



Minutes of 10/12 /2024 General Committee Meeting 8 p.m. via Zoom

In Attendance: Jonathan Males (JM), Ciaran Edwards (CLE), Irina Medunyak (IM), Jon Halden (JH), Marc Diggins (MDI), Mark Corti (MC), Martin Davies (MD), Martin Smyth (MS), Peter Nash (PN), Pam Phillips (PP)

Apologies: Carl Upsall (CU), Catherine Pulis (CP), James Bradley (JB), Karen da Silva (KdS), Marie Bauerova (MB), Sophie Chandon (SC),

The meeting met the requirements for being quorate.

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

Welcome to the last meeting of the General Committee for 2024.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Agreed: Minutes of the General Committee meeting on 10th September 2024 were approved. [AGR 241210 2.0.1]

Minutes of the General Committee Meeting on 25th November 2024 were approved. [AGR 241210 2.0.2]

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

3.0 AGM Actions

A review of the Members' postcodes confirmed that the Club catered for a broad spread of paddlers and decisions needed to continue to reflect that; and, membership in the immediate vicinity could be further improved. It was considered useful to have a zoom-in on the data for EN postcodes for the next meeting.

Action: MS to produce more detail on member distribution within the EN postcodes. [ACT 241210 3.0.1]

6.0 Quality Audit

MS gave a heads-up on the Quality Audit actions in advance of the next meeting in March, and will send a message around before that meeting so that the Committee can look at each area and check progress on actions and issues.

7.0 Financial Update

Finance committee meeting next week and will report anything substantial.

Christmas social - a small refund coming from the caterer.

There had been positive discussions at the last meeting on funding opportunities. JM described how we have a Club prospectus that's being circulated with potential funders, and having had a few initial conversations, we await the first take-ups.



8.0 Membership Update

Membership, numbers down on last year as things stand.

10.0 Coaching Update

New training programme to start in spring of 2025 with some bursary funds to back our activities. One of the training sessions will be on safe emptying of flooded boats. The bursary award was £900 for our coaching programme.

11.0 Safety Update

The annual review of risk assessments has been done, with nothing much to update, but do need to update the slalom development programme.

More incidents noted this past year but appears to be the result of better reporting practices rather than growth in the incidents.

12.0 Equipment Update

JB has plans for updating slalom shed storage. He and CU have had an initial check on the number of boats. Next, will be a conversation on what gets retained or not, and, a tidy-up and full stock check.

JM updated on the plan to start using Club radios from January.

JM reported back on a meeting with Paddle UK, and the likelihood that we could start being charged for our use of sheds over and above those originally allocated to the Club when it was started. Discussions are also underway for improved lighting to be put in place.

13. Discipline Update: FlatWater

MD reported back on recent meetings discussing responsibilities and access at Rammey Island. He also updated on plans to establish adult peer paddling and availability constraints for coaching over the next few months.

PN enquired about Club paddlers being able to participate in the Winter Series. MD, confirmed they could, but he wasn't advertising this widely as unable to put the necessary support in place. Slalom boat entry, the general purpose category and a SUP category were discussed.

MD outlined that a Club 'team manager' would be needed for each event to verify the participants from the Club. MD confirmed the events were trying to open up their availability, but would still need a Club sign-off. PN and MD would further discuss the logistics outside the meeting.

16. Discipline Update: Recreational

PN outlined current plans for activities starting with the River Chelmer on the 15th, and then plans for 2025 including the Stort, Cam, Marlow, Thames tidal and Medway. Hopes that can increase recreational paddling for south-based members as raised at the AGM. Further



afield, looking at Cardiff, and Dart for 2025 as well. North Wales was a success, so good to have another good white water venue planned.

17. Discipline Update: Slalom

CLE described a proposal on the structuring of slalom training and getting the slalom group more engaged in other Club activities.

- a) slalom coaching at the bottom of the Olympic on Club Nights, at a set fee of £10. for upto 6 persons per hour.

The question was raised if this would be part of the overall risk assessment number set, or manageable as an addition? Initial feeling was that it would be above the general set number subject to final validation. Would also need to integrate with any other coaching activities set by JH.

- b) payment of coaches is an issue! Different systems in place across the differing provisions of coaching. JM confirmed this ought to be looked at as we must ensure that across Club activities we are being transparent, fair and equitable.
- c) Kayak cross - good feedback on what we have done recently and proven the popularity of kayak-cross. Now want to provide some structured coaching - identified initially earlier in the year, and this is now the formalised proposal. It would be based on the skills for doing a course, not head-to-head racing - so more akin to the time trial element. Follows risk assessment constructed in summer. Coaches are now qualified to provide the training. MC the risk assessment will need to take account of other paddlers present, as the original baseline was not for a general paddling session. Provisionally aiming for a February start.
- d) CLE - the Club will be taking on a few more competition responsibilities as part of the transition from Paddle UK. There will be a Div 1/Open in early March, the annual Selection Event, also in March, and then the British Open at the end of the season.

Action: CLE to coordinate for final risk assessment updates. [ACT 241210 17.0.1]

Action: Review of coaching payments and recognition to be instigated. [ACT 241210 17.0.2]

18.0 AOB

PP and HP were thanked by the Committee for the successful Christmas event.
