

Blackwater Valley Canoe Club
Whole Club Meeting – 19 October 2015

1. Attendees

Owen Munford	Tom Page	Dave Cook	Damian Edwards
Richard Squire	Sophie Austin	Paul Rose	Dave Williams
Gemma Clements	Tim Shellard	Colin Greaves	Andrew Pilkington
Mark Overd	Steve Nicholas	Jack Nicholas	Paul Atkinson
Pete Ashby			

2. Apologies

Graham Snook	Bob Hamilton	Simon Edwards	Sarah Imrie
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3. Matters arising/minutes from the previous meeting

None raised.

4. Website Updates

Was discussed that the committee had looked over the website and planned to make it much more simple, light weight and reduce sections down. British Canoeing are going to be creating all clubs a vanilla website which will also include an administrative system so going forwards our site will be just for club specific information and promotion.

5. Finances

a. Interim Budget, Cash flow

£13,500 in the bank
£5000 allocated as premises reserve
£2500 emergency funds

Some money is there for funding.

It was noted that enough money is made over the summer to help through the winter season sessions and trips.

Memberships are extremely low.

6. Fees / Membership

a. Strategies for Unpaid Membership Subs / Sessions

We have had a drop in overall membership retention due to individuals' changes in circumstances such as moving away or going to university.

There are still a few outstanding members to chase from polo.

The temp membership price was reduced to a flat rate £10 so that non-members can attend standalone trips, making them more accessible to those who live far away and new potential members who are still trying out the club. BCU discount isn't applicable to temp memberships.

- b. Recap Membership Type Definitions
Adult, Youth, Student, Family & Affiliate are the only membership types, anyone who is not a full membership requires a temp membership.
- c. New Membership Form
New membership form has been created to reflect a more up to date set of qualifications.
- d. Affiliate Clubs (& Fees?)

B3C have a mutual affiliation with us.

Richard, our polo representative, is working with a new potential affiliation with the University of Surrey pending a short written agreement that is required to be drafted up for the BCU / BC, so that insurance covers it.

- e. Kit Hire Fees

For recreational club trips there is currently a hire fee and for courses / assessments the kit hire is covered in the course price. Kit hire prices had previously been set to mimic kit hire venues which the committee previously decided were a little high for members and could be one reason why these kit hire fees were not always paid up last year or enforced.

As we cannot always obtain funding each year for new equipment the committee proposed that on a club organised event, trips etc. for use of club kit, instead of a 'hire' fee, a 'wear and tear' fee of £5 would be requested that would go towards equipment replacement for the future. This fee would be inclusive of borrowing any kit item e.g. helmets, paddles, boats etc. To help capture the need for kit borrowing, extra fields have also been added into the trip consent form to ask about what club kit is required, and the paper based form asks you to fill in a second form for kit.

For non-club organised trips, events, etc. it is intended that the existing hire fees remain and members shall still be required to apply for written committee approval to hire the kit. It was raised that previously canoes had been hired for £15 for a weekend -- however as any kit hire for none club trips has to be submitted to the committee to be assessed for suitability of use, the nature of the trip/hire, risks involved, etc. costs could be re-evaluated and reduced accordingly for lower risk activities at the committee's discretion.

7. Club Development Plan

It was agreed that coaching updates would now be funded by 50%, excluding certificates, to help our coaches as part of our development plan.

8. Funding Options

Polo are also going to look into what extra funding could be obtained to help with obtaining a pontoon for Hawley Lake so that polo games can be hosted on the site with the necessary refereeing space.

9. Equipment - Repairs, Maintenance, Bids for new

It was also raised that all of the wooden paddles have gone 'missing' and polo raised that there are no complete sets of polo kit (mostly lack of decks and BAs and paddles could do with replacing). It was noted that access to the lock up is not fully secure and access can sometimes be gained when the kiosk is open.

It was proposed to do a full kit recall and compare the kit to the currently inventory list, evaluate everything's condition and come up with a joint equipment replacement priority list across the general and polo club sectors.

It was raised that we still do not have an equipment officer if anyone is interested in the role, however no one has come forwards. If anyone is interested please get in touch with the committee.

A few members of the club have offered to do a kit inventory check, however if you know you have any club equipment could you please inform chairman so it can be included.

Once the inventory check has been done it will be evaluated as to what kit might be needed going forwards.

10. Duty Officer Role and other Pool based Roles

Very few members had stepped up to take on the role of duty officer and some of this was because members had not previously been aware of the requirements or tasks involved. Having an FSRT is ideal but provided there are qualified coaches with lifesaving training on site this could be any responsible adult. It was suggested to get the parents involved and to give a short briefing at the beginning of the lido season (and to the individuals prior to taking up the role). The main roles of the duty officer are: to be a point of contact for members; control timings of sessions; monitor safety in the pool; if someone gets into difficulty, alert a coach; and insist those on the bankside wear a BA at the lido due to the activities involving kayaks and canoes. Ideally, they should have a high visibility vest with duty officer written on it. It was discussed that we could have a voluntary clause / declaration added to the membership agreement but no actions were taken forward from this.

