

Agenda for the Coaching Development Group Meeting

15th June 2023



Present:

- Ian Dann, Kathy Splywczak, Mattt Clegg, Carolyn Hawkes, John Simmonds, Andrea Head, Steve Chinn, Paul Fife, Malcolm Crampton, Mark Corti, Mike Lambourne, Larry O'Connell, Martin Hall

Apologies

- Rob Davis, Annie Davis, Alan Nevard, Geoff Licence, Catherine Dacey, Michaela Wragg, Jon Lock, Anj Hill, Melissa Sullivan

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Beginner Courses

1. Feedback

All going well so far! Bookings are erratic – some courses oversubscribed, others less well attended. Weekend full-day course significantly more popular than other schedules.

2. New dates

The following people offered dates, either at the meeting or via email:

Paul Fife: 15th July, 14+, 8 people

Michaela Wragg: 5/6th August

Joel & Cameron Crampton: 16/23rd July OR 13/20th August

Jon Lock / Anj Hill: TBC

2. PAA Paddles

1. Doodle Poll

Catherine Dacey requested more instructors / PAAs / coaches to volunteer for Sunday paddles via the Doodle poll

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/egnvPBGd/vote>

2. Wednesday Paddles

Alan Nevard & Claire Bennett have added a few led paddles on Wednesday evenings but there is no regular PAA cover planned thus far.

3. Sunday Skills

Steve Chinn related that there was some interest from members in refreshing rusty basic skills that they had covered on beginner courses but perhaps not looked at since. **Steve Chinn** will find a date run one of these, Mark Corti to advertise on website and see how it goes – more can be run subsequently if there's demand.

3. Explore Courses

1. New Dates?

Alan Nevard currently has an Explore Course scheduled in July, with 7/8 spaces booked.

John Simmonds related that there was demand from junior club parents to be able to paddle independently while their offspring were frolicking, and an Explore Course would be welcome; also a couple of older children would be interested.

Mike Lambourne offered to run an Explore Course on Tuesday nights to coincide with Junior Club, 4 weeks starting 27th June. **Mark Corti** to cover week 2.

4. Junior Club

John Simmonds and **Kathy Sypliwczak** related that Junior Club is going really well, with around 30 children each night. Now split into ability groups, which works better but requires more coaches. Still enough volunteers; it was reiterated that the wider CDG could be called on for short-notice cover in the event of e.g. coach illness.

5. Racing

1. Police Cadets update

Bryn Price was not present, but it was related that this is currently happening. Helpers currently do not have DBS; **Catherine Dacey** to resolve this.

2. Young Offenders update

Bryn Price was not present, but it was related that we are waiting to see the prison's risk assessment, which the committee wants to see to ensure the safety of our coaches. Also consent forms must be stored at the Club. **Catherine Dacey** is liaising with **Bryn Price** to get all the paperwork in order.

3. Marathon feedback

General consensus that it went surprisingly well, given the lack of organisation apparent at the previous meeting. Lots of new volunteers from across the club, which was great to see. Thanks to everyone who pulled together to make it

happen.

6. Pool Sessions

Mark Corti related that these have been very poorly attended. Some discussion about finding another pool closer to the club, with the offer to organise this left open for volunteers. Pools need to be deep enough to roll but shallow enough to stand up in; also a coach (or rota of coaches) need to commit to regular attendance.

It was agreed to move the day from Tuesday to Thursday if possible, to avoid clashing with the popular Junior Club. **Mark Corti** to contact the pool and action.

7. River Festival

The River Festival committee have again asked Maidstone Canoe Club to provide on-water stewarding and safety cover for the raft race on 29th July. **Andrea Head** is organising this as she has previously. We have a copy of the River Festival risk assessment, and Andrea has prepared a risk assessment for us to keep our paddlers safe.

Andrea Head related that she has been informed our responsibilities are:

- shepherd rafts away from moored craft
- assist rafters back into their craft; or to the side; or onto the safety RIBs as appropriate
- provide support in case of injury or emergencies until the safety RIB can assist
- inspect rafts before launch, assist with launch
- loan club BAs as required and ensure they are correctly fitted

Approx 5 more volunteers are needed for the day; volunteers to have FSRT or equivalent skills. **Paul Fife, John Simmonds, Matt Clegg** all volunteered subject to checking diaries. **Mark Corti** to ask for more volunteers to contact **Andrea Head** directly.

John Simmonds to arrange MCC-logo'd hi viz jackets.

8. Fun Sessions

Kathy Syplywczak related that she has volunteers for all sessions, but would like an extra couple for 24th June for Borough Green Scouts. **Kathy Syplywczak** to mail CDG to ask.

9. Touring Award

Mike Lambourne related that there has been a surprisingly low takeup for the touring award he has planned starting July 10th. It's unclear why – there appeared to be demand for it previously, which is why the club arranged training for coaches. **Mark Corti & Mike Lambourne** to do more advertising; course to be cancelled on July 1st if no further takeup.

10. Medway Islands Permissions

Peel Ports have been communicating with **Catherine Dacey** regarding access to

the islands on the Medway Estuary which they own or manage. They have confirmed there is no permission for kayakers to land.

Rob Davis has communicated with the owner of Darnet Island and has secured permission for MCC to land on the island outside the bird breeding season; a request has been made not to cross the line of white posts into the wildfowl area.

Permission must be asked in advance from the owner Jim Gardner, jim@godstonehill.co.uk Usual rules of good conduct apply, specifically “leave no trace”, and all paddlers must have a valid British Canoeing membership (for insurance). It would also be appreciated if anyone landing on the island performed a brief litter pick while there, ideally documented with photographs.

A vote of thanks was made to **Rob Davis** for his efforts on behalf of the Club.

11. PSRC

Mark Corti has booked training to become a PSRC provider in July; it's unclear when he will be able to deliver courses.

Ian Dann and others suggested the Paddle Safer award as an intermediate award. It was confirmed that any instructor, coach or leader can deliver this award after completing an e-learning module.

12. Outstanding from Previous Meeting:

1. T-Shirts:

John Simmonds confirmed that the committee have agreed to provide t-shirts to all coaches, PAAs and instructors. **Mark Corti** to arrange order.

2. Open Day:

A date of July 1st has been set for this. All slots are now full. **Kathy Sypliwczak** agreed to act as co-ordinator.

3. Expenses update from committee

John Simmonds related that the committee have agreed to reimburse coaches for extraordinary expenses incurred solely through coaching. This to include mileage at 30p/mile. All expenses to be approved by committee beforehand; the committee will decide how much / whether to charge participants for courses. All monies to go through the club – no expenses should be paid directly to coaches.

13. AOB

1. **Mark Corti** related that there were currently no signups for the Intro to WW weekend, or the flatwater skills pre-requisite.
2. **Carolyn Hawkes** volunteered to train as a safety officer.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

24th August

