



Coaching Development Group – Meeting Minutes

26th February 2019

Attendees: Mary Cutts (Chair), Wally Shave, Rob Davies, Annie Newport-Davies, John Simmonds, Ewan Simmonds, Paul French, Paul Newman, Mark Corti, Richard Clarke.

Apologies: Steve Chinn, Ian Dann

The CDG are happy for Mary Cutts to continue as Chairperson.

Course Dates:

Beginners courses – Starting again from early April '19, Annie and Mark are running initial courses, but can coaches please look at their diaries and book some dates with Mark.

Other Courses -

Paddle Explore Award (2 Star) -

Annie and Mark are going to run a Paddle Explore Award (2 Star) for club members.

Mary is happy to run bespoke Paddle Explore Awards.

Introduction to Sea Kayaking -

Rob suggested running an introduction to Sea Kayaking course, which he is happy to run.

Beginners Paddles -

Annie had a lot of success on her beginners paddling trips last year, encouraging those who had just completed beginner's courses to come and do some easy trips. She is continuing with these for 2019.

Introduction to Whitewater-

Trips run so far in 2018/19 have been a great success, and the team wish to continue to encourage people into whitewater – Mark, Mary and Paul F will be discussing a year's programme and what trips are going to be run next.

Lee has a lot of courses running throughout the year, FSRT, First Aid, Explore Awards, Touring Awards.

Discussion

Beginners Courses & New BC Awards

British Canoeing have bought out their new Personal Performance Awards in Jan 19. The Paddle Start and Paddle Discover Awards are their introductory awards. The CDG felt that although the discover award includes less than the old one star, the MCC Beginners course should remain in most part the same as this is teaching participants to the level that MCC wants their members to

initially be.

The discussion continued as to whether we actually need participants to complete the award and whether MCC should just create it's own award, but it was felt that continuing with the BC awards made the course suitable for anyone, whether or not their intention was to join the club after the course. And it was felt a good thing to be running BC Awards through the club.

Fees + Certificates

Last year Beginners Course fees were:

£60 Adult

£40 Children

This seems a reasonable amount, cheaper than other more commercially run places (Mote Park Waterports run it for £72). The CDG felt that this is a good price for the course. But it is up to the committee to set prices.

Certificates for the BC Award now need to be completed on the go canoeing website and paid for directly by the coach/ provider. (Rather than the old system of pass slips and the participant paying for their award). The Certificates are £6.

The CDG discussed that adding £5 to the course fees and stating this was a BC certification fee, would be the best route.

Discussion with the committee surrounding fees and how coaches go about paying BC for these certificates is needed.

E-Learning + Coach Qualifications

Mary reminded coaches about the importance of completing their BC e-learning to remain current. It is £15 for a coach to complete. Link to e-learning:

<https://www.britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk/new-personal-performance-awards/>

Mary questioned how the club knows that a coach is current and actually has the qualifications they say they do, and whether their needs to be a database of coaching qualifications.

Mark felt this would create too much work and would always be out of date, but was willing to contact BC prior to a coach running a course, to find out their coaching status. CDG agreed this was the best course of action.

Coaches to check their own status on their BC Membership page

[https://britishcanoeing.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f%3futm_source](https://britishcanoeing.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f%3futm_source%3dBCTopNav%26utm_medium%3dSignIn%26utm_campaign%3dMembership&utm_source=BCTopNav&utm_medium=SignIn&utm_campaign=Membership)

[%3dBCTopNav%26utm_medium%3dSignIn%26utm_campaign](https://britishcanoeing.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f%3futm_source%3dBCTopNav%26utm_medium%3dSignIn%26utm_campaign%3dMembership&utm_source=BCTopNav&utm_medium=SignIn&utm_campaign=Membership)

[%3dMembership&utm_source=BCTopNav&utm_medium=SignIn&utm_campaign=Membership](https://britishcanoeing.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f%3futm_source%3dBCTopNav%26utm_medium%3dSignIn%26utm_campaign%3dMembership&utm_source=BCTopNav&utm_medium=SignIn&utm_campaign=Membership)

Risk Assessment

Due to the running of courses for members of the public, Mary felt it was important that the club have Risk Assessment for the Beginners Courses, which focuses more on coach assessment and on

the water risks, than the generic club risk assessment.

Mary has written a risk assessment for Beginners Courses, the CDG agreed that this was suitable and now it needs to be agreed by the committee.

Female only courses

Mary asked the CDG if there were any objections to running a female only beginners course, due to trying to increase MCC female members. Only one objection who asked if we could also run male only courses, the rest of the CDG said it would be a positive step and it was agreed.

Progression from beginner courses

Again it was discussed that there is a lack of progression from beginner courses and that coming from a beginners course to a general club session can be quite nerve wracking. There was a discussion on having an experienced paddler rota, so beginners have someone they can initially paddle with who looks after them. Steve Chinn was doing a good job of waiting around for beginners, but it was felt that this shouldn't fall down to one member of the team. The experienced paddler should have an FSRT as a minimum and feel confident taking beginners.

Other progression discussed was Paddle Explore Awards, Beginners Paddles, Introduction to sea kayaking and Whitewater Kayaking,

Equipment

John discussed the feeling of the committee with regards to equipment is one, where the club provides enough equipment to allow members to start in the sport, but as members progress they should be buying their own.

Some touring boats have been purchased – The CDG felt that this was not something they asked for and is of little use to them, but presumably Lee wanted them so he could run touring courses.

Helmets – Mary has a concern about the current helmets available for club use, as PPE- when were they purchased and that they seem in poor condition. If we have helmets for use they should be in better condition. It was discussed that helmets in the store are for use when playing games and running Medway Canoe Shoots, and not really for Whitewater or Sea Kayaking which would fall into the category of progression.

Mary questioned if we are running introduction to whitewater/ sea kayaking courses we can't necessarily expect all equipment to be purchased straight away and maybe the club should have 4 or 5 helmets (of different sizes) available, stored in a different location would be a good idea. To be taken to the committee.

AOB – None

Peer Coaching – To be continued in 2019

Next Meeting – Tuesday 30th April 2019