

**Blackwater Valley Canoe Club  
Committee Meeting Minutes – 14 March 2011**

**1. Attendees**

Lindsay Heeley	Chris Heeley
Ian Morris	Damian Edwards
Graham Snook	Bob Hamilton
Mike Hamilton	

**2. Apologies**

Matt Williams

**Matters Arising**

**3. Trip Dates**

Trips and dates for this year were discussed. The following is a list of proposed dates, some of which have locations, others are TBC. Also included is a list of possible trip locations:

Date	Location	Notes
9 Apr 2011	Thames?	Flat water day trip suitable for all
28-30 May 2011	North Wales?	Bank holiday weekend white water trip?
4/5 Jun 2011	TBC	TBC
11 Jun 2011	Nene	Paddlepower Event
10 Jul 2011	Pangbourne Regatta	Fun event for all?
23/24 Jul 2011	TBC	TBC
27-29 Aug 2011	TBC	Possible surfing trip?
17/18 Sep 2011	Lee Valley	Visit to Olympic course (day trip – exact details depend on opening times etc.) Also requires ‘test paddle’ before club trip
29/30 Oct 2011	Barle	Depends on accommodation availability
19/20 Nov 2011	Dart	White water trip – Ability level depends on available coaches
	Upper Wye	
	Wye	
	Upper Severn	
	Mole	Possible trial run with B3C
	Lakes	

The possibility of an additional (white water) trip specifically for the juniors was also discussed – check at general meeting what they actually want/whether parents are happy to help.

**4. Taster Sessions**

It was agreed that as with previous years, we would offer a limited (dependent on coach availability) number of taster sessions to local groups (e.g. Scouts) on Thursday evenings and where possible try to align these with other activities such as rolling sessions to make best use of the pool.

**5. Promotional Events**

We agreed to attend the Fleet Half Marathon 'Sports Festival' to promote the club in the local area, but considered not attending Rugby club event this year.

## **6. Lido Sessions**

Ian to check when the Lido is likely to be open / available for us to use.

It was agreed that we should try to run a general coaching session, so that we are able to offer something to those who are not on a course, whereby they would have access to a coach who could help them with 'anything'. It was also felt that this would be a good way to handle new (prospective) members who are waiting for an appropriate course to start.

Use of the open boats needs to be organised in advance (as before) to ensure they are available at the appropriate times for courses. Also, 1\* courses / taster sessions should try to make use of as many boat types as possible.

It was felt that there should ideally be 2 or 3 junior groups, to ensure the complete beginners, intermediate and 'older' paddlers received the most appropriate coaching, although as always this will depend on coach availability.

The options for starting 'star' courses were discussed. It was agreed that we would start with a 1\* course fairly early in the season, and also a 3\*, both subject to demand. Other courses will be run as/when required.

## **7. Kit**

It was agreed that we should obtain some new coloured bibs (orange) to make the coaches more visible. Mike to look into this.

At some point (ideally the beginning of the Lido season), we will need to have a kit check, to ensure everything is in good condition and make any repairs/replacements/disposals as required.

## **8. Volunteers**

Ed discussed his recent course based on volunteering in clubs, how to best look after / value our volunteers. There are BCU awards for which we can nominate people and many possibilities for increasing volunteer participation. Many groups / schools have schemes which encourage volunteers, something we could make use of.

It was also noted that some of the parents may be happy to get more involved, more people with FSRT's are required to act as safety officer.

## **9. Money**

Bank account is currently reasonably healthy – we have funds available to help cover the costs of courses that are useful to the club (e.g. Safeguarding, Equity etc.) and also possibly to increase the number of coaches.

There are some possible funding streams including 'Sportivate', where the club is funded up to £40/head for young people (14-25) who join and maintain an interest in the sport/club.

It was agreed that we should propose no changes to the current paddling/membership fees at the upcoming club meeting.

It was also agreed trip prices should be set a little over the basic cost, such that any excess funds may be used to cover those trips where a loss is made (although losses should obviously be avoided wherever possible).

#### **10. Polo (via e-mail)**

It has been agreed with Keren Wallace at Alton Sports centre that we will take a sabbatical during the months of June, July & August this year. The cost of pool hire may increase slightly as we won't be using it for 12 months as originally agreed.

There is interest in hiring the Lido on a Tuesday & Thursday evening for polo training, to be agreed

The squad won't train on a Wednesday evening, however polo members are being encouraged to attend the general session to help with new starters, coaching, and polo beginners etc.

Polo subs have been mandated as a monthly subscription and the pay weekly function has been removed. This has given us enough subscribers to cover cost of the session. Ed & Matt need to work out how this will work during the summer sessions but hopefully we'll have some time to build up funds.

Alan Blyth has been approached by a local triathlon club asking if we could provide safety cover for 5 competition swims this year. We have agreed and will receive a £50 donation to the club for each of the sessions, total of £250 this year.

Matt has been in touch with Sam Jones at Hants Gov about a lake that the local council are looking to purchase. I've laid out my stall early letting them know that we have the equipment to set up a permanent pitch to benefit all local clubs. Matt will continue to pursue this opportunity.

#### **Summary of Actions**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action</b>
6. Lido Sessions	Check when the Lido will be open this year.	Ian
7. Kit	Look for possible sources of orange bibs for coaches	Mike
10. Polo	Work out how the monthly subs payments will be handled over the summer months	Ed & Matt