

Blackwater Valley Canoe Club
Committee Meeting Minutes – 26 August 2014

1. Attendees

Richard Green	Ian Morris	Mike Hamilton
Elaine Lee	Graham Snook	Jake Robertson
Tom Page	Paul Rose	Damian Edwards

2. Apologies

None

3. Trips

Trips for the rest of the year/season were discussed; it was agreed that we should try and do more local / day trips for those that can't / don't want to come away for the weekend/white water. They should require less advance planning so can be more flexible – want to try and encourage more people to get out on the water beyond the Lido.

We should also try and do some more specifically for the kids – perhaps Addlestone lock etc.

Advertising trips was also discussed – as well as emails, make sure Facebook is kept up to date, possibly make posters for the boards at the Lido.

Dates

Whitewater weekends were proposed for the following dates...

Sep 20/21	N Wales
Nov 1/2	Barle
Dec 6/7	S Wales
Feb 20/21/22?	Lakes – Need to check when the bank holiday is...
Mar 7/8	Dartmoor
Apr 25/26	Surfing
May 23/24/25	North Wales
July 4/5	Wye
August 22/23	Dorset

As well as the usual whitewater trips above, we need to have more flat/local trips – possible times were suggested as November / January in the gaps between the above trips, plus possibly a new years paddle and maybe a weekend camping / Canadian trip although probably best to leave this until the warmer weather...

4. Polo

Had a good turn out for the polo sessions at the Lido, soon moving back to Alton (end

September, Weds 8-9:30). Leagues start again in September, also have Hawley Lake sessions on a Saturday morning which are a bonus. Membership with the lake currently for 14; OK for now, but may need to reassess if sessions become more popular.

5. Youth

Seen a massive improvement in recent weeks (well done Tom!) Now trying to sort them out into groups based on age/ability. Would like to do taster sessions with them; polo, other disciplines and also arrange some local trips for them to get out of the Lido for a bit. Could do with another coach / additional assistance to cope with the wide range of abilities.

Would also like to contact some local schools / colleges to try and get more people interested.

6. Lido Future

As discussed at separate meeting, would like to try and appoint a small 'committee' / group to manage club response to Lido concerns / future... currently Ed & Simon – anyone else who is interested should speak to them.

7. Winter Sessions

Need to arrange a location for the winter sessions; Mytchett may not be available, need to check and if not find somewhere else (possibly go back to Tongham). We also need to start thinking of ideas for sessions!

8. Website

It was mentioned at the AGM that the website is a little over-complicated / out of date; needs to be made much simpler and easier for new members to find the important information. Although most stuff is now on Facebook, still need a 'real' website for people who don't do Facebook...

9. Club/Coach Development

The coaching register needs some attention; many people are not up to date with required qualifications etc. particularly DBS (old CRB). The BCU is apparently looking at 'registered coaches' which should mean they are monitoring it more closely, but for now we still need to do it ourselves. Coaches need valid first aid, CRB/DBS and regular updates (some kind of course within the last 3 years).

Would like to look at getting a few more people through some courses; 4*, Level 2, FSRT, AWWSR, Moderate water, first aid...

Ed is going to a mentoring weekend as part of his L3 to discuss current issues with time required, finding students etc. to see how to continue; would like to possibly use the Spey descent as a goal/target for students.

10. Social

Need to sort out Christmas meal – lots of suggestions for places, days, possibly a paddle and a pub... date of 13th December was suggested, but Elaine is going to look a bit more.

Several suggestions were made for other events; paintballing, bowling, brewery tours,

Gravity Force?!

11. Runways End Event

An outdoor activity day at runways end, 20th September, 10-4; lots of activities going on, the club has been asked to attend to run canoeing taster sessions. Good advertising for the club, but on the same weekend as club trip, so need to see if we have enough (suitably qualified) volunteers available to attend. We can use their kit (boats, BAs, showers!) and have space in the car park for stuff.

12. Kit

Mostly OK for kit for now; need a few nuts and bolts / repairs and would be a good idea to get rid of some of the older boats to make a bit more space. Would also be good if we could separate out the polo boats as they are expensive / delicate.

Need to fit the skid plates to the open boats.

Need to look into retesting BAs.

13. AOB

Membership: Need to start chasing people for membership fees

Insurance: Club kit insurance has been renewed and updated to cover the new boats

Paddlepower: Southern region are NOT supporting it this year, so there will be no local events

Club Welfare: Had information from BCU regarding possibility of 'undesirables' in the area who may try and join the club; keep an eye out for anything suspicious!

Club Communications: What could we do better? Try to generate more interest in what we do / have done; currently have write ups of polo events / tournaments – should try and do the same for trips. Also send out more regular updates via email since it's hard to keep people hanging around for the after Lido meetings...

Next Meeting: Around January, date TBD.

14. Summary of Actions

Topic	Description	Who?
3. Trips	Arrange some more local / day trips	Jake / All
7. Winter	Check availability of Mytchett / find alternative	Rich
7. Winter	Start thinking of session ideas	All
8. Website	Look at simplifying / refreshing the website	Mike
9. Coaching	Need to get coach register up to date and make sure people have / update necessary qualifications	Rich / Ed
10. Social	Sort out Christmas dinner/event!	Elaine
11. Runways	Need to send email to see if we have enough volunteers.	Ian

End		
12. Kit	Need to check boats for necessary repairs & fit skid plates.	Mike / Others
13. AOB	Membership – need to chase / send reminders	Ian