBS-checked helpers by some special item of apparel generated discussion, with a variety of viewpoints expressed, but was eventually discounted.

## 6. Racing

### 1. Police Cadets

**Bryn Price** related that the first session for the Police Cadets is this Saturday (6<sup>th</sup> May). 6 young paddlers, all male. **Paul Newman & Steve Row** are assisting.

### 2. Cookham Young Offenders

**Bryn Price** related that wardens from Cookham Young Offenders institution are visiting the club tomorrow (5<sup>th</sup> May) with a view to bringing groups of young people to train as part of their rehabilitation. Safer Kent may assist financially with this. Several of the wardens are competent paddlers – **Bryn Price** to find out how competent, and liaise with **John Simmonds** to ensure they have gone through usual MCC procedures to act as coaches if they are being included in our coaching ratios.

### 3. Marathon

The marathon is on May 14<sup>th</sup>. **Bryn Price** is co-ordinating this on the day. Reportedly no-one is taking responsibility to organise anything in advance. There appears to be no list of jobs or volunteers. At least 30 people, including many regular volunteers, are away on a trip. **Malcolm Crampton** has offered to do the food; **Martin Hall** offered to assist as required. It's unclear who these offers of assistance should be passed on to as no-one is in charge. No-one at the meeting was able to volunteer to organise the event. **Bryn Price** to contact the racing team.

## 7. Pool Sessions

Still ongoing. It would be good to have a few more people.

## 8. Fun Sessions

**Kathy Syplywczak** requested more help for currently fun sessions. A list was circulated and several people volunteered – thanks to those who did so. **Kathy Syplywczak** to post on the CDG email list to fill any remaining gaps.

## 9. Touring Award – feedback

**Mike Lambourne** is now able to offer this award to Club members, and plans to put some dates in the diary. **Larry O'Connell** to solicit feedback from the participants of the course.

**Mike Lambourne** related that some longer tow lines are needed. It is believed that the Club already has some of these, but the bo'sun can't locate them. **John Simmonds** to liaise with **Mike Lambourne** and **James Copeland** to either locate existing or replace.

## 10. Intro to WW

**Mark Corti** is trying to organise a date for this. The Flatwater Skills sessions to support this begin next week, but only a few people are signed up.

## 11. PSRC

Sammy Deans, Pirates Canoe Club, is unfortunately unable to run any PSRCs for us this year. He was again thanked for the sessions he ran for us last year.

**Mark Corti** has applied to become a PSRC provider but this is unlikely to be completed this year.

It was noted that **Michaela Wragg** is running a rescue refresher with games next year – this was again applauded, with several people mentioning they needed a refresher.

**Alan Nevard** related by email that his Paddle Safer course was going well and was definitely worthwhile, with even fairly experienced paddlers being unfamiliar with several basic techniques.

Discussion on whether to pay a professional coach to run these for us postponed until next meeting. It was noted that rescue training similar to the PSRC could be run by many coaches, although this could not then be certificated by BC.

## 12. Outstanding from Previous Meeting:

1. **Buckmore Park boats:** **Mark Corti** to ask **Paul Newman** for an update.
2. **T-Shirts:** (After the meeting **John Simmonds** related he would organise this)
3. **Open Day:** **Paul Fife** related that the committee had decided to run only one open day, but it is unclear whether a date has been decided. **Paul Fife** to find out and circulate the date if so.
4. **Bungs:** (After the meeting **John Simmonds** related that some bungs have been purchased. **Steve Chinn** passed on some cheaper alternatives).
5. **SUP ankle / waist leashes:** (After the meeting **John Simmonds** related he would print out copies of the BC infographic on this and put them up in the boatshed)
6. **First Aid Officer:** **Lisa Taylor** has agreed to be the new first aid officer and has engaged with the committee.

## 13. AOB

### 1. Expenses

A discussion was had around expenses for coaches, which has arisen due to coaches becoming qualified to deliver awards which are best delivered at locations away from the club. Expenses are therefore incurred travelling to the locations, and also for sundries used during courses (e.g. printing). Several points were made, summarised below.

1. Coaching is free at Maidstone Canoe Club.

2. In general, it was not thought unreasonable for members to pay expenses for courses where necessary.
3. Any expenses should go through the club – there shouldn't be any money directly transferred between members and coaches.
4. Coaches wishing to claim expenses should speak to the committee before running the course, with expected expenses agreed in advance. The expectation is that the committee would decide expenses for a particular type of course (e.g. Intro to Surfing), and then the costs would be split between the expected number of participants. The course would then be bookable and payable on the website as usual. Every future course of this type would be expected to cost the same – this is to avoid a situation where Coach A runs a particular course with some expenses, and then Coach B runs the same course at a different cost.
5. "Normal" expenses for courses run at or near the Club are not expected to be claimed. It was understood that claiming expenses would be the exception rather than the rule.

**Date of Next Meeting: June 15th**