

SOUTH SKYE AND LOCHALSH KAYAK CLUB

Minutes of the committee meeting 5th April 2017

Present: Frank Burstow, Vanessa Charles, Jon Hanley, Janet Hopwood, Lis Phillips, Alex Townend, Gordon Brown, Janni Diez, Andy Law, Willie Fraser.

Apologies: All present.

Approval of minutes 27th June 2016:

Minutes (previously approved).

Matters arising:

Review of safety procedures at outdoor sessions 2017. The new safety procedure (see minutes 26-10-2017) will be implemented. Coaches and helpers will need to meet before/at the start of the sessions to decide how it's covered and by whom. There is particular impact on new paddlers with the club who will not be able to go out on the water until they have attended a session on the first adult/junior Wednesday of a month. As this is quite restrictive it may be possible that a potential new adult member could attend a relevant junior session. Radio contact between coaches and groups will be strengthened on club evenings. The procedures will be sent out to all with the summer session plans and published on the website and Facebook pages.

Risk Assessment Plans for each outdoor venue. Willie will forward these to Frank.

Website suggestion box. This was set up immediately after the last meeting. Suggestions are forwarded to Andy, Frank and Janet. It has not been used by members (one suggestion made to date) so reminders that it's there are needed.

Lottery Grant Application. Lis contacted Stornoway Canoe Club but advice/ideas were not very relevant to our needs and as Gordon pointed out what is available has changed since (coaches) last made suggestions. He and Willie have given Lis a list of suitable boats, including Valley, Tiderace, Wilderness Systems and Rainbow, to investigate and price. We need to replace the Pilots with boats suitable for young paddlers, the Capella with something suitable for a large adult and add one or two double kayaks. Danny Steel (area sports co-ordinator) has offered use of the new and underused kayaks he has

and Frank will look these as they could be useful until the lottery application outcome is known.

Funding assistance policy. Gordon's amendments to Ellie's original document were largely accepted but some fine tuning is still required. For instance (point 1) it was suggested that the club should fund 75% of ALL eligible expenditure (up to the discretionary max) after other sources funding have been followed up. (Points 2 & 3) Recipients must use their qualifications to benefit the club long term but are also able to use them elsewhere.

Gordon will look at the rewording.

AGENDA.

Summer sessions programme. To start on May 3rd. Frank had modified last year's session plan to fit 2017 dates. It was agreed that this would work well in principal but needs fine tuning to fit tides, locations and availability of coaches. Armadale was put forward as a venue – could replace Plockton in the busy summer months.

Diary of availability of coaches and helpers. Frank will ask everyone to give him any dates when they *definitely will not* be available during the summer and as far as reasonably possible let him know their general availability.

Proposal for club double kayak. Lis is suggesting we should buy a double kayak from club funds before we proceed with the lottery fund application. We would then be able to take disabled, younger, unconfident paddlers out on Wednesdays and on trips. All agreed that in principal this is an excellent idea. There was some concern that storage, handling, transport and having sufficient coaches available to enable them to be used could all be potential difficulties. However the benefits were judged greater than the difficulties and a vote was carried in favour of buying at least one double as soon as research into type and cost has been carried out. If purchasing two at the same time is cost effective this is worth considering. A quick internet search indicated buying 2 double and 6 small rainbow kayaks may be possible. Lis will look into the options.

Storage of club gear. Some of the neoprene decks stored at Frank's over the winter have unfortunately suffered mouse damage and will need patching and/or replacement. Alex has new hatches. He and Frank will get together with the boats and trailers to sort out the kit prior to May 3rd.

Preparation for the A.G.M. Breakish Hall is not available on the 19th April, also all of that week and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the foreseeable future. Monday 24th was available. It was decided that a Wednesday would be the preferred day and we should try to book An Crubh (on the Sleat road) for Wednesday 26th (7:30 for 8:00 p.m. start)...this would allow sufficient time to notify members of the changes. Lis will let Janet know as soon as possible if it's available. (Now confirmed).

A.O.B.

Update on Child Protection from Lis. All coaches and helpers are now PVG approved. There will be a C.P. training update in Portree on the 8th May (6:30-8:30 p.m.) – Lis will inform when the venue is known so that those who are able can attend.

Andy asked for photographs particularly and any other relevant information be sent to him so the website can be brought up to date.

Janet asked if access to the Facebook page should be removed from past/none members. To be reviewed after this year's subs are collected.

Vanessa asked about shore cover during summer meets. Ideally there should be an adult on shore with a radio to communicate with the coaches out with groups, 'though use of radio is regulated. Willie suggested that mobile phone reception would be good enough in the locations we use. We could ask some of the parents waiting in the car park to be involved. A register is taken at the start of each evening and paddlers should/must tick themselves off at the end. This may not be a fool-proof method of counting everyone back in. These are ongoing issues and once implemented in practice will need review and improvements. Janet will make enquiries/try to arrange a course for those at the meeting and any other members who would like to obtain radio operator qualification.

**The next meeting is the A.G.M on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 8:00p.m.
An Crubh (Duisdale, Sleat Road)**