

**Blackwater Valley Canoe Club**  
**Committee Meeting Minutes – 19 January 2010**

**1. Attendees**

Lindsay Heeley	Chris Heeley
Ian Morris	Damian Edwards
Tom Brindley	Bob Hamilton
Mike Hamilton	

**2. Apologies**

Mark Lovegrove	Matt Williams
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**Actions from Previous Meeting**

Newsletter – Done

Constitution – Done

Logos – Ongoing, possibly present to club at next General Meeting

Grants – Ongoing (see later)

Paddlepower – Ongoing (see later)

Polo – Financial position improving, membership still low!

**Matters Arising**

**3. Polo**

The polo sessions are becoming financially viable, but club membership numbers are still lower than they should be! It was also felt that the committee should be kept informed of what is happening, in particular with respect to youth sessions and was suggested that emails were passed through the secretary to maintain visibility.

**4. Equipment**

A number of options within the BCU exist for grants, but it was felt that in order to make ourselves more eligible we should reduce our current cash balance. Given the recent investment in two new, larger kayaks, many options were discussed, mostly based around additional/replacement open canoes. A need for mid-sized boats (larger junior boats) was raised, with the possibility of applying for a Hampshire Youth Opportunities grant.

**5. Kit Hire**

Further to the discussion on equipment, it was felt that new arrangements for kit hire should be introduced in part to protect the investment in new kit (e.g. higher charges for better/more expensive gear). It was also pointed out that it should be more strictly enforced, with clarifications on ‘acceptable use’ of hired kit. Chris/Lindsay to consider some possibilities.

**6. Fees**

It was agreed that a general meeting should be called (Ian) so that paddling fees for the forthcoming year may be discussed with / agreed by the club.

The possibility of introducing some form of bulk payment to speed up / simplify things at the Lido was mentioned briefly, but will need some further thought to ensure that it is financially viable, appealing to members and also requires minimal additional effort/administration for those collecting the money.

## **7. Paddlepower**

Ed would like to assess the skill levels of the paddlepower members in order to get a clearer picture of where they are at. It was also felt that it would be beneficial to find out what it is they really want from the club, in terms of Wednesday evening sessions, potential trips etc.

## **8. Coaching**

Tom gave a run-down of the current situation and future coaching plans. In summary, we currently have:

- 2x L4 (non active)
- 4x L3 (1 distant, but active)
- 7x L2 (1 distant, 1 out of country (polo))
- 9x L1 (2 non active, no longer members)

In terms of future plans for the next 1-2 years in order to keep the club running we should:

- Get 3x L2 Moderate water endorsements (to support L3's)
- Get 1x Moderate water – Open Canoe (Ed)
- Look into running CPD units with KJO
- Recruit ~3 current L1 coaches to become L2 (ideally identify before Lido season, so they can run sessions)
- Recruit ~5 club members to become L1

The possibility for specific female coach funding is also being investigated. Tom to follow up.

Due to the problems with grants not materialising for the last wave of coaches (plus the fact that the urgency for new coaches has reduced) it was felt that in future, interest from potential candidates should be sought, with the full costs being explained. If requested, the committee will assist in finding grants to support the development of coaches, but will not use club funds unless a specific need is identified.

Bob has agreed to take on the coaching register and update it as required.

Coaching forums should also be started up again, ideally organised / run by different people.

The need for more support for newer coaches was also discussed; this should be more practical with the increased number of coaches now available.

The return of deposits to new coaches who have now completed the required coaching hours for the club (in accordance with the previous agreement) were discussed. Ed to complete.

## **9. Courses**

A meeting is to be arranged (Tom) to discuss the courses for both juniors and adults for the forthcoming Lido season. A number of potential jobs/roles were discussed, along with the fact that courses would be returned to their BCU names to prevent any confusion!

Bob and Tom are working on personal development plans as per the BCU guide.

Also, the possibility of further 'come and try it' sessions was discussed, either as one off sessions, or as an addition to the 'start' course, or both.

### **10. Women & Girls**

Some options for increasing female participation in the sport were discussed, including the need for a 'friendly face' at club sessions. The possibility of a school link was also mentioned in order to increase numbers in the junior section, although care should be taken to ensure an appropriate school is chosen (so that we don't end up as an equipment supplier...).

### **11. Lido**

Jobs/roles for the Lido sessions need to more evenly distributed to ensure it's not the same person every week. E.g. ideally there should be plenty of non-coaches who have their FSRT to ensure that coaches can be best used.

The possibility of organising a fun/family night at some point during the season to get everyone involved in something together was also suggested.

### **12. Trips**

The need to start thinking about club trips from May 2010 onwards was identified and it was felt that this would be best done via e-mail. (All)

### **13. Website**

Mike has almost completed an updated club website, but is still missing a few bits of content from various people.

### **Summary of Actions**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action</b>
5. Kit Hire	Come up with some potential new pricing options	Chris/Lindsay
6. Fees	Consider options for simplifying Lido paddling fees.	All
6. Fees	Call a club general meeting to discuss fees etc.	Ian
7 .Paddlepower	Find out what skill level they are at & what they want to do.	Ed
8. Coaching	Follow up on request for information regarding female specific coaching grants.	Tom
8. Coaching	Arrange for coaching deposits to be repaid.	Ed
9. Courses	Arrange a meeting to discuss courses for the forthcoming year.	Tom
12. Trips	Work out what trips we want to run in the coming year.	All
13.	Send Mike any content you have for the updated website.	All