

In attendance:-

Colin Broadway (CB), Dawn Scott (DS), Ian Scott (IS), , Kirston Elton (KE), Andy Oughton (AO), Laura Sutherland (LS), Meg Edwards (ME), John Chamberlain (JC), John Moore (JM), Martin Aldridge (MA), Christina Burns (CB), Chantelle Grundy (CG), Richard Atkinson (RA), Andy Pagett (AP), Andy Seager (AS), Andy Brown (AB), Christina Noakes (CN), Nikki Aldridge (NA).

Via Skype: Paul Pattison (PP) Arnie Barker (AB)

Apologies: Drew Cartwright, David Balazik, Daniel Lloyd (DL), John Stoner

The minutes of the previous ACM meeting were approved

There were no matters arising.

*This item was moved forward to allow the presenters to leave early as they had another presentation to do in the morning which required an early start*

British Canoeing Access Charter

Chantelle Grundy and Richard Atkinson from British Canoeing attended and briefed RDT about the new Access Charter and campaign.

They fed back that access had been identified by members as the most important issue. Environmental concerns underpin this.

The charter has been developed over the last year and has the interest of several MPs – some of whom are very supportive. John Grogan MP (Labour) Member of Parliament for Keighley and Ilkley may propose an “early day motion” in the House of Commons and there is cross party support.

The Charter is about improving access through shared sustainable access. The goal is to change legislation but this is a long-term goal. The Scottish model is seen as appropriate.

Responsible, respectful access with an access code in England.

Wales has been put “on the shelf” but could be reopened after Brexit. British Canoeing is championing fair, shared and open shared access. Connects people to the environment and helps with mental wellbeing and welfare. British Canoeing has contributed to the DEFRA 25 year Environment Plan.

They aim to protect the health of rivers, protect and enhance health of these rivers too. CG has worked with Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) and Richard is responsible for issues around Non-native species. CG and RA stressed it’s about championing environmental benefits of paddling and incentivising landowners. Agricultural bills and Brexit consultations as well as Environment and Land Management scheme look at doing public good. There are cases for subsidy payments based on things including access to land including water which could incentivise landowners further.

## Actions

CG and RA stressed there are only three of them in their team to do all this work and informed how the Regions help.

- They would like to see action points in the Action Plans from Regions.
- Some examples were given, and they would like to see more river clean ups.
- Non-native species training is being given through the Wildlife Trusts.

AO asked can this be done via e-learning? RA wasn't sure if this was possible but was meeting the Wildlife Trusts tomorrow.

JM said he appreciated the work but the bottom line is we want access and many things need addressing. Idea may mushroom like River Clean-ups but lose the point of access focus - where are we with the main point of access and this goal? RA and AO responded that paddlers are often accused of environmental damage and this work demonstrates that we are responsible so helps the cause of access.

AO stressed that we are using the environmental as a key. RA said open access demand hasn't worked over a number of years so this new approach is needed. AO also mentioned that anglers are recognising that paddlers are now getting it right in their fight for access.

JC said river clean ups are common ground and other work builds on this. It's a start.

RA – angling is in decline. CB asked if there was any research to say paddling is or isn't harmful.

RA said that some research said paddling wasn't harmful but we may need to look at some areas of no paddling when water is low for example.

RA and CG continued to outline the help they need from Regions. Chantelle went through access points.

MA asked what happened to public rights of way work a few years ago? CG detailed work that is ongoing in this area to incentivise and they are working with the British Horse Society and Ramblers in these areas.

Writing Canoe Trails was posed as a way of helping, along with engaging with MPs.

Regional Waterways Officer role has changed and is more structured and linked to the Charter. The role was explained. CB asked for the Job Description. RA went through role expectations and that it was voluntary. JM asked if it should be a paid role. RA said the funding wasn't there for it to be a paid role.

RA proposed KE for this role. CB wants a Job Description before we appoint a volunteer to this position. There was no further discussion on this issue. RA will provide Job Description.

AO said that paddlers seen to be doing something good makes a lot of difference.

It was stated that it was down to RDT to decide on what our actions are.

No further questions were posed to RA and CG.

RA ended by saying that they need support at a local level and they were doing their best.

Minutes of the previous general meeting Were accepted

Matters arising

Safety Advisor – Trevor Tarlton-Wetherall is currently out of action. DS or CB will discuss this with him.

The Regional Communications Officer role is vacant. EM Paddlers website isn't up yet. Website training not ready. CG – we should put something up. Colin will call BC.

Regional Waterways Advisor – CB said we have been told we need one. CB said this is now a different role to the old one and what he was led to believe. AO said we have been asked to build into our plan 5 actions. The group looked at actions that could be done in Region. AO offered to be on the consultative body but our canoe trails template doesn't fit their trails. BC – need to know about litter picks etc.

CB and AO discussed whether the role was a co-ordinator or advisor. Decided to add in that they are to co-ordinate actions.

Trails Tours and Trips co-ordinator: No volunteers yet. LS asked if RDT can be more innovative about how we advertise these.

Mentoring weekends. AO said there had been no progress on this. CB stressed we do need to get these going. DS said she already has a full calendar at the weekends, and should we look at evenings instead?

It was stressed the calendar needs formalising more and targeting it better. Mentoring Coaches and aspirant coaches were stressed as important.

ME – performance awards lead coaches to look for tick list whereas it's a more holistic approach.

SUP sign off is being asked about for providing. AO said no plan yet as wanting to hear from BC about his availability due to other work.

