

## SOUTHERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

### Annual Review 2020

*The Southern Regional Development Team has worked on continuing as much of its development as reasonably possible, throughout what has been a challenging year.*

- **Hosted a Film & Photography Festival sharing success across the region**
- **Started planning the Southern Region Development Team, “Paddle with a Club” Initiative**
- **Created a “support through help, funding and donations webpage”**
- **Shared ideas with clubs during lockdown and hosted a couple of remote events**

This year has been unlike any other within our current development plan lifespan and we were unable to complete many of those things we set out to back in November 2019, due to the many restrictions across the UK limiting movement and social interactions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Southern Region choose to postpone many of its activities, but the following section does describe what we did achieve.

The year started strong in November when we hosted a film and photography I showcasing, several contest entries from throughout the year in a theatre in Abingdon. The event included digital and printed photography displays, several short films and talks by Ivan Lawler, Dave Surman (Kingfisher Canoe Club) and Ben Simmons (Abingdon School). We had over 40+ attendees across the region.

The competition showcased 77 photos and 8 short films sent from 24 different individuals entered, from 8 from different clubs, 2 individuals who were not from a club, 1 member was from the Open Canoe Association and on average most entrants entered more than one category. We had mixed geographical engagement with 11 entries from Hampshire, 7 Oxfordshire, 2 Buckinghamshire, 2 International and 1 from Berkshire.

You can view the photo reel and watch the highlights video online:

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/regions/south/news/film-and-photography-event>



A collection of images from the Film and Photography Festival.

In December, the team each took on to find a club they would not normally paddle with and arrange for the team to join their club on a paddle in 2020. The Southern Region Development Team, “Paddle with a Club” initiative was intended to help the region to reach out and make more links within the regional community. While we were unable to execute the plan in 2020 the team hopes they can still do so in the future.

The team also started planning for an Environmental Awareness Day, with the intent to host in November 2020. Early planning began started with talks with canoe clubs along the Basingstoke Canal, the day would have incorporated a wildlife paddle, children’s treasure hunt paddle, refreshments, and environmental workshops.

In January, our newsletter continued with advertising early year programme events and adverts for volunteer recruitment in support of Hurley31. Sadly, many events scheduled this year were unable to go ahead.

In late February and early March, we started to stall activities and in our newsletter focused on sharing National initiatives such as the Clear Access, Clear Waters Petition and Trespass Consultation Response and shared early communications on Covid-19 for anyone who had recently travelled. These communications were then shortly followed by updates around the lockdown later in the month of March.

In April we shared resources and ideas for during lockdown and Southampton Canoe Clubs “keeping a club still a club remotely” article, as well as kick off our webpage “supporting through help, funding and donations” page. <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/regions/south/srdt/supporting-through-help-funding-donations>.

In May we setup a workshop “Remotely keeping your Club Chatting” to talk about tools and ways to stay in touch remotely and in June “Paddlepoints – The Webchat”. The second of which was very well received.

In October, the region completed consolidating its finances into a single account a process that started in April made challenging in the restrictions, but we also used this an opportunity to update our details, guidance and form on committee volunteering roles, expenses, payments, and invoicing. <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/regions/south/srdt/our-volunteers-roles-expenses>

Whilst 2020 has not been the year for socialising it has been a great time for many to re-invent their lifestyles, catch up on paperwork, re-design websites and look at ways to re-invent ourselves and our clubs to adapt to a very different world.

We wish everyone safe and happy paddling for 2021!

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