

	Present	Actions
	Colin Broadway (CB) – Chair Andy Oughton (AO) – Vice Chair & RCR Katrina Smith (KS) – Secretary Daniel Lloyd (DL) – Treasurer Claire Lambert (CL) – Communications Dawn Scott, Ian Scott, Andy Seager, Graeme Young, Jon Simpson, Paul Pattinson	
1	Welcome	
2	Apologies John Stoner, Russell Smith,	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of previous meeting accepted ACTION: Pass onto Andy Oughton to add to web-site	Katrina Smith
4	Matters Arising Jenna date first weekend in September. Action: AO to confirm with Jenna	Andy Oughton
5	Chairs Report CB had shared his report prior to the meeting. CB advised that the subject of dissolving the RDTs is not on the BC AGM Agenda. The English Council has not met since before COVID. The RDTs historically link into the English Council and into the Board. DS asked about insurance and how we would stand with insurance as a group. DL advised that he had not yet seen a water bill for Broadway’s meadow. AO thought BC will be paying it direct. Lease & the water bill for Broadway’s Meadow is set up directly with BC. AO advised the model we can look at is the Symonds Yat and Hoarwithy. AO feels we do not need to do anything at this present time. It was agreed that we will carry on with the existing name and terms of reference until such time we are required to change. We need to make ourselves useful and relevant. ACTION: Everyone look at Plan about relevance on BC website. Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZTLKhN7IT8V-Yig05b0xLSGWFOz_CO0m?usp=sharing The re look at Colin’s report below: I am sorry about my lack of computer skills, but at the last meeting I was in the middle of swapping things over to a new machine using Windows 11 instead of 8.1 on an old machine which was dying and coming to terms with it. I think I’m on top of it now. I understand that I was not the only one having problems, and I would like to thank Andy for trying to hold things together for the evening. The report I was going to give is covered below but with some updates. As I managed to finally let you know, following my meeting with Chris Earl, and various calls I have made to members of the BC Board, getting rid of the RDT's has to be done formally at the AGM. The Board have not made this decision yet but might do later this month although there will be some resistance. It then has to go on the AGM agenda and be approved. It doesn’t appear to be on the agenda. At our meeting Chris started by telling me that as a group we had to change our name and finished by saying the name really did not matter and if EMRDT was the name we wanted to use - use it. My latest understanding is RDT’s can still exist, although many do	ALL to Review Colin’s Report

not and West Mids have Morphed themselves into West Midlands Paddling Community, an informal group with officers.

He went on to tell me about the Stronger together grants available – and talked about the idea of Park Runs. He talked about Bronze up to £500, Silver up to £5000 and Gold over £5000 awards being available. In addition to Park Runs he also mention that diversity was a priority.

He did not tell me we should not exist as a group.

When I gave him a copy of our terms of Reference and our Regional Development Plan dated November 2018, he had not seen although it is on the BC website, and it is still on their website today.

He emailed me back say the RDT has a role in communicating with clubs, but British Canoeing are more effective? (My question mark)

In our Terms of Reference, he would like us to remove ' the RDT is **THE** link between BC Head Office and the Regional Club and Members. Just one word to remove **THE**

The region used to have a seat on the English Council, who used to elect 2 members to the board, this was the route members to board. English Council no longer functions as BC have not called a meeting since Covid and don't intend too. Therefore, this link no longer functions, AND HAS NOT BEEN REPLACED, nor has it been formally dissolved. My understanding is that following the AGM members will no longer have a say on who,s elected to the board.

On our Terms of reference: He wrote

As I tried to mention at the meeting, the formal governance link between BC and the RDT's will be broken at the next AGM. {see my notes above} he continued - The RDT still plays an important function to support paddlers in the East Midlands but is only accountable to BC for any funding the group receives for projects/actions that are agreed. On this basis I think the Terms of Reference needs redrafting.

He also felt we were trying to do too many things.

That said: BC is unlikely to recognise RDT's as they were, and we have the opportunity to be whatever we want to be, unaccountable to BC except where we use their funding. If this is the case, then we should in future be able take on leases such as Broadways Meadow without BC interference or dictating terms.

I propose we rewrite our terms of reference, and our development plan and get on with it.

Chris has offered to assist with this but I suggest that we should do this ourselves without any influence from British Canoeing, it will help on deciding as a group where we want to proceed from here.

We are probably in a better position than BC in their Stronger Together Ambition six – although their satisfaction surveys are a bit of a joke, written to give a set answers.

