



# CUCKMERE VALLEY CANOE CLUB

## CVCC AGM Minutes – 9 November 2019

**Location:** Newhaven RNLI – at 7pm

### **Present**

Helen R	Thomas J	Bonnie A
Paula L	Nick C	Charlie A
Tony L	Pat O	Kevin G
Carol L	Justin E	Sally M
Colin B	Meg E	Gordon A
Liz B	Karen S	Paul V
Rosemary H	Sarah D	Stephen H
Ali E	Darren A	Ivor F
Frances F	Vicki A	

### **1. Introduction – Pat O**

2019 marks our 40 years anniversary.

Apparently began dredging today. The Barn has been flooded for a month so there will need to be a programme of recovery and refurbishment.

Congratulations to new coaches: Megan E, Darren A, Dave L, Carly P  
Also congratulations to Nick BC for his Sea Leadership award.

Jake H – has been paddling with the Club for over 10 years since he was a youngster. He has kept up his links with the club while he is travelling in New Zealand. He has donated £500 to the Club in recognition of the fun and skills he has gained through the Club.

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

Start of year £9,100

End of year £9,700



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Covered the cost of all trips including Lee Valley

£1,100 on the Development Fund for coaches. So anyone who wants to apply for training to enhance their skills. Please email [cvcc@cvcc.org.uk](mailto:cvcc@cvcc.org.uk)

Flooding implications:

- Insurance covers all our boats so we can replace them as needed once we review stock.
- Our rent is paid from April to October so we will need to review

### 3. Committee

Four members are standing down: Ian P, Helen F, Frances J, Kevin G. Many thanks to those committee members for all their work.

New roles

- Pat O - Chair
- Justin E - Coaching Officer
- Darren A – Equipment Officer
- Bonnie A – Junior Officer
- Karen S – Comms Officer
- Helen R – Treasurer
- Megan E – Junior Officer
- Nicola H – Secretary
- Paula L – Events Officer
- Kate W – Welfare Officer

### 4. Events

If you want to run a trip, let Paula know ASAP. So if you are a coach or want to work with a coach to run a trip, get it into the calendar.

There are some annual events/ trips.

- Big Splash
- Juniors' Day
- Women's Day
- Wye

There have been some great new trips this year: Thames, wild camping.

Ideally have trips on Saturday because the Sunday



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Christmas Party: Hosted by Karen S, £10 donation. Book via the website:

<https://www.cvcc.org.uk/index.php/information/christmas-party>

New Year's Day walk/ paddle to the beach. Meet at the Barn.

## Allier Trip 2020

10 -17 May. Trip to Central France 6 days of paddling grade 1 to Grade 3 you can pick the section of the river depending on your level. You can bring your own kit or can hire there. You can stay in the village Lavoute Chilhac.

The new dates are because we have linked up with another group who regularly paddle at Bewl.

There is lots to do the as well as paddle: climbing, cycling. Families and children are welcome to attend but the dates for 2020 are not in the school holiday.

## 5. Open Forum

Please complete the survey.

### Topics

#### i. Awards

The changes to the British Canoeing award have been confusing. Now CVCC has had a chance to see other clubs manage the new awards. The take up commercially has been low as paddlers do not know what they are paying for as there is no published syllabus.

Explore award: separates the skills of canoe/ kayak. Paddlers with Explore Award are nominally able to go out and paddle on their own. Some providers deliver it in a day. We want to maintain our standard as a Club.

Action: Over the winter, CVCC Committee will draw up a syllabus for Explore.

Proposal – Everyone that joins the Club does a Start Award. Then build up to Discover.

Discussion covered:

- The new awards are client-led: people can come to Buzz and say what they want to learn and so take an Explore award in that discipline. CVCC has always had high standards and the disparity is not new. Many commercial providers delivered 2\* in one weekend. Paddlers that have gained the certificate in a day devalue the certificate. We need to indicate on the certificate how long it took to achieve the award to show the differentiation. CVCC wants to maintain its high standards. We expect the learning of our Club's paddlers to be solid.
- BC Leadership and Performance Award (3\* Level) replace the L1-3 coaching awards. Coaches' current Levels still stand.



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### ii. Flooding

#### Discussion:

- There is political pressure to manage the river mouth. CVCC is not the only organisation affected so there is pressure. The dredging needs to be an ongoing programme. So this comes back to the ownership of the river mouth. Environment Agency is having to respond now that Alfriston flooding. There is an interest in ongoing care from Pevensy and Cuckmere organisation. The EA had not deemed this as an emergency but they are now acting. History, the river mouth has not been dredged for three years and so the shingle has built up a damn. There is a sluice between the meanders and the river so when the river drops the meanders will drain.
  - The structure of the Barn will have been threatened. No decisions can be made until Buzz have a refurbishment.
  - Therefore, the bigger question is what will we do without the Barn to provide members with boats and facilities. Peer paddlers can continue but they still need access to toilet facilities.
  - If the problem has not been resolved by next April, what is the future?
    - If we lose use of the Barn, we can still keep the structure of a Club, while saving on rent. Some coaches could store a few boats. We could use some of the money saved from the rent to hire trailers to collect the boats from storage and bring them down on a Sunday morning. Or could we rent some containers to put in the car park.
    - The opens in the container are under-utilised. So we could move some of those into storage and put some of our kayaks in there to give us a working base. Or could we hire a separate container to put in the car park?
    - If there is a working base, then Buzz will have to utilise it. Richard will not disregard CVCC but Buzz is a commercial
- ⇒ **Action:** The ongoing plan has to be watching the water levels and maintaining close contact with Buzz. The committee, over Christmas, needs to budget and plan for the contingencies. So we can have plans in place to respond. We will set the February 2020 Coaches' Evening as a cut-off date

We can all agree the situation is fluid!

### 6. Awards Presentation

Most improved adult – Paul Bottomley. He has really come on during the year.

Greatest Contribution to the Club from a Non-Committee Member – Carly Porter. She has supported the Club through organising training and strengthening links with Bewl.

Tony Dray Award – Tony was a very giving coach: he was very generous with his skills. The award was created for the most inspirational coach. This year, we would like to award it to someone who has gone the extra mile for the Club, Thomas Jones.



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This year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club. To mark this, we want to honour coaches who have been involved in the Club for a long time. They are the backbone of the Club.

- Rosemary H
- Ali E
- Tony L
- Carol L
- Colin B
- Liz B

Not present:

- Luke T
- Iain P
- Steve D

### 7. AOB

Age of paddlers:

The Wallers Haven trip had an under 6 paddling. She was an excellent paddler, well supervised by parents. Therefore, for still water this should be encouraged. If you are doing a trip on still water, or just paddling on the meanders when no skills are being taught, members can bring their children as long as the parents paddle with them.

Aged up to 12, the parent has to be on the water.

We can do a few more Junior Junior Days for aged 6+ during the Season – perhaps 3 or 4. For this we need coach cover. If coaches sign up on the rota in advance then it is possible to plan for juniors to paddle.

Go Canoe sessions are run every two weeks within the season but these do not work for juniors.

We have juniors in the changing rooms so members need clear guidance or support on how to manage safeguarding. The guidance is two adults, one child but what does an adult do if a child comes in when they are having a shower on their own?

⇒ **Suggestion:** Children should use the disabled toilet shower. Then it would just need managing as to boys and girls.