

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS - A RETURN TO CLUB ACTIVITY

1st June 2020 guidance from British Canoeing indicates that club activities can now take place, where the paddling activity has been risk assessed and is organised in groups of no more than 6 club members.

Our individual return to paddling has gone exceptionally well, with a very positive response from members and local people. We are now able to support a limited programme of group activity within BC's guidelines.

Paddler Consent

Our priority remains the health and wellbeing of our members. We are therefore committed to ensuring that our return to paddling and club activities takes place in as safe environment as is possible. We will take all reasonable precautions against COVID-19 and act in accordance with all relevant legislation and government guidance in this area. We need you to do the same.

Despite our best efforts, when you paddle at the club you (as an individual or on behalf of a junior) are accepting an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19. It is therefore essential that you read, understand, and agree to comply with the Club's COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Guidance document and any communications or policies related to COVID-19 we put in place.

If anything does not make sense to you, you must ask questions of Club coaches and officials.

You must not go anywhere near the club or club sessions if you have displayed any COVID-19 symptoms or been in close contact with someone who has displayed symptoms in the last 21 days.

By paddling at the club you confirm you will adhere to published Government and Public Health England guidelines whilst attending the Club or taking part on club activities.

Development programme for selected paddlers

We intend to launch an organised junior and young adult development programme coordinated by Bev and Trevor Hunter with Dan Colby and Jim New. This programme is designed around groups of competent paddlers at similar standard with a coach. Development programme sessions will take place on Wednesday PM (1pm – 4pm) and Saturday AM (9am – 11am) and for non-Lightning groups at 7am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These sessions will be invite-only as we need to manage numbers and match paddler ability to each group.

General club sessions

We will offer an organised club session on a Wednesday evening. Sue Colby has offered to coordinate the session and we will need to confirm other volunteers to help manage operations at the club. We propose sessions timings from 6pm – 8pm with a simple booking system to enable people to book group launch slots at 15-minute intervals. We will let you know as soon as the booking system is organised. You will also need to join the DCC Paddling Member Chat Group.

These sessions are intended for adult/young adult paddlers not already participating in a coached session. The aim is to enable people to paddle at the same time others are on the water or in groups of <6 without a coach.

BC confirm that club equipment may now be assigned to paddlers for a session but must be wiped down before and after sessions (like any other contact area). This includes paddles, boats and BAs

which need to be washed in freshwater by paddlers and dried for 72 hours before re-use. Kit used at the Wednesday session must not be used again until Sunday.

If these group sessions prove popular, we may have capacity to expand them. We can have more than one group of 6 on the water, but this needs careful management at the club and launch area. Groups should be independent and not interact on the water.

Individual Paddling

Individual paddling from the club for adults and young adults continues as now. We encourage individuals to use the club when there is less organised activity to avoid delay and inconvenience when the organised sessions have priority.

Additional organised sessions

We are intending to provide some additional support for novice adults and juniors. We will re-start the Wednesday morning adult group session for up to 6 people (as a temporary replacement for Roger's session) and, subject to confirming appropriate parental supervision, an additional young junior novice session.

Equipment Loans

We will continue to make equipment available to loan on a 'take-away' basis for either competent adults without their own equipment or juniors who don't have their own kit and will paddle with parents or in a group session. This avoids the need to share equipment. Contact Ann for details of the loan terms and costs. Loaned kit must not be left at the club, is not to be shared and must be cleaned by the paddler/parent arranging the loan.

Changing rooms and toilets

Toilets can be now opened with restricted access and cleaning before and after use. They will be open on a Wednesday evening provided they are cleaned after the session. Other than that, our guidance must remain to 'arrive changed and go before you leave home'.

With additional volunteer support we could make toilet facilities available for Saturday sessions, provided they are cleaned after that session or before Wednesday evening.

THERE REMAIN SOME ACTIVITIES WE CANNOT YET SUPPORT:

- Using changing facilities outside proposed organised sessions as we cannot keep them clean.
- Opening the club house to use communal facilities and gym equipment as we cannot keep them clean.
- We cannot yet offer any solution to the small number of paddlers who are not competent to self-rescue or have special needs requiring close contact between paddler and coach. For this reason, we are not yet able to support novice paddlers unable to self-rescue or with specific special needs requiring close contact. We will offer a refund to paddlers unable to paddle in these circumstances.
- We are unable to offer any group introduction to paddlesport courses for the foreseeable future. We propose to offer a refund to those who have applied and are awaiting a course date.

Please feel free to put your name forward to join the small group of volunteers required to make this all work safely and efficiently. We also need someone to coordinate bookings and volunteer support for this programme. Any questions please ask Mark Bouch or Ann Slator.