

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Lee Pooley (LP)	Head of Coaching and Qualifications
Ed Christian (EC)	British Canoeing ECLN Representative
Lara Cooper (LC)	Scottish Canoe Association (SCA)
Jet Moore (JM)	Canoe Wales (CW)
Robin Gregg (RG)	Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI)
Graham Lyon (GL)	British Canoeing Awarding Body

Also In Attendance:

Natasha Devonshire (ND)	Coaching Development and Engagement Lead
Martin Suzan (MS) - Joined for Item 5	BC Lifeguards Representative

Apologies:

David Joy (DJ)	Chief Executive
Doug Cooper (DC)	Scottish Canoe Association (SCA)
Sid Sinfield (SS)	Performance Coach Developer

1. Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks

2. Declarations of Interest

LP opened the meeting, welcoming the group, noting that DJ has sent his apologies so LP will Chair the meeting. LP welcomed LC to the meeting as the SCA representative, as well as MS, Chair of the BC Lifeguards, to discuss the first agenda item.

The Chair shared several highlights including that British Canoeing recently launched the new 4-year strategy, to date, this has been well received. The AGM went smoothly and there have been lots of positive comments about the work that's been undertaken over the last 4/5 years.

The Chair highlighted that membership continues to rise, currently at almost 92,000 members, and retention at present is good.

The Chair explained that at the end of March, we will be submitting an application to be recognised as the NGB for SUP. Sport England gave the recognition to Surfing England in 2016 so we are currently working with Sport England to look at a split role, which will be the first time this has happened.

The Chair shared that work is continuing with the Marine Investigation Branch, following the incident at Haverfordwest. There should be an interim report released shortly, with a full report by the end of the year. Recommendations are likely to include there being a lead voice for SUP, as currently the landscape is confused, as well as an agreed Codes of Practice.

The new British Canoeing CEO, Ashley Metcalfe will join British Canoeing on the 1st June, he is currently CEO for British Weightlifting. CSG proposes that Ashley chairs this group.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting (No 46), Nov 2021

4. Matters Arising (Not covered by the agenda)

The minutes of the above meetings were agreed as accurate recordings of the proceedings. There were no matters arising noted.

The confidentiality of minutes was questioned. The Chair shared that most of the topics can be discussed with sub-committees, which enables feedback to get back to this group.

5. Lifeguard Search Award

The Chair shared that we have been working in collaboration with the Lifeguards for a full transition of the awards to come in-line with BCAB Awards from 31st March 2022. This allows us to move forward and get to a stage where we advertise for a new Technical Committee to develop the qualifications moving forwards. LP shared that the Paddlesport Search Technician Award was the only award that he would be unable to represent, as this isn't similar to any of our existing awards. Therefore, MS has been invited to explain the award, so this group can discuss whether it should come under the BCAB suite of qualifications and awards.

MS explained that the Paddlesport Search Technician Award is primarily focused on search. The award was developed from initial discussions about kayak support in large scale flood situations, where local responders struggle to get out to people, in a welfare capacity, as they cannot work out where people are. Currently, there are a number of clubs across the country who have links with Search Teams and the emergency services, formal and informal partnerships, with different forms of training.

Lowland Rescue were tasked by the Police to standardise the training, as there was no consistency across the country. Lowland Rescue tasked the Lifeguards to develop a training package as they wanted it externally awarded. This is primarily focused on kayaks but also includes canoes. Lowland Rescue wants this to become the qualification that teams needed to become operational. It was evident that it is better to teach paddlers the 'search' information, rather than teaching Search Teams to paddle.

MS highlighted that the remit of the award would be search operations on sheltered water, working as part of a team. MS talked through the syllabus, explaining the prerequisites, the training and assessment requirements. Assessments are carried out independently. The Governance has been identical to the other BC Lifeguard Awards, overseen by the Lifeguards Committee, with a Tech Group overseeing the content and delivery.

In the last 12 months, there have been 25 certifications with 25 people awaiting assessment. There are currently 4 Trainers, 3 Tutors and 10 teams / organisations.

MS shared his passion around the award, highlighting that the teams have done some really good work over the past 5 years.

MS highlighted that insurance is covered ultimately by the team that deploys them, which is underwritten by the police.

The Chair thanked MS for the presentation, the clarity and recognised that this training has supported the successful retrieval of missing persons.

It was highlighted that the possible outcomes would be that we either bring this award into the AB suite of qualifications or we explore other organisations who may support the award and those qualified.

The demand for the award was questioned as there would be a limited requirement for Search training.

From a Scottish perspective, there are limited sheltered water areas and there are no Lowland Teams. In Scotland, there are 20 mountain rescue teams, that are well established who run their own training.

Northern Ireland has Lowland Rescue teams but when an incident occurs, there is a strong briefing session, which would cover most of the training.

It was highlighted that with climate change, there may be more of these searches. The Lifeguards have built strong connections and it would be a shame to lose something that might be good/necessary in the future.

It was suggested that further investigation was needed for the group to make an informed decision, getting external information from Lowland Rescue teams.

Action: LP to start further investigations and share with CSG at the July 2022 meeting.

6. Safety Project Plan

LP shared that individual meetings have now been undertaken with the majority of Tech Group Chairs, to talk about the work in 2022/23, focusing on developing content and resources

The Provider requirements for Stadium Safety Rescue Training have been broadened, enabling Delivery Centres to recruit over spring / summer.

A campaign has begun to raise awareness for paddlers to report the incidents and near misses, so we can share lessons learnt and understand themes.

A 2-hour Safety Awareness Training, Paddle Safer, will be available in May 2022. Modules are based on planning, equipment, environment and rescues. There will be Provider eLearning aimed at Instructors, Coaches, Leaders and Guides. Certification will be free of charge and there will be no Provider fees.

This summer, we will be sharing the SUP Safer Award and we are currently considering how we create appropriate Orientations for providers.

The Chair shared that work continues with retailers. Decathlon has agreed to put a leaflet inside every SUP they sell. We are currently formalising a joint letter with the RNLI to encourage non-specialist retailers to include appropriate safety information with their paddlesport products.

The Chair is pleased to share the new Safety Lead will start on 30th May.

7. Paddlesport Matrix

Paper circulated

LP shared that HSE/AALA will no longer maintain the current matrix that is used by commercial activity Providers for guidance. The Adventure Sports Group have decided to develop their own matrix, one

for cycling, caving, mountaineering and paddlesport. The group has been in touch with accreditation schemes who are happy that a matrix will be maintained and updated. NGB websites will host the document.

The aim is to share clear guidance, so if there are activities that sit outside of our scope/remit, for example raft building, deployers need to make their own decision on suitability of qualification.

8. Awarding Body Update

LP updated the group that the Paddlesport Instructor award is currently under review. The results and recommendations will be shared with this group in July.

The BCAB committee has agreed that once we have done one review per qualification, this will switch to a 5-year full review. During the 5-year period, it will still be possible to make minor amendments to qualifications.

LP explained that the digital developer left the organisation in January. We currently have a new Digital Designer with another Digital Designer starting shortly.

9. Any Other Business

None noted.

10. Date of next meeting

Virtual, 10.30am – 12.30pm

5th July 2022

8th November 2022 virtual or 11th November face to face - TBC