

Minutes of the Coaching Development Group Meeting

12th August 2014



Present:

- Jamie McConville
- Richard Abbott
- Bill Norman
- Paul Newman
- Paul Tucker
- Richard Clark
- Ian Dann
- Rowan Speers
- Julian Ackroyd
- Mary Cutts

Apologies

- Niki Norman
- Rob Payne
- Lawrence Payne
- Steve Chinn
- Alan Nevard

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Site-specific Training

Ian Dann has completed his site-specific training with Paul Newman

2. Coaches feedback from courses

Lots of discussion surrounding this, summarised into a few topics thus:

A) There are occasional problems with mixed age-range groups, either due to one (or more) particularly problematic children, or a lack of balance between adults and children. This is hard to address for a couple of reasons:

- we don't have enough children to run regular kids-only courses
- we don't want to mandate parental attendance on the course, as it excludes those whose parents can't or won't attend

There are a couple of ways issues can be mitigated, which are:

- MJC to try and keep an eye on how many children are signing up. Specific to one recent course, a group of 5 related children attended, which skewed the balance. It would have been preferable to have these 5 on their own course.
- Try to ensure there is at least one competent helper for the first session (always good anyway), and preferably 2.
- Don't be afraid to ask for assistance for subsequent weeks if you feel it will be beneficial for the group (either from coaches or competent helpers). Being able to split the group up into a couple of sections, or having a helper dedicated to assisting the more challenging person, would solve the problem

B) It's absolutely essential to make sure you have a helper for session 1. We've been relying on someone "just being around", which has so far worked really well – Club members have been fantastically supporting – but on one session the coach was caught short, and couldn't find anyone to assist. As we know, the start to session 1 is fairly chaotic at the best of times, trying to sort paperwork, cash and boats, and we need to make sure there's definitely someone around to help.

C) The 2-day courses were a huge success and should be repeated.

D) A repeated theme was that these courses just wouldn't be possible without the assistance of a great many people – not just the coaches who put their name to them. Every coach who has run a course mentioned the people who assisted – it's much appreciated by everyone.

3. Monthly “Special Events”

Richard Abbott is coordinating these, and reported as follows:

- -The Games Night run by **Mary Cutts** was a huge success – good mix of adults and children and loads of fun had by all. Definitely worth a repeat.
- **Lawrence Payne** is running the next one, an intro to playboating, on Wednesday 13th August. **Bill Norman** volunteered to bring a playboat.
- **Curly Barker & Mrs Barker** [apologies] have offered to run a polo session, and the date is pencilled in for September 10th. **Richard Abbott** to put details on calendar.

4. Coaches' Paddle

Bill Norman relayed that **Niki Norman** is speaking to **Dean Jordan**, and is trying to get a date pinned down.

Julian Ackroyd suggested that a session on rescue skills would be worthwhile, particularly while the water is still an acceptable temperature! **Mary Cutts** agreed to run part of this, and date agreed for September 2nd at the slightly later time of 6:30pm.

5. Improver's Session

Richard Abbott is planning to start these in September and is speaking to **Niki Norman** also. (This item follows on from discussion on rebranded 2* sessions from last meeting)

6. CRB/DBS

Julian Ackroyd, **Jamie McConville** and **Rowan Speers** all to contact **Catherine Dacey** (welfare@maidstonecanoeclub.net) to get their CRB/DBS sorted out. **Mark Corti** said that he had relayed **Paul Newman's** position on his CRB to the Club committee and they were considering it. Also that **Lawrence Payne** should perhaps consider getting a CRB if he hasn't already, given the huge amount of assistance he is generously giving to the Club.

7. Leed's Castle Triathlon Event

Bill Norman related that it was a big success and passed on thanks for all the help. Several “first roll in the moat” records were claimed!

8. Go Canoeing – Come & Try Day

Bill Norman is organising an open day at the Club for members of the public to come down and try

canoeing, hopefully to then join one of the beginner sessions. This will be **10am-3pm, Saturday September 13th**.

PLEASE COME AND HELP!

He has asked **Chris Moon** to organise a barbecue, similar to the one successfully held at the Marathon.

Mark Corti to liaise with Bill to get the information on the website, and also to send a copy of the poster to all coaches with these minutes.

The format is still to be finalised, but is likely to include a group out in kayaks, a group in the Giant Yellow Canoe, and a group in the Bell Boat, rotating as necessary.

The following people volunteered to come down and help:

Jamie McConville

Mark Corti

Bill Norman

Ian Dann

Julian Ackroyd

Niki Norman

Paul Tucker

But more are needed! Please come down if you can.

9. Beginner Course Syllabus

[Discussion postponed until end of season]

10. Beginner Course Dates

The following dates were volunteered – as always, huge thanks to everyone who is able to help out:

Mark Corti: Wednesday September 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

Jamie McConville: Wednesday August 27th September 17th (later time of 6pm for 6:30pm session 1 & 4)

Rowan Speers: Wednesday September 3rd and 10th (sessions 2 & 3 of Jamie's dates above)

Rowan Speers: Sunday September 7th (session 1)

Ian Dann: Sunday September 14th, 21st, 28th (Session 2,3&4 of Rowan's date above)

Bill Norman: Weekend course, dates tbc but after the “come and try” day

11. Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting should be the end-of-season social, in a pub! **10th October, 8pm, at the White Rabbit Pub in Maidstone.** Please come if you can – not just for CDG, but anyone who you think might be interested, plus of course your better halves!