

# Minutes of the Coaching Development Group Meeting

31<sup>st</sup> March 2015



## ***Present:***

- Mark Corti
- Richard Abbott
- Ian Dann
- Ben Watts
- Mary Cutts
- Paul Newman
- Nike Norman
- Richard Clarke
- Julian Ackroyd

## ***Apologies***

- Steve Chinn
- Bill Norman
- Jamie McConville

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

### **1) Chair**

**Mark Corti** offered the chair of the CDG to others; no takers, Mark remains chair.

### **2) CDG representation on the main Club Committee**

**Ian Dann** and **Niki Norman** are both on the Committee and offered to represent the CDG on it.

### **3) Coach Updates spreadsheet**

The coaching update spreadsheet was passed around to update personal first aid details, coach update details, etc.

**Ian Dann** relayed that UKCC Level 1 coaches are now required to undertake child welfare training. **Mark Corti** to investigate and perhaps ask Lyn Barker (Club member and regional PDO) to run such a course for us.

#### 4) Beginner sessions

**Richard Abbott** offered to run a course on Wednesdays starting July 8th

**Ben Watts** offered to help out on courses, particularly Wednesday nights starting in May

Mark Corti said that course uptake has been slow, and the first 2 courses in April have been cancelled. Some discussion regarding potential reasons for this; perhaps starting before Easter isn't helping. Several people have already put posters up; others offered to do so.

#### 5) Cost of coaching for members

A poster advertising 2\* courses for £10 has been put up. It was reiterated that it is long-standing Club policy that coaching is free to members; **Mark Corti** to query this with Lee Horton, the coach for this course.

#### 6) Refresher Session

**Niki Norman** suggested running a "refresher" session for people who have completed a beginner course but not paddled much since. agreed this was a great idea. **Niki Norman** and **Bill Norman** will run this on 25th April, 2-4pm. **Mark Corti** to organise online sign ups and promote this via website and email.

#### 7) "Consolidation" Group

**Steve Chinn's** work in acting as a point of contact for new members on Sunday mornings was again praised. The aim of this is to support people coming from the Beginner's Courses, but who aren't quite confident enough to join in the regular paddle to the Malta without further supervision. **Niki Norman** suggested formalising this, by firstly having a name, and secondly a very visible meeting point. Accordingly it was agreed to call this the "Consolidation Group", and to use the Maidstone Canoe Club flags as the visible meeting point. **Mary Cutts, Julian Ackroyd** and **Ian Dann** offered to help lead this group, as Steve Chinn can't always make it. The eventual aim is to spread the word among all experienced paddlers so that the load can be shared - someone different can stand by the flag every week.

**Niki Norman** to retrieve flags and store in the Clubhouse.

**Richard Clarke** to organise a stand for the flag so it can easily be erected on Sunday Mornings.

**Richard Abbott** offered to take this role on Wednesday evenings and run the "Consolidation Group" then, starting after the first beginner course has ended.

## 8) Refresher Rescue Session

**Niki Norman** suggested running a refresher rescue session, for experienced paddlers to brush up on their rescue skills to encourage them and build confidence to take leadership roles, both with the "Consolidation Group" and elsewhere. Agreed this was a good idea, but would be more popular later in the year. **Deferred to next meeting.**

## 9) Monthly Away Trips

**Niki Norman** agreed after the last meeting to co-ordinate the planned monthly away trips to local rivers. Rivers and dates are now planned, and will go on the website shortly.

**We need someone to lead the May 16th trip** on the Rother - please contact Niki if you can help with this, or can think of anyone who could. Any experienced paddlers would be capable of doing this.

**Paul Newman** agreed to run the August 16th trip.

## 10) Medway "Bitesize Chunks"

**Paul Newman** suggested that some of the proposed away trips were a little too much for very new paddlers, but that the Medway offered a number of different trips in areas seldom paddled by the Club.

**Agreed** this was an excellent idea; dates to be announced on an ad-hoc basis by any coach happy to run one; roughly 2 weeks notice to be given, more if possible.

**Mark Corti** to promote these trips on a general basis, to remind people to look out for them on the website.

**Mark Corti** also reminded everyone that they can promote trips themselves by submitting news items to the site, or emailing him to request it.

## 11) Online trip signups

**Niki Norman** requested a mechanism for offering online signups for trips and activities.

**Mark Corti** to implement this; to be trialled for the Refresher Course, and refined as necessary until ready for public launch. **Ben Watts** to contact Mark Corti with details, on how this is done at his climbing club.

## 12) Cork boards in boat shed

The CDG requests that the Committee fund cork boards inside the boat shed doors to put up posters to promote trips. These need to be covered in Perspex or similar so the posters don't get wet when it rains and the doors are open.

## 13) Progression to 2\* and 3\*

Some discussion was had about the best way to provide this. Not everyone wants a "badge". **Mary Cutts** and **Richard Abbott** are keen to get involved in coaching more

advanced paddlers, and offered to help Lee Horton on his sessions.

It was noted that best practice is for students for these awards are assessed by a different coach than the one who coached them; we have the resources to do this as a Club.

**Agreed** that we would try and do this for the currently-planned 2\* sessions, and this would definitely happen for all future sessions.

## 14) Coaches Paddle - Race Boats

**Niki Norman** will arrange one of the experienced active members of the Maidstone Racing Team to help run this, date as agreed previously (**May 7th**).

## 15) Monthly Events

Last year, the events organised by **Richard Abbott** (polo, games nights, etc.) got extremely good feedback. Richard agreed to continue with this this year.

## 16) Pool Sessions

**Lee Horton** is unable to make the May pool session. No-one else was able to cover it, so this session will be cancelled.

**Update** subsequent to the meeting, Mark Corti spoke to Lee and confirmed that the only qualification required to run a pool session was to have a Level 2 coach present; the coach must show a copy of their coaching certificate to the pool management. This may be useful in future.

## 17) SUP Session

Agreed that a “come and try” session for SUPs would be enjoyable and probably popular. Hannah Ramsay (club member) is supported by Loco SUP, but they are based up North and it's only worth their while to come down if they're going to sell a couple of boards. On balance, we're not confident of being able to guarantee this.

**Mark Corti** to ask Hannah Ramsay to organise a session using locally-available SUPs, if possible. **Mary Cutts** may be able to access some; **Ben Watts** thinks that Leybourne Lakes may have some; and Kent Canoes may have some.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

**14<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm**