

# Minutes of the Coaching Development Group Meeting

DATE



## ***Present:***

- Bill Norman
- Niki Norman
- Brian Marston
- Mark Corti
- Jamie McConville
- Julian Ackroyd
- Paul Tucker
- Rowan Speers
- Steve Chinn
- Paul Newman

## ***Apologies***

- Rod Stoddart
- Alan Nevard
- Lee Horton

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

### **1. Beginner Course Duration**

It was debated shortening the beginner sessions to 3 weeks. This is 6 hours contact time, the BCU recommended duration for 1\* courses. It would have the advantage of allowing us to run more courses, but after discussion it was felt that the disadvantages outweighed them.

**Decision: Stay at 4 weeks for now**

## **2. Beginner Course Costs**

It was debated whether the costs of the 4-week beginner courses should change. It was suggested that discounts could be given for family bookings; MJC advised that the current booking software does not allow this.

**Decision: Recommend to committee that course costs increase to £40 (£10 / session).**

## **3. Beginner Course Syllabus**

No suggestions were made to change the course syllabus.

**Decision: Keep syllabus the same as last year**

## **4. Moving Paddlers On**

Steve Chinn reported that ad hoc coaching happens during the regular Sunday paddle sessions, often led by him.

Some concern has been raised about beginner-course graduates not feeling confident to join in with the regular paddle sessions. **Steve Chinn** agreed to put his hand up before people get on the water and offer to lead those who were less confident, so they knew there was support available.

Niki Norman reported that the 2\* course run towards the end of last season was a success – this was echoed by others. **Niki Norman** agreed to run ongoing 2\* training on Wednesday evenings, probably starting 1 month after the first beginner session. **Jamie McConville** expressed an interest in helping when he could. **Steve Chinn** and others involved in ad-hoc training on Sundays to identify people who might be ready for assessment, and perhaps coach towards 2\* where appropriate during the regular paddle. It was noted that **Lee Horton** also ran a number of 2\* events.

It was noted that the uptake on the Intro to Moving Water course last year wasn't as much as hoped, and a couple of possible reasons suggested:

- perhaps it was “too much, too soon”. The Nene was a success, but Nottingham may have been a step too far for some
- beginner-course graduates were not ready for it. It's hoped that the 2\*, and ad-hoc training, will address this skills gap.

Meridian Canoe Club are hoping to encourage whitewater paddlers, so it may be possible to do some kind of joint training or trips. **Mark Corti** has made the offer in general terms, and will report back if they seem enthusiastic.

**Bill Norman** to organise one Intro to Moving Water date, with more hopefully to follow depending on demand.

It was also noted that Lee Valley offers cheap, local moving-water training, and we could perhaps facilitate people taking advantage of this, by offering or organising lift-shares etc.

## 5. Guest Coach

Bill Norman advised that Mary, a Level 3 coach who paddles with WAM, is keen to keep her hand in at coaching and would like to run some beginner sessions for us. There would be no cost to the Club. Since her insurance is provided by the BCU, there is no issue with her not being a member; it may be possible to offer her free membership. **Bill Norman** to contact Mary; invite her to CDG meeting; add her to the mailing list, with her permission; and hopefully arrange for some dates for her to coach beginner sessions.

## 6. Peer Review Document

Bill Norman circulated for comment a document to be used for coach peer review (see minutes of previous meeting). Some coaches have already agreed to offer each other peer review – it's suggested that others arrange the same.

**Decision: Peer Review document (attached) agreed.**

## 7. Coach Development Day

Jamie McConville floated the idea of a “staff development day” and this was agreed desirable. Agreement was not reached on exactly what this would comprise, and there were varying opinions as to whether it would be optimal to get an external coach in to deliver it. Brian Marston felt that the committee was likely to support some money towards an external coach, if a good case was made. **Decision: This will be revisited next meeting.**

In the meantime, it was agreed that **Mark Corti** would organise a date for the coaches to go out and paddle together. Those that wanted to would deliver a 10-minute session, with the remainder role-playing students and subsequently offering feedback.

## 8. New Coaches

Julian Ackroyd offered to assist with the beginner sessions, particularly on Wednesdays, and is keen to do a Level 1 coaching qualification. There is committee funding available for this, although it will not cover the whole amount. **Niki Norman** offered to assess for the pre-requisite 2\*; **Paul Newman** offered to run a pre-requisite FSRT, for Julian and others. **Jamie McConville** to liaise with **Paul Newman** regarding FSRT for Jamie's college students.

**Mark Corti** to assemble list of upcoming local Level 1 courses and post to website, for Julian and other interested parties.

## **9. 3\* Courses**

**Paul Newman** said he will run 3\* courses for touring, sea paddling, and open boats, dates tbc.  
**Steve Chinn** left the meeting at this point.

## **10. Dates for 2014 Beginner Courses**

There was a discussion about how many correctly-sized boats we could reasonably supply, and a consensus was reached, with the suggestion we speak to Richard Clark (Bo'sun) for input also.

**Decision: Max 16 beginners in kayaks, plus max 8 beginners in opens**

Many people kindly volunteered their time to run beginner courses in 2014, both tonight and via email. Dates on separate sheet.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

**Decision: 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2014**