

## **East Midlands Regional Development Team**

### **Meeting Minutes**



**Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 19:08 start**

In attendance:-

Colin Broadway (CB), Dawn Scott (DS), Ian Scott (IS), Daniel Lloyd (DL), Kirston Elton (KE), Andy Oughton (AO), Pancho Guitierrez (PG), John Stoner (JS)

Mick Clowes and Linda from the Melton and Oakham Waterways Society (MOWS)

Apologies:- Drew Cartwright, David Balazik,

Apologies were received from those not in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

There were no matters arising.

### **Chairman's Report**

The venue has been changed from the Boathouse for this occasion.

The Chair asked if everyone had seen the Barrow Race video on the EM Paddlers facebook page and Youtube. KE will send a link with the minutes of this meeting.

Bursaries for coaching courses have been received and are being considered/actioned.

Trevor Tarlton Wetheral's safeguarding form has not yet been received.

### **Chairs Report**

The Chair informed the meeting that he had nothing to report since the last RDT meeting.

### **Treasurer**

There has been little activity since the last meeting. The RDT's accounts are essentially the same as reported in the last meeting. One cheque is outstanding and the Treasurer will confirm which this is shortly and if this is for Northampton club then he will confirm with PG.

## **Participation and Membership**

There has been some materials sent to British Canoeing but nothing has been sent back yet from them.

## **More Places to Paddle**

Mick and Linda from MOWS was introduced to the group and will present shortly.

KE passed on a request from British Canoeing regarding any facilities around C&RT infrastructure that might additional works for paddlers. KE was unsure if this related solely to the Upper Trent area or wider in the region. The new Access Officers details will be passed to CB and AO for then to liaise with the Access Officer at British Canoeing.

AO informed the meeting that a paddler doing the Bliss Trail solo will be passing through Leicestershire and Nottingham shortly and he might appreciate some company through the Region. HPPCC representatives will post on their facebook details of this.

Mick Clowes gave a short presentation on the history and restoration of the Melton and Oakham Navigations (River Wreake and Oakham Canal).

Mick took the meeting through plans including the soar/Wreake junction to rebuild the mill and tin huts and have accommodation and canoe storage here. The bridge was rebuilt some years ago with provision for navigation and disabled access along the towpath.

All locks on the Wreake still exist in various states of disrepair except Syston Lock. Footpaths have been put back in please. The group is in talks with Everards Brewery about moorings by the Gate Hangs Well pub along the river.

Some of the Oakham Canal is still in water. C&RT own the first 400 meters of the Wreake at Syston.

CB suggested a push for the upper parts around Melton to be made into a British Canoeing Canoe Trail. DL asked if MOWS could supply pictures for this. There was a general discussion on facilities along the trail such as pubs and toilets. KE will provide CB with Mick Clowes' contact details. CB suggested someone view the potential for a trail with MOWS representative as a guide. A map could then be made.

Mick Clowes confirmed he had no fundamental objection to such a trail but was cautious of creating too much use while riparian owners were being spoken to and negotiations ongoing. Mick informed the group that Melton Town Estate were a key riparian owner along stretches around Melton Mowbray. There was agreement to view the river and come up with the feasibility for a canoe trail. CB will have an appeal put out for those who have paddled the Wreake. Further updates to MOWS will follow following this. It was discussed whether the navigation rights were ever withdrawn in an act of abandonment. Discussion tended towards that these had not and only the requirement to maintain locks and infrastructure had been withdrawn.

There was general agreement with CB that something should be done about navigation and use of the Wreake. AO has previously paddled this river as has CB and others. There are descriptions of paddles on the Wreake on Song of the Paddler forum.

AO then informed the meeting that he had been requested to put on a Soar Tour in August. This will be open to anyone.

DS stated her desire to get a full regional calendar of regional trips. AS said that the South area are putting something like this together – each club does a day's tour. AO said there was a concern that some clubs didn't take on the responsibility.

CB will write a letter to all clubs and a tour will be done starting in September. CB will draft this letter. AO said a google calendar could be put together.

DS pointed out a serious lack of club participation in the East Midlands RDT meetings.

### **Club Development**

It was asked if any clubs needed any help with this.

PG informed the meeting that he had had an encounter with British Canoeing about Paddlesport Leader provider provision. There were apparently issues around environmental conditions suitable for assessment including windspeed and width of lakes or waterbodies. This meant that assessments couldn't always take place. PG has written British Canoeing a long e-mail and he has received a response taking his point. PG had responded questioning how the scheme could be supported. DS asked AO regarding his experiences in these situations. AO said the remit is up to Beaufort 3 which isn't hard to achieve and greenflow allows paddlers to go up and down the stream. PG explained the issue is with lakes and remit.

