

Regents Canoe Club
Committee Meeting Minutes 7th July 2008

1. Present: Karen Shaw Wilson (*Chair*)
Dan Tattersall (*Secretary*)
Sarah James (*Treasurer*)
Caroline Robson (*Membership Secretary*)
Claire Taylor (*Equipment Officer*)
Steve Hatton (*Newsletter Editor*)
Ian White (*IBC Liason Officer*)
Christine Dove (*Safety and Training Officer*)
Alix Cordell (*Events Co-ordinator*)
Ian Tokelove (*Website / Publicity Officer*)

2. Apologies: None

Actions from Previous Meetings

3. Equipment Cupboard

CT and IW reported that the extension to the equipment cupboard has been finished. The committee thanked IW for his hard work.

4. Dart Accommodation

KSW reported that Liza Sumpter is currently booking the Dart accommodation. KSW will update the committee fully at the next meeting. **Action KSW.**

5. Club Training Sessions

The committee reviewed the range of sessions being offered to beginners alongside the eight-week *Introduction to White Water* courses. These are weekly Monday *Drop-in* sessions (A duty coach shows the participants around, helps them get on the water, and gives them hints and tips, for £2) and a monthly *Paddlesport Taster Session* (a more formal first introduction session, for £10). Key issues, including recruitment of coaches, ratio of students to coaches, scheduling of session alongside other club activities and subsequent progression of participants, were discussed. It was decided that a meeting of coaches within in the club would be the best way to progress many of the issues, in conjunction with subsequent email communication between coaches to develop the sessions further. A date for this Training Meeting (Club Sessions) was set for Thursday 10th July at 8:30pm. CD to chair. **Action CD.**

6. Money Owing to RCC

SH reported that the money owed to the club by an ex-member has been received. This matter is now closed.

7. Change to Club Bank

SJ is continuing to look into accounts available, however due to the timescales involved with a change-over, the Nationwide signatories have been changed as agreed in the last meeting. SJ will update at the next meeting. **Action SJ.**

8. Guidelines for Inexperienced / Casual Users

Regarding the need for new people to stay within the basin, the duty officer's email and duty folder have been updated, as agreed in the last meeting. A reminder was sent to existing club members in the *Notes from the Canalside* email. The committee will monitor situation, and revisit the issue if and when required.

9. AGM Minutes

The AGM minutes have been added to the website.

10. Membership

CR updated the committee as to the rate of renewal of membership. KSW to include a reminder for those members that haven't yet renewed in the *Notes from the Canalside* email. A timescale was agreed where non-renewing members would be removed from club communications. CR will update the committee further at the next meeting. **Action KSW, CR.**

11. I3 Repair

CT reported that the club's Pyrhana I3 has been delivered to *The Whitewater Centre* at Shepperton for repair. The approximate cost will be £30, and it should be ready for collection in the immediate future.

12. Taster Session Feedback

DT reported that in addition to coaching-specific session feedback (to be relayed directly to club coaches) there were several items from the participants for the committee to consider. Firstly the need for clarity regarding the different sessions available within the club, and the next steps recommended for taster session participants. Secondly, the need to have a range of suitable trips 'pencilled in' to the club calendar throughout the months following the taster sessions to give the participants something to aim towards. The need to balance this with encouraging club members to organise trips on an *ad hoc* basis was discussed. These issues will be discussed in the Training Meeting (see item five).

13. Summer Trips

It was decided (or confirmed) that the following trips would be organised:

1. Surf Trip on the 2nd and 3rd August, organised by AC.
2. Beginners' Symonds Yat trip on the 9th and 10th August, organised by CD.
3. Multi-day open boat trip on the 23rd, 24th and 25th August bank holiday weekend, organised by KSW.
4. Intermediates' Mile End Mill trip on the 27th and 28th September, organised by CD (intended as a follow-up for those participants on this year's *Introduction to White Water* courses).
5. Exe and Barle trip on the 18th and 19th October, organised by CR
6. Dart Trips on the 15th and 16th November, 13th and 14th December and 14th and 15th February 2009.

IT to update the club calendar. Organisers to update the committee as and when required.

Action IT, AC, CD, KSW, CR.

For the Mile End Mill trip, it was discussed whether the club should consider its plans due to the developments regarding the access agreement. It was decided that as the club uses the facilities offered by JJs (and therefore pays for access), the current situation does not need to affect the club's trips to the site.

The length of long time between the Alps trip and the first intermediate white water trip (Mile End Mill) was discussed, especially considering the participants from last year's *Introduction to White Water* courses. The need to maintain interest by ensuring these members were able to attend the above trips (in addition to targeting this year's beginners) was emphasised. Additionally, potential Treweryn trips (to be arranged) and the Pyrhana Coaching Festival (CD to pass on information) were highlighted.

14. Wet Fun and BBQ

AC highlighted the events running on Thursday 31st July and Thursday 4th September, aimed particularly at the participants finishing the *Introduction to White Water* courses. She asked for volunteers to help with the games (CR and CD volunteered) and updated the committee with her plans for the BBQ afterwards.

15. Introduction to White Water Course Fees Payment

Claire Lancaster emailed the committee to highlight several problems with the collection of money for the first *Introduction to White Water* course.

Firstly two participants have dropped out before paying the second £75 instalment. It was decided that this is an unfortunate consequence of collecting the money in instalments, and in future years a full-

amount non-refundable payment would be collected upon booking. It was discussed whether the £50 kit deposit should be retained, but as this was specifically collected as a kit deposit it was decided that this will be returned.

