

Minutes of the Coaching Development Group Meeting

DATE



Present:

- Rowan Speers
- Mark Corti
- Paul Newman (partial)
- Niki Norman
- Bill Norman
- Jamie McConville
- Paul Tucker
- Richard Clark (partial)
- Brian Marston

Apologies

- Steve Chinn

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Feedback on Introductory Courses

Feedback forms are positive, with slightly lower scores for the “quality of equipment”. **Mark Corti** to put a poster up asking people to clean & dry boats after use, and buy sponges if necessary.

Courses are well received by participants and now appear to be generally accepted. Some ongoing issues which are being addressed.

It would be of benefit to be able to put people in K1s for the week 3 “alternative craft” session – **Paul Newman** to be contacted regarding dates by **Mark Corti**. Dean Jordan is also an option, although he is generally coaching the racing team.

2. New Dates / Cover for Introductory Courses

Mark Corti will run an Introductory Course on Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th September; **Rowan Speers** to check if he can assist.

Jamie McConville should be able to run an Introductory Course centring on canoeing on Sundays 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th – to confirm.

We are still short of one coach on **Sunday July 21st** – if anyone can assist, please contact **Bill Norman**.

A discussion was had regarding introductory courses over the winter. It was deemed inadvisable to run scheduled Wednesday-evening sessions due to the cold weather and water. It may be desirable to run more-condensed courses (e.g. a 2 x 1/2-day course) over the winter – this will be re-visited once we see the demand for the September sessions.

Paul Newman is running some courses for over-65s through the University of the Third Age (U3A). He has 19 people signed up and would like some assistance – dates to be confirmed, but likely to be Thursday evenings, starting perhaps on July 18th.

3. Coach Training

No-one present requires any updates.

Jamie McConville is taking his Level 2 course at Seapoint shortly, and would like to run some observed sessions subsequently to get signed off for e.g. 2* assessment.

Paul Newman offered to run a Racing Coach Module on **Saturday October 5th, 9am-5pm**. A number of those present expressed interest.

Paul Newman offered to run a Bell Boat Helm course in the autumn, dates to be confirmed.

It was agreed that we need more coaches to assist with both the Introductory Courses, and ongoing training within the Club (see later agenda item). **Bill Norman, Rowan Speers, Jamie McConville** and **Paul Tucker** all agreed to approach individuals and ask if they would be interested in becoming coaches. All others to put the word out also.

Mark Corti to put something in the newsletter to ask if anyone else is interested.

It was noted that this summer's Introductory Course graduates should be capable of becoming coaches by next summer if they worked over the winter.

4. Boatshed Keys for New Members

A number of people on the introductory courses have asked if they can have boatshed keys when they join the Club. A discussion was had regarding what standard should be expected of adult Club members taking Club boats out unsupervised. While this is for the Committee to decide, it was agreed that the CDG should make a recommendation. The recommendation was:

“that boatshed keys should only be offered to those new members who have completed the Introductory Course (or are at 1* equivalent standard), *and* who have undertaken some additional training, which should include self-rescue skills and an orientation to both the Club and the local river”.

It was further agreed to recommend that, even if members bring their own boats and store them at the Club, they should not get a key until they are at the above standard.

New members with paddling experience should be required to demonstrate this standard to a coach, or have a recognised qualification at this standard.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Ongoing Training after Introductory Courses

It was noted that the path for those who have completed the introductory courses and become members is not clear, and that there is a gap between the Introduction to Moving Water courses and the Introductory Courses which is not adequately filled. It was also thought that some explicit activity to integrate Introductory Course graduates into the Club was desirable, and to assist them making the transition to canoeing being a social activity rather than a learning experience. The following was agreed:

Niki Norman is going to run 2* training for those who want it on Wednesday evenings. This will not be a “course” per se, but ongoing training with assessments available when people have reached the required standard.

Bill Norman is going to run a weekend 2* training on September 7th & 8th, with assessment on September 28th.

Paul Tucker is going to look at running a couple of trips down from Tonbridge to Yalding (or similar), open to all but with particular emphasis on encouraging new members to attend.

Brian Marston is going to ask some experienced members to get involved in this.

Mark Corti is going to ensure that suitable trips in newsletters are targeted to new paddlers.

5.2 Course Costs

It was agreed that all training should be free for Club members, and that it would be recommended to the committee that all coaches priced their courses for non-members at the same level. The appropriate cost for non-members was agreed at £60 (which goes to the Club). *[It was noted in discussion subsequent to the meeting that this was intended to be applicable to courses 2* and above, and not when e.g. a private group is brought in to use the Club facilities]*

5.3 Coaching Standards & Peer Review

A discussion was had regarding this. It was agreed that it would be recommended to the committee that all coaches working at the Club should undertake regular peer-review, as part of professional development and maintaining and improving standards. Some record of this would have to be made. The original *raison d'être* of the CDG was to facilitate this. It was noted that the

introductory courses, which are typically coached by multiple people together, was working well for this, with both formal and informal debriefs being undertaken. **Bill Norman** to look again at the coaching standards document he previously prepared and circulate for comment.

It was agreed that over the winter months, a “coaching evening” would be held, where all Club coaches would present a short technique or session to the other coaches, to share knowledge and ideas.

5.4 Bell Boat

Individual opinions were sought on the utility of the Bell Boat, now it is on the water. No collective agreement was sought on this, and individual opinions expressed included:

- that it could be useful for open-boat training
- that it could be useful for “fun sessions”, particularly for SEN and younger paddlers
- that it was totally useless
- that better paddles were required to use it
- that more consideration should be given to its use as a coaching aid
- a couple of coaches are going to try it in the Introductory Course Session 3 as an “alternative craft”