On Coaching: Has the BC plan be reported/discussed by the RDT – that all affiliated club's activities will need to be run and overseen by a qualified coach or leader – by 2026. That is all activities with the exception of peer-to-peer activities. I am told BC has funding to train these Coaches/Leaders so no need for funding coaching from the region's funds. I am told this is an insurance company stipulation, that fits in with the way the coaching team see the future.

A bit of History relating to regional club's lists

On the Region/Area - The East Midlands consists of the six counties – which were, and area identified by the old Sports Council as a funding area. Notts, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Lincs and Northants.

	<p>On clubs in the region and individual membership, BC has never used county boundaries only postcodes, as members or clubs we were put into the Region that fitted your postcode although you could opt for a different region. If a club secretary lives in a different postcode to the club house, the club could find itself in a different region. The organisations that replaced the Sports Council do not look at Region's</p> <p>If BC is doing away with RDT's along with clubs, members will probably no longer automatically belong to a region.</p> <p>So, I propose we discuss at the next meeting</p> <p>We continue to use the Term EMRDT until BC changes its name, which is up for consideration, at which time we could reconsider, or we can change it now. Paddle East Midlands encompasses all and loosely defines our area</p> <p>We determine the Area that the East Midlands covers. Should it stay the same, the five counties or be redefined?</p> <p>We look at rewriting our terms of reference and our Development Plan.</p> <p>We should keep working with clubs, after all with the exception of myself I believe all members of our team represent different clubs or groups.</p> <p>Chris did mention the concept of Park Runs, he would like to see these happen – he didn't know that we as a region already worked with Soar Valley Canoe Club to set up the nearest thing BC has to a park run, the Barrow race Series, 6 events run under Wild Water racing rules, but anyone is welcome at any age and in any paddled craft. We have had craft as varied as crewed SUPs to Dragon Boats and sit on tops take part. As a side everyone who enters gets a prize. It's also a good fundraiser for SVCC.</p> <p>Our development plan currently allows us to extend this concept to other disciplines, something I was working on before I resigned as Chair a few years ago and has fallen by the wayside. I'm more than happy to work on this again.</p> <p>Think about it, series of flatwater slaloms, or Marathon where we let any boat take part, a sup to a marathon boat.</p> <p>With an annual multi discipline event, (Sprint, Slalom, Marathon, etc) but you are restricted to just one boat.</p> <p>The aim to get more people paddling and paddling different things, seeing different craft used and having fun.</p> <p>My thoughts don't stop there, we could look at hosting workshops and fun competitions on the theme of some of our way-out branches of the sport – poling, flatwater freestyle (Paddling to music) We have done this in the past with SUP's (Before BC recognised them) and Coracles.</p> <p>Funding is available to be applied for from BC under their newly announced Stronger together grants.</p> <p>Anyone interested in hosting such an event let me know.</p> <p>It's all about taking part.</p> <p>Colin Broadway Chair East Midlands Regional Development Team Colinbroadway@yahoo.com 07768 876 756</p>	
6	<p>Correspondence – Katrina Smith Nothing to report other than apologies</p>	
7	<p>Treasurer's Report – Dan Lloyd £500 was spent on a mower to enable the grass to be cut at Broadway's Meadow. £2k in Natwest bank account £13,500 in HQ account AO is organising buying a shed for the mower.</p>	

	<p>We still can apply for the £1k Discuss ideas at the next meeting to put together a new development plan to apply for BC money in August. The planned portable toilets for Broadway’s Meadow will be delivered around Easter and will be in place until the end of September They will have lockable doors with number padlocks to match gate and water number Security of the mower was discussed especially when around the time of the Gypsy race festival.</p>	
8	<p>RCR Report – Andy Oughton SUP festival – Making it accessible to under 18s. There had been a query as to whether an ALA licence would be required either the event or coaches to ALA registered. This year under 18s will only be allowed if parent(s) are present. AO has applied for clean-up kit to run some Clean up session 10th June & also during July. CRT want to do this jointly and to also organise penny wort removal. DS advised there is an event on the Eastern Canal to remove Pennywort with CRT volunteers if anyone would like to support. Let Dawn know. HPP have a lot of bags if we need any extra for 10th June river clean up. It was confirmed that by 2026 BC propose to change the requirements for Clubs to only use qualified Leaders and Coaches. The problem is there isn’t sufficient experience and expertise to shadow & provide training in most Club environments. BC are providing some funding but getting Providers with availability is really difficult. Peer trips were discussed and it was pointed out that if it’s organised within a Club’s social media or event software and if something went seriously wrong, the Corner would most likely deem that the trip was sanctioned by the Club Committee. Further to this experience will nearly always trumps any form of qualification ticket as the first thing a Coroner wants to know if what experience was within the group. This is fine if people give good records of their experience and Club records that they have consider this and seen the evidence. AO suggested that discussing how Clubs can make best use of non-qualified experienced members would make a good topic for the Winter program. CB asked if we still needed to provide some EMRDT bursary seeing a BC now have a scheme. It was thought this depended on what we want to do or how we wished to help. We could pay to provide days where aspirant Coaches and Leaders could come and practice and we provide remit cover. CL asked if this could also incorporate helping Coaches and Leaders move to the next level or even become Providers. AO advised this could be achieved when getting Providers to run a course we could ask that they allow an aspirant Provider to shadow for experience or assist. DS advised that to become a Provider now the cost is prohibitive until you are working full time in the industry it is not something that is financially viable on a part time or Volunteer basis. KS added that to even do sheltered water award you have to do it on a lake in order to get the top end of remit and there are not that many accessible venues without going too over remit. CL advised there are some in Lincolnshire and that she joined Newark Canoe Club in order to access their venue (£30 year). Plus, Apex Lake. Staunton Harold & Carsington water may be useful. Jenna Saunders is aware of both lakes in Lincolnshire.</p>	
9	<p>Comms Report – Claire Lambert Nothing to report.</p>	