CB stated this is a coaching matter.

DS said she wasn't sure where Paddlesport Leader sits, but it is being linked with Paddlesport Instructor and Paddlesport Leader is causing an issue. This risks Sheltered Water coaches having less experience. PG raised further issues with remit such as water temperature and windspeed. He believes that award assessment is becoming unfeasible. PG said the region only has one provider. CB said he wasn't sure we could do anything about it. DS said it will take some time to change the scheme. BC asked PG if he wishes this reporting that his club is struggling to put people through Paddlesport Leader due to environmental concerns.

### **Competitions and Events**

The Soar Marathon will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> September and the HPPCC second Prem Slalom competition for 2018 will take place in September.

AO asked if the Soar club has started looking at the Winter Series dates. JS said not yet but raised the possibility of October, November and December middle Saturdays. CB said the sooner we can get the dates out the better.

DS informed the meeting that there had been a good turnout for Paddle in the Park two weeks ago. British Canoeing ran the event this year. There were some spaces on the white water sessions. It was pointed out that the event clashed with the Leicester Riverside Festival and Rutland Canoe Club had their Treasure Hunt as well on the same date(s).

DS said that the Regional Calendar was really effective last year. The distribution through British Canoeing had a major impact this last year. AO will co-ordinate putting it together this year. There will be a Coaching Matters in North Nottinghamshire in September or October with Drew Cartwright.

AO said there may be a surge in SUP Discipline Support Modules around July. DS asked if there was any way to put something together for intermediate paddlers. AO said it would be worth waiting a short while.

AO said there may be a Paddlesport Instructure in August possibly mid-week.

AO said July announcements are likely to be useful.

KE said he had been struggling to find a Coach course (old L2 equivalent scheme) running in the Midlands, due to numbers and many are mid-week. DS said we need to get Core and Sheltered Water Modules on in the Region.

AO confirmed he will get the winter programme together.

### **C&RT Report**

AO updated the meeting of a re-organisation for C&RT that is much bigger than the last 9 months ago. The number of regions will go down to 6 from the current 9. Now this group is part of a much larger Midlands clock. There are two of the 9 Regional Managers have retained their jobs. Our current one is no longer the East Midlands Manager. Our regional now have one of four managers with no waterways experience. C&RT Regional Manager role is now customer focussed role and not waterways technical. AO said he had no formal role yet with them but partnerships will be re-advertised in the future. AO had an exchange with the CRT Chief Executive about events not getting passed on to staff. AO said we need to build new relationships with C&RT locally. King Power Stadium portage is no overgrown and works that were agreed are currently on hold.

### **Communications**

A calendar is being put out by British Canoeing and will make a huge difference. CB was asked by British Canoeing if there was anything that needed to go into the coaching update. AO said the new British Canoeing database has been contracted out to the same company that did the Scottish Canoe Association one. Now the database is up and running. As soon as enough providers provide details then providers can be accessed. So far only 50 have done so. LR and CR electronic completion online is almost ready to go. Paddlers will be able to log onto the member area and forms will be authorised online. Online payments will be possible too.

### **Safeguarding**

Nothing was raised relating to safeguarding.

PG did raise a question regarding his club and requisites to run sessions – coach with noon-regular unsupervised contact with minors doesn't need DBS it was confirmed. CB confirmed only regular contact with minors needs a DBS. DS stated that "regular" is once a month or overnight. CB said the club can make rules as well. AO said British Canoeing will push back on too many checks due to the cost of these. AO had asked for L1 DBS check and British Canoeing said L1 won't be unsupervised contact.

## **AOB**

DS said there were 2 Four Star Touring Bursaries but she has left these at home. DS cannot send these to the Secretary as one of the Bursaries is for the Secretary. The Bursary's are for £36 each.

CB the individual who made the promotional video spent £600 on its production. CB asked if the group could find £300 for this for them. He may do additional future work for us. The Treasurer completed a cheque for £300 following agreement on this.

Two cheques for the Four Star Touring Assessment Bursaries were completed following agreement, as one cheque to HPPCC for £72.

The next meeting of the East Midlands RDT will be 10<sup>th</sup> September and the venue will be confirmed. DS and IS gave their apologies for this next meeting as they won't be able to attend.

Meeting closed at 21:30.