

# Regents Canoe Club Committee Meeting Minutes



Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 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, Whitaker Sherk, Steve Betts

Apologies: Ben Landsberry

## 2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matter Arising

- Approved.
- None.

## 3. Finance Update (BA)

- Not much to report on finances - we are still bleeding money at about same rate. BA has circulated a document to the committee with options for membership fees and their effects on finances. On current finances we are losing about £6k per year. Double current fees, back to before COVID, would lead to a small shortfall. Biggest cost by far is IBC rent.
- HE asked for more context about our reserves. BA said we had approximately £25k in bank and costs are about £2k per quarter.
- AHO thought let year we had started with 110 members and ended with 180 - NMEs are very important and when they return will be improve finances. Also we can reshape ITWW course and make cheaper or smaller. Best to assume go back to 110 members paying £75.
- DS suggested we ask for contributions from members. Generally thought not a good idea.
- A general discussion was had about membership fees and it was decided to increase back to £75 and propose this at AGM.
- HE asked if we could charge more for pool sessions to make money. OB said max was 15 at pool so this can't be increased but we could make sessions shorter and charge effectively more per hour. HE asked if the charge for the pool was going to increase. MA usefully said he didn't know. AHO pointed out the pool will be closed for some time.
- SK suggested increasing charge on trips by £10.
- BA said that we need to maintain discretionary fees. OB said we should encourage full payment. AHO said that there were only 3/4 concessions last year and that we limited cost by having a £200 fund on a first come first served basis. DS said that the membership officer should decide who is eligible.
- DS said he would once again approach IBC about rent reductions.

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## 3. Safety and Training Update

- DS said Kate was looking to run courses and wanted to know if the committee would agree. AHO said Andy is also looking into that but very uncertain on dates. BA suggested we only allow groups and not individuals to save money. DS said it would be ok to run the courses but maybe we shouldn't advertise. BA said we should get agreement at AGM to run courses ourselves. OB said that this was procedural and that we could decide now and did not need to put before the AGM. DS said we should set it up and see and that he would get back to Kate.
- SB arrived and asked about the situation around courses. SK said she had emailed YHA asking for a delay as agreed at the last meeting but was still waiting on a reply. A discussion began about how to proceed with trips in the new COVID world. AHO said he was looking at a new plan for holding courses as day events on consecutive weekends plus 4 evenings. BA said we should definitely not restart courses till after June. AHO said for ITWW he was thinking about 2 separated groups with 3/4 paddlers in each so that we can restart on May 17th when 6 person bubbles restart. SK said the YHA would only allow 2 households to share at the 17th May change. SB asked about the need for helpers and AHO said he wouldn't need any. BA thought Symonds Yat was too hard and would need 2 experienced paddlers to cope with the swims.

## 4. Equipment Update (HE)

- Nothing to report

## 5. Incident reports / Trip Reports

- None

## 6. Club Reopening

- DS said we should reopen on Monday 29th March. SK agreed and said we should hope for the best. OB said she'd talked to people who were local and willing to do duty rota at short notice but thought we should reopen on the 1st April. It was agreed to announce in NFC on Sunday but with caveats regarding government policy changes. SB said he would dig out an RA and send round for early opening. HE said we should open as soon as possible and asked if we needed to notify the IBC. DS said he'd send an email. It was agreed by all to try and open on Monday the 29th March. AHO said we needed to be careful about numbers.

## 7. AOB

### 1. AGM

- SK wanted to know if we should discuss who was going to stand again for office and said that she was going to stand down. OB said all positions are officially vacant and we all need to stand again for office. HE said it was useful to say who was staying and who was leaving their role. He will be standing for his role again.

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- A discussion decided that the date for the AGM would be the 22nd April.
- BA said that getting the accounts together for the AGM would be difficult and that we still did not have an auditor. DS and BA to liaise. HE suggested Theo as an auditor.

## 2. Club Competency

- AHO made a wide ranging talk about how we should proceed with regards to BC, competencies and documentation for trips, coaching etc. HE said that he found personally filled in log books a good way of recording experience and issues for leadership. He said it would also decrease bureaucracy. AHO stated that we need correct leadership skills for all activities. We also need to collect better data and maintain a paper trail. AHO also said that we need 1 person on each activity with safeguarding. OB pointed out that leaders are not always organisers. How will our organisers know what qualifications our members have? DS suggested building a database. HE pointed out it would be very hard to maintain. SK suggested collecting the data when people register for trips. AHO said he would write a draft proposal and share with the committee.

## 8. Decisions

1. Membership officer to make decisions about concessions from £200 set aside.
2. Set membership fee back to £75.
3. Require members to run courses through clubs in groups if at all possible.
4. Reopen Monday 29th March if possible.

## 9. Actions

### 1. Actions outstanding

1. MA get new mail box key.
5. AHO long term to create simple version of BC Competency Framework
6. DS to ask IBC for rent reductions for closing.
7. DS to put item in NFC reminding paddlers to check their own kit.
8. HE to liaise with BLC about boat storage
9. AHO to tweak plans for ITTW to incorporate weekend and day trips.
10. DS to check with IBC about running weekend courses.
11. SK to postpone ITTW trips by 1 month.

### 2. New Actions

1. DS to announce reopening in NFC
12. SB to send RA round to committee for canal sessions.
13. DS to send email to IBC about reopening.
14. DS and BA to liaise about accounts and finding auditor.

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15. AHO to write draft about core competency for committee.
3. Done or No Longer Relevant
1. DS to sort out access to BC clubhouse for HE
  16. MA to arrange time for talk with BC
  17. BA to contact Jenni about organising Alps trip.
  18. SK and WS to continue investigation into Lee Valley trip.