10	<p>BC Report – Russell Smith Apologies emailed and sent the recent copy of Club News which contains some useful Club information from BC. The newsletter also includes contact details for Clubs to arrange a chat via the Club Call system. Action: Send out attachment with the meeting notes</p>	Katrina Smith
11	<p>RWA Report – Andy Oughton Some issues at Barrow Deep lock – new fences put up below the lock which has made portage very difficult. Beaumanor Hall who use that area regularly had been very vocal about it and CRT have now made modifications which now makes it useable again.</p>	
12	<p>Events Planned – See Link to Google Drive in Chair’s report and details below Sunday 5th March Penny Wart removal on Beaston Canal HPPCC SUP Festival: Weekend 1 - 13/14h May 2023 – Aspirant SUP Coaches, Canoe & Kayak. AO available on Sunday but not Saturday but Claire Lambert is available on both days. Weekend 2 - 15/16 July – SUP Race & Slalom Events Lincoln Canoe Club - She paddles social event 1 / 2nd April CB asked if there were any new SUP Clubs. The only existing Club at the moment is the one that uses the King Lear Lake. It was suggested they be asked if they wanted to participate with us. Action: Ask for possible contacts She paddles weekend event September at Broadway’s Meadow. Is there anything we can do during the Summer for Canoe & Kayak aspirant PSIs/Coaches Aqua paddle charity-based time trial 5K race in Lincoln and others planned for Rotherham, Northampton and possibly Nottingham (based on Park Run) One other Barrow race to take place AO suggested we should be looking at starting to plan a series on on-line webinars for next Winter similar to those being put on via Cumbria group. The Chris Brain event they did was excellent and had over 200 people on it.</p>	K Smith / D Lloyd
13	<p>Touring, Tours Planned – No tours planned other than the 100 mile canoe test.</p>	
14	<p>Youth Paddling - HPP have some Juniors going overseas for raft racing in Romania 2 selected for Freestyle Team in USA Breakout also having successful Juniors being selected</p>	
15	<p>Safeguarding – Nothing to report.</p>	
16	<p>Broadway’s Meadow – There this morning to put together the garage but unfortunately it was slightly too small so waiting for another one to be delivered. CRT apprentice will be overseeing the new launch point at Broadway’s Meadow. He will also look at a step being put in Bishops Meadow. If that comes off, he will also be looking at a step out at North Lock in Leicester, this will be a folding one so can be out of the way when not required. Robert who is trying to get agreement from Seven Trent for access to Stoke Bardolph. AO said we would help out with a Launch paddling weekend to get as many craft on the water as possible. AO has asked BC could reconsider involvement.</p>	
17	<p>Environmental Issues – Boom across Willow Brook just below Leicester College to try and catch the rubbish.</p>	

	GY reported storm debris at Bishops Meadows and asked who to send it to. Ad said Environment Agency is responsible but they will now not do it as they do not have any budget and no Staff. DL suggested trying Network Rail and the debris is collating around their structure.	
18	AOB – HPP about to sell a really long double axel canoe trailer if anyone is interested. Action: Add an extra agenda item to discuss ideas for the development plan Google Drive shared space. Action: Set up a google folder.	Katrina Smith Andy Oughton
19	Future Meetings Tuesday 9th May On-line Zoom Meeting	