

Kayak club meeting 29/9/10, Willowbank, Harrapool

Present; Lara, Steve, Jacob, Fionn, Andy, Alex, Chrissie, Lis, Janice, Clive, James

Apologies; Willie, Lisa, Rhiannon, Jo', Gordon, Morag

Minutes from January 6th and March 22nd approved by Chrissie and seconded by Alex

Matters arising; still looking for long term home for kayak trailer.

Summer session review; good numbers at the beginning, then became very quiet. Some comments from adults about need for more structure for outdoor sessions.

ADULT'S SESSIONS

Discussed whether venue changes put people off coming, but Lara felt that it was worth persevering with because the different venues offer so much opportunity for paddlers and coaches. Need to try to be more punctual.

Kylerhea barbeque and calamity paddle were enjoyed by all.

Discussed how we could find out what people really want out of the club- decided to compile a survey using 'survey monkey' website. **ACTION Steve and everyone to work on survey**

CHILDREN' SESSIONS

Jacob and Fionn enjoyed the river paddle up Broadford river the best because it was very wet, and also enjoyed using the river boats. They would like to do more river paddling next year.

COACHES

Felt that summer sessions were quite unstructured- mostly experiential learning! Breaking in and out sessions were thought to be useful at the Obb in Kyleakin at high tide. Some more incident management and rescue stuff could be built into the end of some sessions

Winter pool sessions

Start 3rd November, coaches session at 8pm, adults at 9pm on the first night, then start ordinary junior/adult sessions 10th November. **ACTION Alex to book pool, Andy to put details on website**

Children

All children should be accommodated at one pool session this year.

Plan to follow same type of syllabus as last year, with more emphasis on water confidence and rescues.

Also to issue Paddlepower passports to those who didn't get them, and look at doing 2 star or similar for more advanced children.

Chrissie suggested that we could run some sessions in the pool through the medium of Gaelic - this might enable the club to access Gaelic funding sources- to ask in survey if this would be wanted.

ACTION to adapt session plan and send to all coaches- James

To try incident scenarios/ basic first aid stuff at the pool with adults and youngsters- Lis .

Chrissie has requested weekend pool session to accommodate youngsters from Raasay. **ACTION Chrissie to organise.**

Adults

If pool sessions remain quiet, consider advertising beginners sessions as a 6 week pre-paid course. To review after Christmas.

Andy suggested that an email could be sent out to all members on a Monday to indicate what will be covered in the Wednesday session (using same plan as children) as a reminder and encouragement. Also to be put on website.

ACTION Andy put session plan on website, James to send Monday reminders. Lis to put announcement in Criomagan.

Club trips and events

- Morag to reschedule the surf weekend. **Morag**
- Gordon and Willie have offered to organise two tidal navigation and coastal planning evening sessions. **Gordon and Willie**
- Women's day and men's day have been suggested- no-one keen to organise at meeting- **any interest/ volunteers?**
- Joint weekend with Stornoway canoe club. Suggested venue is Flodigarry Hostel or Whitewave, possibly the last weekend in November. **Janice**
- Chrissie suggests a river trip on the Arkaig 15th October- Lara suggested that river trips should be non club trips until the level of leadership is improved.
- children's kayak journey, just for coaches and juniors. **Alex**
- club paddle approx 10km, somewhere calm, if possible in October- **Clive**
- summer club holiday 9th-16th July at Fidden, Mull

Training needs

4 people want to do 3 star award.

Discussed whether the club should support club members for coaching and leadership awards to encourage club members to upskill. Decided to do this, dependent on club funds, at following rates; £100 per course, £50 per first resit

Prerequisite courses such as first aid certificates ;£50. Alex to administer

Website

Needs new photos. Andy to take off a few of the older photos and requesting some new stuff. **Steve to send some Scarp photos**

Child protection officer contact to be updated. **Andy to contact Lisa for photo.**

Ocean paddler has asked if we wish link to their website on ours. All agreed not to do this as it would distract members away from our site.

Lara gave thanks to Andy again for all his work on the website.

Andy would welcome any trip reports which he could post on the website.

ALL

Need to be very sure that club trips are always on the website first and not on Facebook page, which can however be used to organise last minute trips between friends. Trip emails need to be sent in plenty of time so that Jo' has time to send them out.

News updates; Lara to do club news flashes twice yearly to keep everyone excited about the club. **Lara**

Funds and purchases

£3,000 was spent on river boats.

Funds £1250

Poor income over the summer ; £208

Membership fees £560-this is low because members are being reminded to pay 12 months after they joined instead of the previous arrangement that everyone paid in April. If they pay late, then their membership runs from date of paying, so often several months of membership revenue are lost.

Alex and Lara suggest reverting to old system- everyone pays in April. If new people want to join January- April, they will get membership at 50% rate.

Alex to speak to Jo'

Child protection and safety issues

Child protection officer was not at the meeting and those present not aware of any current problems. Coaching highland run regular 2 hour sessions on child protection and vulnerable adults which anyone can attend.

Safety; Need to stop outdoor sessions at beginning of September to avoid unplanned night paddles!

Purpose and aims of club

Lara had to complete a form to enable the SCA to get funding for club development. Current constitution is rather vague which is quite handy in that it allows us to develop in a variety of directions. If constitution is to be reworked, this needs to be done at an AGM.. Decided to leave constitution as it is at present.

Next meeting

Wednesday 12th January 2011, 7.30pm

Lara's house, Willowbank, Harrapool.