

**SOUTHERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
19th November 2020, 19:30
Remote Call over Google Hangouts**

ACM MINUTES
1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: Gemma Clements, James Hinves, Kevin Denis and Mark Pearce

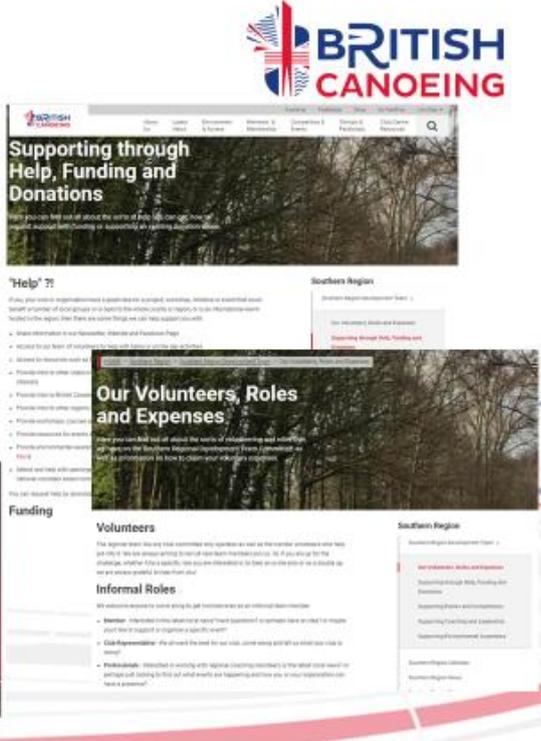
Apologies: Roger Hiley

2 Highlights

We opened with a reminder of the highlights video from Film Festival followed by a walkthrough of the annual review.

Review

- Hosted Film and Photography Festival Sharing Success Across the Region
 - Event hosted 40+ attendees.
 - Entries included 77 photos, 8 short films from 24 different entrants
- Started planning the teams “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 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. We had over 40+ attendees across the region and showcased 77 photos and 8 short films sent from 24 different individuals who entered and with engagement across the region.

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

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

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.

3 Financial Summary (see copy of the finances)

4 Elections

It was announced that the committee had been unable to successfully fill the secretary and treasurer position over the previous year. Gemma Clements currently holding the position of Chair was also stepping down from her role after 2 years in post.

No nominations were made to fill any roles.

Chair – Vacant

Vice Chair – Vacant

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer – Vacant

5 Committee Reflection

We went through a reflection on some of the aspects of why we thought the region was struggling. Most of the regional volunteers really want to feel like they are making a difference, they want a clear goal or event to focus on.

Although the development plan did have clear goals and objectives it was also very vast and diverse in targets to meet, making it sometimes difficult for the region to really identify with which of those to focus their time on in order to make the biggest difference. This could be especially hard when there were few volunteers wanting to adopt administrative roles. These longer standing management and administrative roles, suffer with the tough job of providing the full time drive to the rest of the team, and as a regional committee relies solely on the good will of those who manage them to provide the direction, when other life events occur this can easily be lost.

However, on the positive side, we also agreed that when we do have a focus on a very specific event that has a clear venue and date to work towards, we can deliver and share something very great with the community. These were both seen in our ability to come together for the annual volunteering dinner and film and photography festival. Having both a clear idea date and venue solidified, not only made it easy of existing regional team members to want to get behind these events but also local volunteers and clubs want to get involved as there is a much clearer visible seen benefit that is local to them

6 Final Closing Notes

It was finally mentioned that in absence of anyone standing for positions, that the final actions would be for Gemma to publish the final ACM notes, ensure the website was adequately updated with alternative contact information and close all Google Groups and accounts for the vacant roles.

We enjoyed the videos of 2019, it was a great year, and whilst 2020 has been tough, we hope and wish everyone safe and happy paddling for 2021...!

From Everyone at the Southern Regional Development Team