



**Minutes of 10/09/2024 General Committee Meeting  
8 p.m. via Zoom**

**In Attendance:** Jonathan Males (JM), Carl Upsall (CU), Catherine Pulis (CP), Irina Medunyak (IM), James Bradley (JB), Jon Halden (JH), Karen da Silva (KdS), Marc Diggins (MDI), Marie Bauerova (MB), Mark Corti (MC), Martin Davies (MD), Martin Smyth (MS), Peter Nash (PN), Sophie Chandon (SC)

**Apologies:** Ciaran Edwards (CLE), Pam Phillips (PP)  
The meeting met the requirements for being quorate.

**1.0 Welcome and Apologies**

Welcome to all and especially the newly appointed members of the General Committee.

**2.0 Approval of Minutes**

**Agreed:** Minutes of the General Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were approved. [AGR 240910 2.0.1]

***ONLY STANDING AGENDA ITEMS REQUIRING REPORTS OR DISCUSSION AT TODAY'S MEETING  
ARE SHOWN IN THE MINUTES BELOW***

**3.0 AGM Actions**

JM identified a list of actions from the AGM for discussion by the General Committee: freestyle feature, raft racing opportunities sign-posting, timely pump switch-ons, bank safety and volunteering commitments.

With regard to volunteering, MC put forward that the main consideration should be about the ethos and sense of community and the voluntary basis and nature of the Club; acknowledging that not everyone can contribute perhaps as much as they would like or as much as others at any given time; but paying-out or hiring help seems to be against the ethos of the Club. Those present supported this description of the ethos of the Club and the importance of volunteering.

IM noted that the need for cover, particularly for bank safety, was a broader issue given the challenges for PP on a weekly basis to ensure that we have the cover each week, so there is a practical issue to solve that not solely relying on volunteers could address. JH raised the point that SPOND is not best serving us in terms of planning our volunteers' time ahead.

**Agreed:** Review the use of SPOND and the amount of notice that it gives; the responsiveness of our volunteers to the requests for support; and what the data tells us about how we can improve. [AGR 240910 3.0.1]

JB pointed out that if the Club is aiming to get community funding, then we need to be careful what we introduce if it flies counter to a community-based club operated by its members, for its members.



**Agreed:** The Club accepts that not all of its Members can or will volunteer at any given time. The General Committee will continue to seek the contributions that are necessary for the safe and effective operation of the Club through contributions that suit individuals' circumstances. [AGR 240910 3.0.2]

A suggestion had been made to review and change the regular hours of Club Night: starting at 1900 on Olympic rather than 1830, as it would reduce the pressure on people travelling, but accepting that there may be a slight disadvantage for juniors or seniors travelling with juniors.

IM noted that we had a later session but the take-up was not great leaving us to cancel it. SC suggested that this was when there were three sessions available, and the last session may have been less used as not many paddlers would want more than two hours on the water

JH reiterated the drawback raised in the suggestion that later finishes do not suit everyone, especially those with a long journey back or with younger Club members to get home on a school night.

IM recommended that if we are going to change the established position, then we should poll the Club's Members. JM noted he was keen also to get views on weekend paddling etc.

**Action:** Construct and send out a survey of members that covers the range of questions and options regarding future Club paddling times and opportunities at LVWWC. [ACT 240910 3.0.1]

Undertake a mapping of postcodes to see what we can learn from the spread of members' journeys. [ACT 240910 3.0.2]

Develop a look-ahead programme of recreational trips and events using Members' knowledge of other locations with ideas to include an advanced whitewater programme, a trip to Cardiff WWC etc. [ACT 240910 3.0.3]

## 6.0 Financial Update

JB provided an overview of funding opportunities, especially those available from commercial organisations wishing to provide services to public bodies and needing to provide something back to communities as part of the contract. They must demonstrate they are meeting needs of measurable value known as Social Value Funding (SVF). JB explained it can be in kind or in cash. If we approach companies with ideas and a good business case, when they bid for work, they can include our requirement within their bid to show their commitment to SVF. We just need to be clear about the benefits and metrics that



sit alongside the justification. Broxbourne also has some funds and schemes available in other areas that could perhaps be applied to the Club that would be beneficial as a whole, or to individual Club activities.

JB recommended that a dialogue be commenced with local authorities so they know who we are and what our story and needs are.

Discussion on JB's points covered: the need for a priority list and wish list; cash donation options; inclusive paddling opportunities; our Slalom development programme; youth bursary; bursary for disadvantaged members of the local community; ongoing Club costs; a dedicated club house.

**Action:** Committee Members to supply a list of ideas for collation and an initial discussion with Broxbourne to be held. JM, JB, MD, CLE to shape the list and the needs' rationale. [ACT 240910 6.0.1]

### **8.0 Welfare Update**

The Welfare Team is looking at a policy update that can be shared with GLL when we have a final draft for circulation.

Committee Members were reminded about the online Safeguarding Course that had been recommended by IM.

### **12.0 Discipline Update: Flatwater**

MD reported on the latest floating pontoon developments at Rammeys Island. Lack of a pontoon has been a barrier for our further progress on activities at the site.

### **18.0 AOB**

The next meeting will be 10th December 2024.

PN mentioned the Paddle UK invasive species initiative, and that he would be looking to arrange an activity for the Club and advertise in the Newsletter. JB added that we should ensure we keep notes on Members engaging in such activities that have a positive environmental, social or safeguarding impact, as it is good for social funding applications.

PP to be consulted on a Christmas event for the Club.

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