11. Courses

There was some very positive feedback put forward about the 2 Star Course and some constructive criticism about the Paddle Power. It was mentioned that the Paddle Power program didn't offer enough structure to allow children to learn the new skills and the adults involved changed per week. Another member raised that it can get quite tedious for the same coach to always be doing activities with beginners. It was importantly noted that parents need to be made aware of the purpose of the Paddle Power which is learning through 'fun' and so it may not always be as apparent that children have progressed. Suggestions were also made that perhaps the Youth should be split so that they can either just partake in regular 'paddling' or the Paddle Power scheme, making it a bit more like a course and saving the coaches having to go back to basics each time the children change. Another suggestion was to have the Paddle Power work in small stints and signed up to like a course. That way, different coaches can take charge of different stints and there can be a clear progression.

The committee added a huge thanks to all the coaches and representatives that have helped in supporting the youth over the last few years (with added gratitude to the 'Jelly Tots')

It was proposed we should have some courses, particularly L1 coaching, but this is currently pending set up of an FSRT which is one of the pre-requisites.

12. FOAL Update

5 attended the official public meeting with Gemma & Ed now on the committee. In the last FOAL (Friends of Aldershot Lido) the group have started to move more towards a 'Save the Lido' Campaign group with more emphasis on getting some figures and research rather than waiting for the council to give their thoughts on 'wish list' ideas.

13. Winter Session Planning / Research

We have organised pool sessions for the winter season to try and help keep the club more active during the winter season. The question was raised as to whether we could find a pool more local and why we could not use a particular local school pool. However, having emailed over 50-60 pool venues within a 10mile radius of Aldershot and chasing for replies on whether these sites are bookable, indoors/outdoors, costs, availability and size, there was only one key positive response from Horsell C of E Junior School which was affordable, near enough and currently had availability on a club night. There was a second response from a school with a slightly larger pool based in Hook, but it was more expensive, further out and in the countryside with small roads. The committee will endeavour to keep looking into pool sites as a proportion of the emails did bounce and booking availability can change but for now we are working on building a good relationship with our current venue.

14. Calendar – Trips & Social

Communication for the list of trips for the winter season has already gone out and email and web collect will be the primary means of communication for these. The proposal for trips will look to have the last Sunday of every month as a day trip unless it clashes with a weekend. Aims include introducing more regular day trips and getting larger weekend trip attendance. For this the weekend trips have been slimmed down to roughly every 6 weeks.

The first trip to the Basingstoke Canal had 21 members attend on a lovely sunny day. Don't forget to sign up to our other trips!

Day Trips:

27 September - Basingstoke Canal
25 October - Symonds Yat / Cardiff WWC
29 November - TBC
27 Dec/3 Jan Christmas or NY paddles
7 February - TBC
28 February - TBC
3 April – TBC

Weekend trips:

30 Oct - 1 Nov - Barle trip (Halloween theme)
4 - 6 December - Dartmoor (Christmas theme)
29 - 31 Jan - South Wales
5 - 6 March - Lake District

Christmas meal details have gone out by email and up on webcollect - 12th December at 8pm at the The Swan, Ash Vale.

15. Sections

- a. Whitewater – No update
- b. Paddle Sport – No update
- c. Touring – Flat Water – No update
- d. Touring – Sea – No update
- e. Polo – we have 4 teams entered - A team, and B team at national level, the Bandits team at regional level and a ladies development team.
- f. Rolling – sessions can now be run at the pool.
- g. Slalom – No update
- h. Racing – No update

16. Canoe England

- a. Clubmark – Is changing so we shall no longer require an update but development plans shall be key so we need to keep this up to date.

- b. Canoe England/Southern Region Development team updates / Go Canoeing etc

We will require a safety and event manager for signing off risk assessments as per the Canoe England direction and affiliation form. 3 of our members will be attending an Event Safety Management course next month which is something now required by British Canoeing. This course will be reimbursed to active members as it is a British Canoeing Requirement.

The commercial team at BCU have done a skills audit and plan to follow other sports with a vanilla website for each club allow them to book courses memberships and other items. Canoeing is a growing sport. Extra interest is being raised through the prior Olympics, Slalom World Championships and the Blue Peter presenter that did some shows around learning to kayak/canoe.

17. Welfare

If individuals are working with under 18s, ideally they should do a safeguarding course - these are run by Active 365.

18. Changes to Constitution - None Proposed.

19. A.O.B.

As we don't have a pool session over half term individuals were asked during sessions if they had a preference between no session, bowling, a dry session or a trip to Shepperton. The majority were in favour of doing a kayaking/canoeing session. Through liaison with Shepperton Canoe Club we have been offered use of their facilities including flood lights, changing room, kitchen (and, if required, kit) on their novice night. Generally during the winter months the club have fewer of their members up at the weir so they tend to be more willing to share with other clubs. The University of Surrey used to have some members go there every Tuesday when one of the GB coaches was present for the more advanced sessions as they were preparing for BUCS slalom. It was asked if we could get more regular use of the facility. At present this is only intended as a one off event. However, as we are keen to keep the club active we could look into how we could work with Shepperton Canoe Club more in the future.

We could look to run another session like this in December after the last pool session or if polo have their pool there is a possibility that a polo taster could be put on.

20. Date of Next Meeting

There will be a management committee meeting in January leading to a club one for around February but final dates will be released about a month before.

21. Meeting closed.