Secondly, one person is unable to make the weekend trip, and has asked for some money back or a deal on his membership fee. It was unanimously decided that as the dates for the course are published in advance, and the courses are so oversubscribed, this is not acceptable.

Finally, it was suggested that participants on the course should have their Saturday evening meal on the weekend away included in the course fee to partially reimburse the money saved due to the two wet sessions being run at the canal, rather than the pool. After a lengthy discussion and a vote this motion was carried. In future years the course will be publicised without specific guarantees as to the use of the pool.

CR will update Claire Lancaster so the information can be passed to the relevant members.

16. Pool Sessions

Following an email from Katie Cordell highlighting some confusion over the pool bookings, the committee discussed the current situation.

The two sessions for the second beginner course are booked at Britania pool and going ahead at the old rate of £75 per hour.

The sessions on the first Tuesday of the month (August and September) need to be reconfirmed. These should be at the old price as the bookings were made before the price increase (from £75 to £104.50). DT (with Katie Cordell) will coordinate. **Action DT.**

The weekly pool sessions over the winter need booking. DT to coordinate. As Highbury pool is still being refurbished two options exist. Firstly Holloway Pool at £124 for two hours, suitable only if boat storage is possible (CD to confirm). DT to fill in Expression of Interest Form for sessions on Tuesday or Wednesday nights at either 7-9pm or 8-10pm. If boat storage is not possible, Britania Pool (at £104.50 per hour) will be used. **Action DT, CD.**

17. IBC Rental of Facilities

The new licence has been received, signed and returned. IW to confirm receipt at the next I.B.C. meeting. The cost has gone up from £930 per quarter to £1175 per quarter to April 2009 (rising to £1222 in April 2009 and £1270 in April 2010). The amendments made by the previous committee regarding Regents equipment storage and use of I.B.C. equipment have been successfully incorporated. **Action IW.**

SJ reported that I.B.C. have requested that the rental fee be paid automatically by standing order. It was agreed that this was acceptable. IW to liaise with Paul Kilham at I.B.C.. **Action SJ, IW.**

18. BCU Club Affiliation

DT reported that the BCU club affiliation renewal is due. CR to inform him how many Regents members have individual BCU membership, according to the data returned on the membership forms last year. **Action CR, DT.**

19. A.O.B.

19A. Club Accounts 07/08

SH reported that the Club's accounts for the 2007/2008 financial year have been completed.

19B. Newsletter

SH requested articles for the next newsletter. CD, CT and IW will all submit articles. The committee congratulated SH on the excellent June newsletter.

19C. Calendar

CD suggested that the club calendar on the website might be simpler if all the sessions for the *Introduction to White Water* course were not included, however the committee decided that the need for trying to ensure sessions do not clash with each other (to prevent problems with the canal being overly busy on any given night) meant it was necessary to have all events listed in one place.

19D. Open Boat Sessions

CD will run two *Introduction to Open Boating* sessions on Monday 14th and Monday 21st July, assisted by CT and Mark Rowe. KSW to announce in the *Notes from the Canalside* email.

19E. AlpKit Festival

CD highlighted the upcoming AlpKit festival (similar to the Peak Challenge fun events held in the past). She suggested that club members should be made aware of this event. The committee agreed – CD to coordinate. **Action CD.**

19F. Account Holders

SJ informed the committee that in addition to the need to change the account signatories (see item 7) there are three named account holders that also need to be updated. This hasn't been done for some time (the account holders are currently CD, Melissa Gregory and Karen Matthews). SJ Proposed these should be changed to CD, KSW and SJ. The committee unanimously agreed. **Action SJ.**

19G. Latex Seal Masterclass

CT requested that KSW run a workshop to teach how to repair damaged latex seals on cags. KSW agreed, CT to organise, date t.b.a.. **Action CT.**

19H. Level Two Coach Training – Request for Funding.

DT informed the committee that five Regents members were registered to attend a Level Two Coaching course, and requested the club subsidise this training. (As has been noted previously, a conflict of interest exists as several members requesting funding sit on this committee. These members did not participate in this decision.) An estimate of the amount required to subsidise these five at 33% is £754.05. SJ reported that the club accounts are currently healthy enough to be able to support this subsidy. SH requested that for future decisions, SJ should be able to inform the committee of the running total of training subsidies awarded to date since the last AGM. The committee agreed.

Further to the discussions at the last meeting, the committee discussed the criteria for subsidising training. It was reiterated / decided that 1) the training must be for a course that will be beneficial to the club, rather than solely the individual, 2) the recipient must be an active member of the club, 3) there must be a clear intention to use the new award in the immediate future for the benefit of the club. (Additionally other considerations may need to be made.)

In this case, the committee unanimously agreed that all five applicants easily met the above guidelines. It was agreed to fund up to 40% of the course fee. (An application for 66% of the course fee has been made to another funding stream. If successful, the club will subsidise the remaining 33%).

19I. History of Regents Canal Tour and other socials.

AC suggested a repeat of the very successful Historical Tour of Regents Canal. CT (with Mark Rowe) agreed to organise this. Date t.b.a.. **Action CT.** Additionally, the forthcoming socials were discussed; a bowling night, pub quiz night and Christmas dinner. Details for all t.b.c..

20. Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 14th August at 8pm.