

Regents Canoe Club

Committee Meeting Minutes



Wednesday 24th February 2021
7.00 pm
Google Meet

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance: Dan Scott, Andrew Hughes-Onslow, Ben Ainsworth, Olga Beschastnykh, Silvia Kerste, Hugh Ellacott, Mike Armstrong, Steph Shore (SS)

Apologies: Whitaker Sherk, Ben Landsberry, Steve Betts

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matter Arising

- Approved.
- None.

3. Equipment Update (HE)

- HE has bought a new Hi Viz jacket
- HE discussed the Britannia Leisure Centre email about boat storage at the new location. Asked if we should decrease the number of boats stored. OB, SS and generally agreed current 15 was good. HE said he would lead interaction with BLC about storage.
- HE went to the club and reported that everything looked fine.
- HE reported that he had taken part in a BC webinar about kit and maintenance. He needs information to gain access to the new BC clubhouse feature. DS said he would help sort this out.

4. Finance Update (BA)

- BA reported he had paid IBC invoices with 1 more to pay to the end of March.
- BA stated our financial situation was slowly deteriorating as we spend and don't earn.
- DS had spoken to John at IBC. They also are financially struggling. John said that we need a proposal to show that we can't pay rent in order to get it reassessed. IBC funds are limited long term. BA suggested we look at per capita payments until we get to pre COVID levels again. BA asked whether we should move to a new location.
- HE suggested asking for a rent freeze for a number of years. DS pointed out that rent has not increased for 3 years.
- BA suggested merging with Castle Canoe Club.
- OB said we should make it clear that IBC demands are putting serious financial strain on us.
- BA said he could see £100k in assets in IBC books so they do not have financial problems.
- DS said we need to stop subsidising pool sessions at £1000 per year.
- DS said he would once again approach IBC to change charges.

5. Safety and Training Update (DS reporting for SB)

- None

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6. Club Reopening and COVID

- AHO said we could restart canal sessions on the 29th March with 6 people on site and no changing rooms. OB said we should reopen 1 week after earliest date to allow preparation, rotas, etc. KS said that we need to be flexible as the dates often slide.
- DS said pool sessions restart on May 17th. MA said he didn't think the pool would be open then but will try to find out reopening times.
- HE said Easter is very early this year in April. Also we should get the committee to do early rota as before. OB said we should ensure people are local and only ask for volunteers.
- SS asked whether we could do NMEs or have guests when we reopen. DS said we house see how many members want to use canal as they should have priority. AHO pointed out that NMEs create new, keen members who then will go to canal sessions and it will be crowded. SS asked if we could get people to sign up on a google form to control numbers. OB said yes but then only half show up and it is more admin.

7. Incident reports / Trip Reports

- None

8. Trips Update

- BA said even with most optimistic assessment we won't make end of May for Symonds Yat and the ITTW. Should delay a month. SK said we should push back both ITTW trips by a month. AHO suggested using different formats eg full day trips from London at weekend with smaller groups. DS suggested running more from IBC base. Agreed to try and do in May with different format TBC. AHO to tweak plan from last year.
- BA said we need to talk to our coaches and ensure they are onboard. We need a qualified WW coach for Symonds Yat or else we need to change our policy, or change venue eg Neeve (?spelling) near Nottingham. OB asked if we could get there on public transport. BA said it was 1 mile from the train station.
- AHO also suggested we might 1) bubble 2) require vaccinations
- SK said that by late June the limits should be gone and most should be vaccinated.
- DS said he would check with IBC about weekend courses.
- OB said that although peer group trips should be encouraged as a club we need to wait for post COVID.
- BA suggested August Bank Holiday for Trewryn. AHO said maybe we can camp. OB said it would be rammed with kids.
- DS said we should postpone discussion till next time because COVID.
- SK asked if we should delay. It was agreed to push back YHA bookings. SK asked if 24 / 25th July good for Mile End. No clear answer? DS said all accommodation bookings after September should be fine.

9. British Canoeing

- DS said that the Clubhouse is just a new portal. MA said he would arrange a time for a talk with BC about their email of the 10th February.
- OB asked whether we should go back to them on their demand that everyone be qualified.
- AHO said that most of what we get from BC is indemnity insurance and problems.
- MA asked how we renew membership of BC to ensure that this insurance is in place.

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AHO stated it was using a direct debit and would go through on the 15th April.

10.AOB

1. AGM

- DS said that this should be in April. OB said we need to give 40 days notice. AHO though it was 3 weeks notice. We need to agree for the next meeting.

2. Auditor

- BA said he could not recommend one but maybe we should use a member. OB suggested Ben. DS suggested Elise.

3. Alps

- BA said that Jenny had not asked him for any money for the Alps trip. DS said we should postpone and hold off payments. BA said that the government would release their plans for travel on the 12th April. It was agreed to postpone to the next meeting.

4. Membership

- BA said we should look at our sales pitch and how we scale trips back up. AHO said trips would obviously be limited in the near future and that we should encourage and support peer paddling. OB said she thought our members were happy paying to keep the club going even if it currently isn't delivering trips and training. OB said we should trust our member to stay.
- SK said that when we restart NMEs we need more proactive communications. OB pointed out that 40 people joined through NMEs last year. She said that on restart we might do more paddle and a pint type events.
- DS said that if we run ITTW then we should also run leadership courses. AHO said we should do through BC as they are pushing for more qualifications. He said we should also encourage intermediates. It was determined that Steve has a list of who wants to do what course. AHO will check with coaches.
- BA said we should pencil in Scotland trip but make it more accessible and easy.

5. Next Meeting

- 23rd March

11.Actions

1. Actions outstanding

1. MA get new mail box key.
2. MA to write proposal for reopening pool sessions.
3. SK and WS to continue investigation into Lee Valley trip.
4. AHO long term to create simple version of BC Competency Framework
5. BA to contact Jenni about organising Alps trip.
6. DS to ask IBC for rent reductions for closing.
7. DS to put item in NFC reminding paddlers to check their own kit.

2. New Actions

1. HE to liaise with BLC about boat storage

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2. DS to sort out access to BC clubhouse for HE
 3. AHO to tweak plans for ITTW to incorporate weekend and day trips.
 4. DS to check with IBC about running weekend courses.
 5. SK to postpone ITTW trips by 1 month.
 6. MA to arrange time for talk with BC
3. Done or No Longer Relevant
1. HE to buy a new Hi Vis jacket.
 2. OB to send emails to people on Duty Rota about club reopening.
 3. SK to check with SB re Mile End Mill trip and report back to committee.
 4. DS add item in NFC about holiday closing.
 5. WS to collate Corona Paddling photo album of year.
 6. WS to investigate fireside chat or other virtual end of year event.
 7. DS to inform IBC about club reopening.