**Minutes of LCC Stewardship Group Meeting**

**18th January 2023**

**Apologies: Carol Thomas, Chris Marsden, David Hendry, Martin Sinnott, Craig Ford.**

1. **Matters arising from last meeting.**
2. Letter of support for community takeover of Woodchurch Leisure Centre – KS has sent a letter. **CLOSED**
3. How to develop paddlers and move-on from docks – See items (2) v, vi, viii and ix below.

Approval of the minutes was carried.

1. **Review from each coordinator present on how their “team” is developing – key people / main objectives for the year / any dates for the calendar.**
2. Junior/Youth (RC) – The Junior Club is carrying on through the winter, with good support from parents. The Junior weekend meet on Anglesey is booked for June 2023.
3. Sea Kayak (IB) – Upcoming club trips include the Easter trip to Kinlochleven, and Anglesey weekends in May, July & September 2023. IB has a developing leader team, but they need encouragement to coordinate trips, rather than just helping out when a trip if organised by others.
4. White Water (JC) – JC was not able to join the meeting, but it is understood that he plans to organise sessions to entice paddlers out of the docks. These will probably involve an introductory session to moving water at Chester weir, followed by sessions on easy rivers.
5. Inland water (DH) - Monthly inland water trips are planned.
6. Compound/boat maintenance (AP) - No update provided as AP could not attend meeting.
7. Coaching (AM) – Planning for a 4-week introductory course is underway, combined with an initiative to progress people to SUP leaders.
8. Open Boat (NA) – A 2-week trip to France is planned for May/June 2023. NA also intends to run monthly local trips to encourage paddlers out of the docks.
9. SUP (JF) – Not many SUP paddlers are out over the winter months. JF reported that the Club SUPs are in a poor state of repair, with only 3 of 8 serviceable. AM mentioned that the Club’s SUPs are rigid boards, and while these are suitable for beginners they are not adequate for more experienced paddlers and may hinder progression of skills. AM asked if inflatable could be sourced. KS responded that there is no space in the compound for inflatable boards and not enough resources to maintain them. **ACTION** – JH & AM to look at options for purchase/storage/maintenance of SUPs and report to the group before next meeting.
10. Kayak Safety Cover (JD) – Kayak safety cover has been provided for a number of events and more will follow. JD also raised the issue if First Aid certification (see item 6 below).
11. **Annual Audit (AG).**

AG proposed that an internal Annual Audit be carried out on Club Accounts, as per clause 9.5 of the Constitution. AG commented that part of this audit should include consideration of whether items of expenditure from the Club’s funds have been approved by the Stewardship Group. The matter was discussed and a number of comments made. In light of these comments, AG will issue a proposal before the next meeting on how this could be practicably achieved without a significant admin burden. **ACTION** (AG).

1. **Availability of leaders at docks sessions, key holders & future of Sunday ‘social’ sessions (JF).**

There are insufficient leaders coming forward to run the Sunday ‘social’ docks sessions. JF pointed out that there are many key holders who seldom actually volunteer to run sessions, and should these people return their keys? KS replied that he could change the locks, and pointed out that there is now a ‘virtual’ system of accessing the gate/compound key. Therefore, there would be no need to ask ‘absentee’ leaders to return keys.

JF commented that although the traditional ‘social’ Sunday session has not happened lately, there is still a core of leaders running their own ad-hoc sessions on Sundays. These are popular, and cater for a range of abilities. There was agreement on a proposal by KS that the social Sunday paddle be paused over the winter months and reviewed in the Spring. **ACTION** – Review Sunday sessions in April (JH, KS et al)

1. **Proposal that Liverpool Canoe Club should be known from now on as ''Liverpool Canoe and Paddleboard Club” (JD)**

JD has met many paddleboarders who did not realise that LCC has a paddleboard section and so, by changing the name, those who are specifically interested in this discipline might find LCC easier through internet searches etc. KS & AG pointed out that changing the name would lose the LCC ‘brand’ and would pose many logistical challenges (changing website, changing bank account details etc. etc). However, it was agreed that the website could be edited so that the ‘tag line’ gave a concise description of the paddlesport disciplines the Club offers its members (including SUP, SoT etc. etc.). KS actioned this item shortly after the meeting. **CLOSED**

1. **First Aid certificates (CM)**

CM pointed out that some leaders first aid certificates are due for renewal in March and asked if the club could arrange a 16hr first aid course for leaders and is willing to pay or subsidise said course? IB replied that the BCU no longer requires 16-hour standard courses, just an 8-hour course. IB is able to provide an 8-hour course at cost, plus cost of equipment rental and BCU certificate. Assuming 10-12 attendees, this is unlikely to amount to more than £15-£20 per person. A LCC bursary scheme is available, but any financial support would be conditional upon a leader accruing appropriate hours leading/coaching for the club.

However, IB raised the point that the type of course should be tailored to the level of award that a leader/coach is pursuing, and he suggested that the LCC should look into this.

IB said he would establish possible dates for an 8-hour 1st Aid course. **ACTION** (IB)

1. **AOB**

Carol Thomas has informed AG that she would not be taking up the role of LCC Secretary next year, and she would prefer to relinquish the role earlier if a replacement can be found.