**CARLISLE CANOE CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, 9 June 2021 by Zoom**

1. **Present:-**

Jamie Brown (Chairman), Tricia Rothwell (Secretary), Norrie Brown (Treasurer), Ben McAllister (Welfare Officer), Tony Colla, Tom Carter (John Storr, Coach/Leader Development Officer, joined during the Welfare Officer’s report).

**Apologies**:-

Jim Winterton (Vice Chairman), John McAllister (Fundraising/Events Safety Officer), Sam Winterton (Youth Representative), Richard Faughey-Scraggs

1. **Minutes of Committee Meeting on 3 May 2021**

Have been seen and are approved.

1. **Chairman’s Report**

Jamie was pleased to note that the number of paddlers participating in club session is returning to normal as a result of the releasing of lockdown. Last night there were a good number down on the river. Beginners’ coaching was also happening, which seemed to be going OK.

Coaches are getting themselves back in ticket, though we still don’t have enough and Jamie made a plea for more paddlers to put themselves forward to become coaches and/or leaders.

A few new members have joined.

The Ullswater paddle on 23 May was well attended.

Nathan has produced a short video of the Club paddling on Derwentwater, which is available on Youtube, with a link on the Club’s Facebook page. Jamie asked that our thanks to Nathan be minuted.

Some members have been trying out paddleboards (this was organised by Anthony at the request of John Mac, so not really a Club event).

Finally, the Club expressed its condolences to the family of Dave Briggs, who passed away recently. He was a regular and long-standing paddler with the Club until about 15 years ago, when he moved to Scotland.

1. **Finance Report**

Norrie presented the overview as at June 2021 (any member who wasn’t at the meeting who wishes to see this, please ask Norrie for a copy).

Since the meeting in April Club funds have increased by £695.00, which mostly represents income received from membership fees, apart from £30 from starter sessions. We now have 53 paid up members, compared with 23 in April, and appear to be on track for achieving something comparable with normal non-covid levels of around 100 members by the end of the year, after being down to 62 in total last year.

We have had no expenditure yet this year.

1. **Welfare Officer’s Report (including Covid Sub-Committee)**

The Welfare Officer’s report will be a standard item on the agenda for future Committee meetings.

Although the country is all waiting to see whether we are unlocked further on 21 June, Ben thinks that it probably won’t greatly affect us.

Beginners’ coaching is now underway again, and the loaning out of gear etc. seems to be proceeding in a covid secure way – at least if the smell of disinfectant in the clubhouse is anything to go by! We only had 2 beginners down yesterday for their first session, though 4 had been invited. Norrie still has a list of 12 people who have previously expressed interest to catch up with.

Norrie raised a question as to whether it is a strict covid requirement to have parents of under 18s present on the bank throughout a session, and, if not, whether we can consider revising this, given the nature of the club, and the small numbers of under 18s who are on the river without their parents also being on the water. Ben said that, from the covid point of view, the thinking is that, if there is an incident which means that a child should be looked after (once on the bank) in a close contact situation, it is better if the parent is available to do it. However, he will give some thought to whether we can dispense with this requirement. In any event it may become academic if all restrictions are relaxed on 21 June.

Ben is now getting regular updates from BC as Welfare Officer. He recently attended a meeting with BC and a government representative on DBS requirements, much of which was not relevant to a small club such as ours, but there was a useful section on completing DBS forms. Also, guidance was given on what we should be considering when authorising people to act as coaches, and also it was suggested that we should meet with our coaches individually on a regular basis to make sure that we are aware of their aspirations etc., rather like an appraisal system.

Ben is currently giving thought to formulating a policy/procedure for the Club to follow with regard to this, such that it will meet minimum requirements, but also be flexible enough to recognise that, when our Club authorises new coaches, it is generally (but not quite always), home grown coaches whom we have known for years, and have actively encouraged to acquire coaching qualifications.

Jim has now jumped through all the hoops to become a fully-fledged paddlesport instructor as far as Ben is concerned. Jim has expressed concern that his qualification states that he should only coach on non-moving water. Tony said that that has always been the case for all the old style “Level 1” coaches, and that it has previously been raised with the BC, and we have been told that Level 1 coaches are OK to coach in the location that we have at the Sands.[[1]](#endnote-1)

Ben mentioned that John Mac has raised with him a concern that, as there is no formal rota in place paddlers might come down to the river expecting there to be coaches present, and finding that there are none.

Norrie said that he always ensures that if beginners are coming down there are suitable coaches available, but for non-beginners the current situation is that if there are no coaches available then they will, if they choose to paddle, be paddling on a “peer paddle” basis.

