Blackwater Valley Canoe Club Extraordinary General Meeting Minutes – 9 April 2014

1. Attendees

Ian Morris Mike Hamilton Simon Moody Simon Edwards Jake Robertson Tom Page **Bob Hamilton Graham Snook** Michael Benton Paul Rose Tim Blyth Tom Brindley Paul Atkinson Jack Rowley Helen Tidy Mark Overd Phil Rowley Gail Hayward

Sophie Mariner

2. Apologies

Zoe Hadley Pete Steinhardt

3. Accounts / Fees

Have bought a number of new boats, but the accounts are still reasonably healthy. It was proposed and agreed that membership and paddling fees should stay the same as last year, but that we should introduce a fee of £2 for use of club kit at the canal sessions to cover wear and tear etc.

5. Development Plan

A reminder was given that funding is available for coaching qualifications, FSRT, WWSR, 4*etc. to improve / maintain skills within the club.

6. Kit

We have a number of new boats; sea kayaks, duo, slalom boat. May need to replace some decks etc. soon but nothing immediate. Polo boats may also need some servicing; new bumpers etc. but nothing major for now – plastic boats may need updating sometime.

7. Courses / Lido

We'd like to arrange a number of scout taster sessions this year; get more people involved and also bring a bit more money into the club while the Lido is still available! Courses will be arranged as required; on Wednesday evenings, try and introduce larger group sessions, save 1-1 coaching for separate days to make better use of coaches; rolling course on a Thursday?

Since the Lido future is still uncertain, invite council / committee etc. to get them out on the water and see what the club is all about.

Polo training will be back on at the Lido on a Wednesday this year; trying to introduce more people with taster sessions etc.

8. Trips

As before, try and have about one trip a month; suggestions include Wey, South Wales, Norfolk, Dorset, Yorkshire. It was also suggested that we should have more day trips to get more people out and about; also try and introduce more beginners to white water. Possibility of an additional Lee Valley session in June.

9. Polo

We've got two teams; 'a' and mixed... 'a' had inconsistent results, currently in bottom half of league. The mixed team is more of a development team – new people, introduction to competition etc. They are improving, some moving up to 'a'. Also trying to recruit more people – good response for far

from forums, other local clubs, come and try it sessions etc – reminder that polo is open to everyone! Would like to run a number of introduction sessions, mini leagues and also get together a youth and a ladies team.

10. Rolling Sessions

We've had a few at Cranleigh, but not so many; people feel it's a bit far away. Suggestions for other locations – local schools, Surrey Sports Park (expensive?), maybe join up with other clubs to boost numbers...

11. Canoe England / Clubmark

Reaccredited for Clubmark in November. Organisation is changing to reduce paperwork, introduce more 'go canoeing' and 'canoe trails'. Canoe England have a 'commercial director'; hoping to make them a more professional 'company', with targets etc. so hopefully run more effectively...

Since Ed has less time to spare for club duties, looking for a new welfare officer; need to do safeguarding and time to listen courses; club will fund.

12. AOB

Next meeting will be the AGM in the summer; date TBD.

Suggestion of a local camping weekend / club BBQ; combine with paddle along the canal.