

**BRITISH CANOEING ENGLISH COACHING AND LEADERSHIP NETWORK MEETING 4
ON WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2020
ONLINE VIA GOOGLE HANGOUTS**

Attendance

Andy Oughton (AO)	-	Interim ECLN Chair
Clare Dallaway (CD)	-	ECLN Vice Chair
Darryll Shaw (DS)	-	Coaching and Partnership Manager – British Canoeing
Ed Christian (EC)	-	CSG Representative England
Ian Dallaway (ID)	-	West Midlands Regional Coaching Representative
Roger Hiley (RH)	-	South Regional Coaching Representative
Dominic Milner (DM)	-	Eastern Regional Representative
Linda Pooley (LP)	-	North East Regional Development Team Chair
Greg Spencer (GS)	-	Yorkshire Regional Development Team Chair
Mike Sunderland (MS)	-	Cumbria Regional Coaching Representative
Chris Waters (CW)	-	Devon & Cornwall Regional Coaching Representative
Aimee Sallis (AS)	-	Administration Lead – British Canoeing

Minutes

1. Chairs Welcome

Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reminded the group that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss how as a group ECLN moves forward. The working group for electing the Chair felt that they needed to ensure that the structure and purpose of the group was in place and clear before they seek a Chair to lead it. The latest changes to the Terms of Reference brought the Regional Development Teams and the Coaching Representatives closer together with the RCR. He asked the group whether they felt that they were able to represent the concerns of coaches within their entire region appropriately. He asked the groups what they think our priorities for 2021-2025 should be.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as true and correct.

3. How we move forwards as a group

The group discussed how successful RCRs and RDTs are at working together. It was clear that this was more successful in some areas more than others. Many of the RDT Chairs and RCRs are experiencing the same problem of finding people willing to step up into committee and representative positions. The group also could not recall a time when all positions within the Coaching Representative structure had been filled.

The group discussed the use of the much-improved digital media platforms that are now at their disposal. The RDT of the East Midlands and West Midlands have both seen success in online meetings having a much higher turnout than any of their face to face ones. ID informed the group that the West Midlands always had coaching on their agenda with it often being an open question session for coaches to ask the questions they need. They also are now monthly and they have found that more frequent meetings are better to keep conversations going and build momentum for projects and ideas.

The group agreed that taking something like this forward and offering it directly to coaches in the region could help introduce themselves to a wider audience of coaches and gain a better picture of what coaches within their region want and need. The group also suggested a webinar for local coaches explaining changes or other key topics. CD informed the group about an initiative within her work where you have “Big Conversations” on key topics once a month, for 5 months after which the person who would like to explore a topic is to host it with it ending with someone volunteering to run the next one. The group agreed this could be a way of engaging coaches in their regions. A discussion was held on what topics could be considered. Campaigns that affect coaches from outside the coaching department were discussed such as She Paddles and Clear Access Clear Waters. CW suggested perhaps creating a survey to ask coaches what topics they would like to see.

The group discussed whether these events should be nationwide or whether they should be regional. Some of the group felt that the regional approach was still needed as they felt that face to face events such as those ran in the East Midlands had their value and the webinar events could be a way of introducing a coach to their local team to have a local contact and support and can lead in to the in-person events. Others felt that as meetings were now not likely to be face to face that anyone within the country could access their resources and felt that it could disadvantage those regions who had less capacity to organise events such as these if they were owned by each region. MS suggested that the group be given examples of best practice of the more successful regions and perhaps the regions could work together on projects for example Cumbria the North East, Yorkshire and North west could organise a Northern coaches event.

Andy reminded the group of the purpose written in their terms of reference and asked the group if they felt they are achieving that purpose. The group felt that this should still be the purpose of the group going forward and that they met it to a degree at present. A discussion was held around the bursary that is being developed by the Development Department at British Canoeing. Some of the group wondered if this was a sign that coaches did not know where to go for support as many of the

regions do offer partial bursaries. Others saw this as another opportunity to get involved with supporting coaches within their region. GS ask whether there could be scope to expanding this to bespoke qualifications but the group felt that was a discussion for another time.

The group agreed that another issue in achieving their purpose was that their audience may not be as representative of the coaches in their region as it could be. RH pointed out that he has a large amount of Polo Clubs within his region but as someone who is from a Watersports Centre does not have the experience or insight to see what issues they would have and need support with. DS pointed out that as a group they should be gathering insight from their coaches and driving strategy rather than reacting to changes that are being implemented by other groups such as CSG. The group discussed ways that they can get more information from coaches in England. They needed to consider all of the new members that have come into British Canoeing within the last year as this is not through the traditional club structure which is the section that regions are currently very good at engaging with. Many SUP organisations are also not affiliated to British Canoeing and it is about how the coaches and leaders within these organisations can be reached. This insight can then help shape the 4-year plan of the group and that of the Coaching Department as a whole. EC informed the group that presently CSG is looking at how it can gather information to shape the next plan and that ECLN should be an important part of this insight.

The structure of the group was discussed. Some of the group felt that moving away from regions could help get the right voices involved. Others felt that the experience in the room was invaluable and it would be better to add to the current individuals rather than remove them completely. For example, ensuring that all disciplines are covered or that there is a good representation from outdoor tourism and uniformed groups as well as a bigger spread of ages should be considered. A working group was created of Darryll Shaw, Roger Hiley, Greg Spencer, Ed Christian and Andy Oughton to explore this further.

4. Any other business

There was none.

5. Dates of Next Meeting

12th January 2021