There was then a more general discussion about coaching and the availability of coaches.

Essentially we have only 4 active coaches at present, Norrie and John Mac at the old Level 1, and Tony and John Storr at the old Level 2. Jim has just come on board as a paddlesport instructor, Walter remains out of action at the moment, Anthony is qualified to a senior level, but rarely present at Club sessions.

Tony said that he believes that a coach of Level 2 or equivalent should be on the water at all official Club coaching sessions. [[2]](#endnote-2)

A number of people have expressed willingness to progress as coaches, but for various reasons have not yet progressed, to include time commitments, difficulty in finding suitable courses at a convenient time etc.

It was reported that Anthony has expressed himself willing to help more, but has asked us to let him know what the Club would like him to do.

After some discussion it was agreed that Jamie would approach Anthony to explore the feasibility of him assisting in two possible ways:

1. To offer courses to prospective coaches at times that will fit in with those who have expressed a willingness to progress but find it difficult to give up a whole weekend, say on normal Club nights, and possibly to assess them if he is qualified to do this, or, if not, at least to bring them towards a level where they are ready to be assessed.
2. to be available to offer more advanced coaching to paddlers who are progressing to the top end of what other coaches can offer – possibly once or twice a month? – so we can encourage improving paddlers to attend these sessions.

John Storr said that he is willing on a Thursday to observe any would-be coach practising his or her coaching skills on a small group of volunteers for, say, a 20 minute session, to build up confidence and give constructive feedback. Any person interested in taking this up should speak to John S.

1. **Equipment Officer’s Report**

In the absence of any Club activity, there is not much to report in this regard. A decision was made to authorise Tom and Proudy to purchase a new backrest to replace that missing from one of the sit-on tops, as well as to replace the airbag and back band elastic in the duo. (Proudy’s scheme for the signing in and out of equipment to be carried forward to a future meeting).

1. **Coaching**

See discussion under **Welfare Officer’s Report** above.

The only thing to add was that Tony commented that it was difficult when, as a coach, you had an established group of beginners, wanted to move on to the next stage with them, and then a new less advanced person was added to the group. This results partly from lack of numbers of coaches enabling us to cover all different levels, and partly because we are only just getting going and building up numbers again, but Norrie suggested that it might be partially overcome – at least in so far as it is possible to overcome it – by the coaches engaging in a discussion between themselves before getting on the water.

1. **Upcoming Events or trips**
2. There is a sea kayak taster event with Cumbria Canoeists on Ullswater on 1 August – details on Facebook.
3. Norrie suggests another Lake Trip before then, especially as we may have 10 to 15 beginners ready for a Lake trip in the near future. Agreed on an evening trip leaving the Club at 5.30pm, Tuesday 6 July.
4. Norrie has been approached with a request to assist with a series of 2 hour taster sessions north of the border. They have given him a range of dates. The suggestion was originally that the sessions should be in Annan harbour, but Norrie has steered them away from this toward the River Annan instead. Norrie will organise this, and will borrow about 6 club boats and ask for help as appropriate.
5. **Document Reviews and Audits**

No documents fall to be reviewed at this meeting.

1. **Development Plan/Accreditation/Quality Club Status**

This Development Plan is still embryonic, So far the only objective on the draft plan is to attain Quality Club status, but Norrie feels that he should also add “To increase the number of coaches and leaders”.

Norrie will complete the Quality Club documentation later in the year, once the nights draw in again. He is within about 4 weeks of completing it once he turns his attention to it again. On 7 June he attended a BC seminar entitled “Quality Club Chat”, and found that only one club has actually attained Quality Club status so far, and that most are either in roughly the same position as we are, or not as far advanced.

1. **Matters Arising from the minutes of meetings on 5 April and/or 3 May 2021**

No further matters arising not already covered above.

1. **Any Other Business**
2. Norrie put in a plea that on nights when beginners come down for coaching, regular members should spend about 10 minutes at the beginning of the session helping to martial and carry down equipment, especially now when everything has to be lifted over the wall.
3. Ben will ask John Mac if he can use his contacts to enquire if there is any possibility of the floodgates being unlocked during Club sessions.
4. **Next meeting**

There will be a Committee Meeting (face to face unless new restrictions prevent it) at 8.15pm on Tuesday 10 August 2021, on the river bank after the normal Club Session. Bring your own chair!

**PMR 11/06/21**

1. Norrie is corresponding with BC so as to get up-to-date confirmation of the position. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Norrie is also corresponding with BC about this. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)