

Minutes of the Coaching Development Group Meeting

24th February, 2015



Present:

- Lee Horton
- Mark Corti
- Steve Chinn
- Ian Dann
- Richard Clark
- Niki Norman

Apologies

- Paul Newman
- Paul Tucker
- Julian Ackroyd
- Bill Norman
- Jamie McConville

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Coach Updates

Steve Chinn's First Aid is out of date, but he can get it renewed through work.

Ian Dann plans to get his 1* assessor paperwork sorted out with the BCU

Niki Norman thinks her first aid is expiring in the next 12 months, but will check.

No need to organise any courses etc. at this time.

2. Beyond 1*

A discussion on how best to support people who have done their 1* and want to improve. Noted that the Club now has a record number of members, so last year's work was a success and needs to be built on.

- Noted that the upcoming Beginner's Whitewater trip organised by **Bill & Niki Norman** is extremely well-supported, so previous efforts in this direction have perhaps been more successful than we believed.

- Further Intro to Whitewater trips/training to be thought about after this upcoming trip, probably led by **Bill & Niki Norman** since they are the best-qualified to do so.

- **Lee Horton** has put together a program of training for Wednesdays & Sundays during the summer, including some 2* training and some “improver” training with no assessment goals. Agreed this was worthwhile; several people offered to help on an ad-hoc basis – **Richard Abbott** (via email), **Niki Norman**, and others.

- Lee Valley trip to be moved to second Thursday in the month rather than first, to make it more accessible. **Mark Corti** to do.

- Noted that **Steve Chinn** (and later **Ian Dann**) putting their hands up for beginners on Sundays was a success, with some good feedback.

- It was thought that running fairly local day-trips to easy rivers would really encourage 1*-beginners (and others) to paddle more, by showing them what else there was to do in paddlesport without having to make the commitment to a whole weekend away. The outline plan is to get a variety of different people to organise trips on the 2nd Sunday of every month between May & September (flexible), with one person co-ordinating to ensure it happens. **Mark Corti** to try and find someone to co-ordinate this.

3. Leeds Castle Triathlon

Niki Norman related that the date for this was 27th/28th June. Some discussion that only competent paddlers should help on this, which is in hand. A very successful and fun weekend last year; volunteers needed. **Steve Chinn** and **Ian Dann** volunteered at this time; more to be found nearer the time.

4. Equipment

Richard Clark suggested that an application could be made to the Committee for some extra equipment. Noted that fewer complaints made on feedback forms about equipment in 2014 compared to 2013. Agreed to request:

- 2 x Mamba-style boats (small & medium), which are fantastic for progression paddlers and also good general-purpose boats
- buoyancy blocks for one further canoe (one canoe already has them)

5. Coach Paddle

Niki Norman agreed to find someone (possibly Leanne, if she's willing) to do a session on how to coach in racing boats to assist us during the beginner sessions.

Date: Thursday 7th May, 7pm

6. Beginner Courses

- Brief discussion on how to distinguish canoe courses from kayak courses, after confusion last year. Agreed to put a photo of the correct boat on the calendar entry.
- Reminder of discussion last year that it might be helpful for coaches running a session to ensure they have at least one assistant, particularly for the first session as this is always a faff.
- **Jamie McConville** (via email) said that some of his students (2* standard) would like to help out on beginner courses to gain experience. To follow up once dates agreed
- **Steve Chinn** offered to help out on some courses also, as did **Ian Dann** depending on work timings

Dates agreed as attached in separate document – thanks to everyone who was able to volunteer.

- **Niki Norman** to confirm dates (please see sheet)
- **Jamie McConville** to confirm dates (via email; please see sheet)
- **Mark Corti** to do poster for Kent Canoes

7. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 31st March 7pm