

# Minutes of the Coaching Development Group Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> May 2015



## ***Present:***

- Richard Abott
- Ian Dann
- Mark Corti
- Rowan Speers
- Julian Ackroyd
- Niki Norman

## ***Apologies***

- Steve Chinn
- Mary Cutts
- Jamie McConville
- Alison Slater-Williams
- Lee Horton
- Richard Clarke
- Bill Norman

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

### **1. Child Protection Training**

Following on from the previous meeting, it has been confirmed that all Level 1 coaches working independently require Child Protection Training. This course costs approx £50 per person, and is widely available locally. It is too expensive to run at the Club.

- **Mark Corti** to circulate a list of dates for local courses
- **Mark Corti** to get confirmation from the Committee that they will fund this course for all coaches who need it
- All coaches to have completed the course within 6 months (i.e. by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015)

## 2. Refresher Sessions

**Niki Norman** reported many people simply didn't turn up for this, and suggested charging a small amount (£5) for future courses to encourage “commitment” from participants. The weather contributed to a high drop-out rate, but it was productive for those that did. It was decided not to run another in the immediate future, but it should be run next year.

## 3. Refresher Rescue Session

As per previous minutes. Deferred to next meeting, when it warms up.

## 4. Monthly Away Trips

Geoff Orford has kindly agreed to run the next one, to the Rother – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

## 5. Photo & Video Galleries

It was mentioned there were missing photo galleries (**Julian Ackroyd**), and the video galleries had problems (**Ian Dann**). **Mark Corti** to look into it and fix.

## 6. SUP Come-and-Try

**Mark Corti** to speak to Hannah Ramsay and try to book this in for one Sunday morning, assuming we can get craft. See previous minutes.

## 7. Sit-on-top Session

**Julian Ackroyd** suggested running a session aimed at the growing number of SOT paddlers, to try and recruit them into the Club. Perhaps get Kent Canoes to organise this, with us providing the venue, tea, coffee & safety cover? **Mark Corti** to contact KC (*Update: asked Julian if he can*)

## 8. Wet Boats

**Lee Horton** requested that a message from **Bill Norman** be passed on, that boats were being put away with water in them, and asking all coaches to make sure boats were clean & dry before storage.

## 9. Children's Courses

It was suggested by **Richard Clarke** (via **Ian Dann**) that we should run a children-only course. It was agreed we'd try to run a daytime course during the summer holidays – perhaps 4 x 2-hour sessions on consecutive days – if we can get the coaches. **Mark Corti** may be available; **Mary Cutts** was suggested in her absence, depending on her shifts; **Ian Dann** may be able to help with enough notice; and **Julian Ackroyd** can also perhaps help for a day or two. Agreed that we needed some consistency of coaches for this course – at the very least, coaches need to overlap rather than being unknown to the children (e.g. one coach to do sessions 1&2, another sessions 2&3). **Niki Norman** relayed summer holiday dates of 24<sup>th</sup> July - 2<sup>nd</sup> September. **Mark Corti** to speak to **Mary Cutts**.

## 10. Open Day Feedback

This was a success; fun had by all. The Topo Duo got some good use. Roughly 6 Beginner Course signups in the week immediately afterwards.

## 11. Equipment

**Niki Norman** suggested we had too few bigger boats; no-one else had an opinion on this.

**Richard Abbott** pointed out what a good coaching tool the Topo Duo was, and it was agreed by all that it got good use at the Open Day; it would be good for families to use in lieu of taking out a canoe; and good for moving water training. It would be “nice to have”.

## 12. Coaches Paddle

**Niki Norman** was thanked for organising the last coaches paddle. The next one will be in canoes, and is scheduled for **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm**, immediately before the next CDG meeting.

## 13. Coach Charging for Courses

**Mark Corti** circulated an excerpt from the minutes of the last Club Committee Meeting, dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015, which outlines a new policy with regard to coaches charging for courses. (These minutes are available on the website). This new policy overturns long-standing custom at the Club, as well as the CDG's recommendation (under the chairmanship of **Bill Norman**) to the committee on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013. The new policy explicitly allows **Lee Horton** to charge Club members directly for coaching, where he is offering “higher level courses”, to allow him to invest in new

qualifications. *(It was assumed that this offer would also be open to other coaches offering “higher level courses”, although the policy does not say this. **Lee Horton** is currently charging for 2\* courses, so it was assumed that all courses of 2\* or above were “higher level”)*

After much discussion, the following text was agreed by the CDG:

*“While the Committee continues to financially support coaches in their training, the CDG reiterates that it believes that coaching should be free to members. The only exception to this is in the specific circumstance where a real cost is incurred in the delivery of the course - for instance, where a course cannot be delivered at the Club and the coach incurs travel costs – but not including equipment or coach training costs. The CDG feels that this policy devalues the contribution of all those who contribute to Club coaching and activities; and further, that the principle of money going to coaches for coaching Club members is absolutely wrong and contrary to the voluntary ethos of the Club. The CDG requests that the Committee reconsider this policy.”*

**Mark Corti** also related that he would not be offering any further coaching at the Club under the current policy.

## 14. Beginner Course Dates

There are currently 2 spaces left on beginner courses for the remainder of the year. A request was made for new dates to be offered.

**Niki Norman** related that **Bill Norman** might be willing to run a 2-day course on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June and would confirm.

**Jamie McConville** would like to run a canoe courses starting on 21<sup>st</sup> June, and requested cover for his current kayak course on the same dates. **Ian Dann** offered to cover 21<sup>st</sup> June; **Rowan Speers** offered to cover 12<sup>th</sup> July; **Mark Corti** to try and arrange cover for 28<sup>th</sup> June & 5<sup>th</sup> July. *Update: Alan Nevard agreed to cover these sessions.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 7:30pm**

**(Immediately after the coaches paddle at 6pm)**