Canal Societies: CB asked if anyone had any further contact with the 3 canal Societies that had given talks: JC advised they had carried out a 2<sup>nd</sup> depth measurement exercise on the River Derwent for the canal trust. Only one area

5 points to add to plan

Action: advertise

Action: Dates at weekends & evenings

**Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 19:00 start**

not sufficient depth. This was a long stretch of the river. The most recent exercise was from Darley Abbey to the City Centre. Chris Madge has asked about Draycott Canoe Club and using new stretch they are opening near Borrowash. No response yet. No one knew definitely about Draycott Canoe Club. CB asked if we could ask around about this. MA said there was a club some years ago.

Nothing from Melton and Grantham Canal Society's. Slea paddlers use to do work with Grantham Canals a while ago but not lately. LS – would Newark be a good club to ask? CB – possibly.

Awards: It was reported incorrectly at the last meeting, information had gone into CBs spam box.

The Go Canoeing Award: Newark Canoe Club

Action: ?? find out  
about Draycott CC

Volunteers of the year went to Dale Smith, Gordon Smith and Bev Chrimes,

Young Volunteer of the year: Woody Snapper

Action: CB ask  
Newark  
CC about Grantham

Barrow Race: This is still on-going with good turnouts. Now self-funding.

AO can we litter pick the course each time and maybe invite and MP? This will be looked at LS will link up and look at this.

Correspondence:

Action: CB will take  
these certificates to  
the clubs to be  
presented

CB has received one from the Treasurer who could not make this meeting. This states that the finances have not changed. Changes made in finance reports and he lists the qualifying events such as grass roots events etc that may qualify.

CB said that RDT doesn't tell people what we do enough. We should also tell BC what we spend money on. There are few items on the list this year. The Treasurer can still apply for the grant to BC which was missed.

Action: CB asked  
people to put  
awards in

Regional Calendar: AO has produced this. DS – safeguarding course in March at HPPCC. Event safety course at HPP. HPPCC will get priority on this. Details of these were discussed. Event safety is 3 hours course on an evening at BC offices.

AO – Tuesday evenings last year on a month were events for learning. Last year's events were poorly attended. DS – can we link to Touring and Paddlesport Leader aspirants? Invasive species evening – RA to train us on this.

KE – can we run an evening on trip planning?

CB will ask the Soar Bridge pub regarding Tuesday evenings for RDT meetings.

LS – West Midlands RDT encourages clubs to host RDT events and meetings. AO asked regarding availability at Midland Canoe Club clubhouse.

KE will circulate names and e-mails of attendees.

**Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 19:00 start**

**EAST MIDLANDS**

Action: AO to sort

Tuesday briefing  
dates

Trip planning  
evening

CB Venue?

GDPR issue

All – encourage  
attendance

CB invent of  
regional equipment

CB re-write  
application form

All push  
participation for  
Paddle in the Park

Regional Club Day: BC now run this as a national event on 9<sup>th</sup> March. CB suggested we should encourage clubs to attend this event rather than repeat our own

Equipment ME has heard that their ergo machine is elsewhere. There are only 2 Region owned kayak ergos. KE asked if they could be used at events to get the public into paddling? CB Should be added to the items available to be loan by clubs.

Bursaries: Were discussed and it was stated current position unclear. ME said the application form needs redoing. CB to do this.

Volunteer Award nominations: CB Can we put more people forward for regional and national awards. do more of these?

CB – Nominations can be put forward at any time. Final submission dates for this year have not yet been set, except the Coaching and Leadership awards which should be submitted by 14/04/19, Details and submission forms on BC web site.

Vice President's Award are ongoing.

JC – is that to nominate VCs or VC's to nominate others? Laura said this is on the BC website. It is aimed at people to be VCs. AO said British Canoeing has taken a more pro-active approach to nominations and there is recognition at UK Sports for their coaching ethos.

**Touring and Tours Planned**

AO – paddleplus invite to Hot Soup paddle on Soar into Leicester. Narborough to LOPC site.

LS – Paddle in the Park. She will be Midlands Development Officer again. Wants 1000 paddlers at this year's event. Social paddle in the park. LS wants clubs involvement. ME and LS discussed ideas on this.

There was a paddle in years gone by many clubs taking a message from their local mayor to the mayor of Boston.

KE said that he was finding in his coaching that some paddlers don't like the idea of joining a club and could these be sent to private coaches in the Region CB asked if a Regional "test" could be held. LS – yes.

ME – litter pick event suggested.

KE – Nottingham waterfront was a good place for a litterpick event as it's highly visible. LS asked how this could be organised. CB said this should go through LS.

Field in Barrow this is still available. AO asked how will we go forward. CB is happy to keep paying but can overnighters let him know first.

AOB: Midland Canoe Club have had final funding for the resurfacing to their club of the road. Local Authority will do this down to the main highway. AO asked if this can be sent to RA for promotion through British Canoeing.

ME said her and Drew Cartright had spoken about paddleability. AO paddle ability being rethought through currently following feedback.

LS and KE to co-ordinate future meetings using Skype and to try to source better equipment to improve this. CB will check the venue's capacity for this.

ME litter pick event

LS – national go paddling week – 25/05 – 02/06 2019.

Finally, several e-mail addresses that keep bouncing back regarding minutes were discussed and agreed to be removed from the circulation list.

Treasurer

This was covered in correspondence earlier. The Treasurer was not present and had sent apologies.

Safeguarding

Nothing was raised relating to safeguarding.

Meeting closed at 21:30.

LS & KE Skype improvements