

Minutes from CDG meeting Wednesday 9th March 2016

Present at meeting: Ben, Lee, Andy, Richard, Mark, Steve, Jez, John, Mary, Paul N, Niki

Apologies: Brian, Bryn, Richard, Ian

- Elect a new chair person.

This was discussed and left until the next meeting, after the AGM.

- Consider the length and the cost of the one star introductory courses.

It was decided to leave the courses at four weeks. Some shorter courses will be offered at weekends, but all will give at least six hours coaching. It was decided to recommend to the committee that we increase the cost of courses this year to £60 for adults and £40 for children. This is to reflect the quality of the courses on offer and the price of similar courses on offer in the area.

- When we want to start this year's one star courses?

The first course will start on Wednesday April 27th.

- Make a list when courses will be run and who will coach them. Please bring your diaries.

Mark: Wednesdays, 27th April to 18th May (Andy to cover May 11th)

Lee: Sundays, 1st May to Sunday 22nd May

Mary: Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th May, 9am to 1pm

- Do we want to arrange any peer coaching sessions? Yes!

Forward paddling - May 17th All to share coaching tips and games.

Meet at 6.30pm for paddle, 8pm for CDG meeting

Coaching children - Tuesday 21st June. Mary to lead. Meet at 6.30pm for paddle, 8pm for CDG meeting

- Review the success of the away day trips and decide whether we want to continue offering these.

These were hugely successful last year and will be organised again. Niki will organise the monthly Sunday away day trips and Paul will organise trips to explore different sections of the Medway.

- Stand Up Paddleboards - update

Steve, Bill and Niki all attended the BCU Stand Up Paddleboard module. Bill has approached Lynn Barker about how to apply for a grant to purchase boards. The club has agreed to buy two boards but this will not really be practical if you have a coach on one board and one beginner on the other.

- Paddler age

Lee raised the issue of the age that paddlers can start paddling at the club, as he has been coaching a six-year-old girl at the pool, and he was concerned that our current age limit of eight (which he had seen on our website) would prevent her from paddling with the rest of her family.

A discussion followed, with several coaches saying that they would not be happy with taking children under eight out on the Medway. It was recognised that there does need to be a cut-off point, but that not all children are the same, and some six year olds may be much more able to cope with all the additional risks a river presents than others.

This led on to someone pointing out that under 18's are being dropped off on a Sunday morning, when there isn't always someone there to take responsibility for them. These youngsters not always being looked out for on the water. The club has a duty of care towards these youngsters and this needs further discussion to resolve this.

- AOB

Coaches were reminded that they should only be using the boats with "Club Boat" stickers.

Mark kindly said that he is happy to continue to administer the courses and the money side of things on the website. Phew!

- Date of the next meeting

I think we said that we would leave the next meeting until the first Peer Paddle. However, as we didn't resolve the problem of youngsters being dropped off on Sundays, and Mary has been in touch with several concerns that have been raised by the age of paddling, which I will include below so you can start thinking about them. I suggest a new date of Wednesday 20th April at 8pm to discuss children paddling at MCC, where we will discuss the following issues:

- At what age can parents drop their children off and pick them up at the end of the club session? Do they have to stay around up to a certain age?
- Who is responsible for children on general club paddles?
- Do we have available emergency contact numbers for parents on a club paddles?
- What guidelines do we need to put in place for coaches taking out younger paddlers?

Please feel free to raise any other concerns regarding paddling with and coaching under 18s.

I think we should also ask our club Child Protection Officer, the Youth Officer and the club Youth Representative, once we know who they are, after the AGM.

Bring your diaries please - we will need to book more courses!