

**BRITISH CANOEING COACHING AND LEADERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP
(CLSG) No.49
ON TUESDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 10.30AM
ONLINE**



MINUTES

In Attendance:

Ashley Metcalfe (AM)	Chief Executive
Lee Pooley (LP)	Director of Coaching and Qualifications
Ed Christian (EC)	British Canoeing ECLN Representative
Doug Cooper (DC)	Scottish Canoe Association (SCA) Representative
Graham Lyon (GL)	British Canoeing Awarding Body
Robin Gregg (RG)	Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI) Representative

Also In Attendance:

Natasha Devonshire (ND)	Coaching Development and Engagement Lead
Nancy Squires (NS) - Joined for Item 10	Director of Governance
Cath Cooke (CC) - Joined for Item 10	Safeguarding Manager
Zofia Campbell (ZC) - Joined for Item 10	Performance Wellbeing Coach

Apologies:

Sid Sinfield (SS)	Performance Coach Developer
Jet Moore (JM)	Canoe Wales (CW) Representative

1. Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed the group to the meeting, highlighting that this is the 49th meeting. The Chair thanked the group for their contributions, noting that it is hugely appreciated and this group plays a vital role in helping us all move forwards.

No new declarations of interest were declared.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting (No48), July 2022

4. Matters Arising (Not covered by the agenda)

The minutes of the above meetings were agreed as accurate recordings of the proceedings.

5. Qualification and Awards Update

LP shared an update around qualifications and awards, highlighting that it has been a busy year for British Canoeing and the Awarding Body.

In July this year, the Paddlesport Instructor review was shared with CSG. The review suggested minimal changes and these have all been actioned. The documents are ready to launch in December, with resources ready to share in January. BCAB have delivered workshops to all four Delivery Centres and we are already receiving positive feedback from Delivery Centre Providers. Delivery Centres are currently running workshops for Providers and the new criteria will be implemented from January. Providers are aware that they must assess the existing criteria up until that point.

The Paddlesport Instructor review clearly indicated that a SUP Instructor was required. Workshops have been delivered to Delivery Centres. Delivery Centres will monitor demand and will open further Provider recruitment where necessary. The application for the new award to go onto the regulatory framework is currently with the regulators.

LP shared that the Safety Review covered education and awareness and the recommendations have been split into 3 phases, due to the amount of changes needed. Phase 1 is now complete with the new Paddle Safer course and new SUP Safer course now available and the Paddlesport Safety and Rescue (PSR) course launching in January. Alongside the PSR, we will be introducing a range of resources including guidance for coaches operating from the bank in a range of disciplines, additional rescue videos in racing, SUP and multi-craft, as well as guidance on the use of throwlines and protocols.

LP shared that there is a proactive approach to safety messaging, rather than reactive. Currently focusing on seasonal changes. There has been more emphasis on incident reporting and notable events, sharing in newsletters and working with the clubs.

LP shared that progress has been made with several retailers. Key to this progress is working closely with the RNLI.

The SUP Technical Group is currently writing the new SUP White Water Leader. Alongside this, we will be reviewing the SUP Open Water Leader to consider how this relates to the coastal environment.

It was suggested to provide an annual report on the safety review, including stats and themes, to be shared amongst CLSG, CAG, the Tech Groups, the Board, etc., to help inform thinking across the groups. LP shared that this is our first year focusing on safety specifically. A report will be created for the Board in December, this can also be shared with the relevant groups, as well as clubs and Delivery Partners, to show that reporting is really positive and supportive.

6. Search and Rescue Update

LP explained that at the last meeting, the group discussed the transition of the Lifeguard Awards coming across to BCAB, LP shared that the presentation from Martin Suzan and the Lifeguards highlighted that specialists were needed to support this award. We have been working with the Lifeguards to support an appropriate pathway.

7. Coaching Diploma

Report and discussion

LP shared that there was a requirement from CLSG to get more insight into the Coaching Diploma programme. A paper was shared with the aim of stimulating discussion.

LP highlighted that it is clear that there is huge amounts of support for the Coaching Diploma, not only from a research perspective but from the people who participated in it. However, the accessibility is very limited due to the high cost and expenses.

The group suggested that due to the introduction of the Performance Coach, the Coaching Diploma is no longer necessary. The Performance Coach has the potential to fill that gap and is far more accessible. Currently the Performance Coach is not accessed by many but with time and investment, it would give it more credibility and would be a good replacement.

It was suggested that the Coaching Diploma is be about supporting our workforce to a high level and if it is no longer doing that, we need to support coaches in other ways.

The group agreed that the research opportunities are important for paddlesport and could be supported in a different way.

Actions: LP to raise the profile of the Performance Coach throughout 2023.

8. 2023 Annual Plan

A big focus of the Coaching Department in 2023 is to complete the second phase of the safety review. LP explained the key highlights on the Coaching plan are the new Sea Safety and Rescue course, delivered in a moderate water environment. The Surf Safety and Rescue will be in a moderate water environment, which should encourage more participation from clubs.

The White Water Tech Group are working on an additional one day white water safety course, as well as reviewing the existing programmes.

An Inland Open Water Safety and Rescue course will be available for a range of crafts/disciplines.

The Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning programme is currently under review as some of the content is dated and there is new technology available. The aim is to provide modular based courses, giving candidates the options of eLearning, blended learning and face to face learning. There will be several modules including tides, weather, surf, swell, navigation, etc., so paddlers can pick the modules relevant to them.

LP shared that we have focused in 2021/2022 on how to run assessments and the standards of assessment with an increased number of assessments that are sampled. For 2023 we are going to develop a resource around tutoring skills, ready for spring/summer, to support the development of these skills.

It was suggested whether there is an opportunity to sample some training courses, to see where tutors need more support.

LP shared that we are also in the process of reviewing First Aid awards, with an online survey currently available. Throughout 2023, we will continue to gain insight and data.

LP highlighted to the group that this is just the work we are leading on, we are also supporting other departments and continuing with 'day to day' work.

The Chair shared that the annual plan is really important and there are many priorities across the organisation. The Chair questioned whether there was anything missing and whether we have our priorities right. The 2023 annual plan should include items that we are in a position to deliver really well, rather than saying yes to everything.

9. Awarding Body Update

Statistics to date

LP shared that the AB Committee will meet on 2nd December to confirm the statement of compliance.

LP highlighted that we have engaged with Pearsons and the ORC so people can take their GCSE, AS and A Levels in paddlesport. We have also secured UCAS points for the Coach Award and Performance Coach.

The group discussed the stats, which are certifications across all National Associations. The stats show an obvious downturn through Covid and then a significant bounce back. The industry predicted slow growth after Covid but the figures are currently matching 2019, and we are only in quarter 3.

The group questioned whether there are any surprising trends within the disciplines. LP shared that SUP continues to be popular, with over 22k certifications since we introduced SUP specific pathways. Canoe has dropped slightly, as has white water, but this could be due to the fickle nature of the environment and that people are going abroad less for white water paddling. Sea and surf remain consistent.

The Performance Coach was launched just before Covid which is believed to have had a significant impact in the uptake. A campaign will be created to raise the profile of the Performance Coach. BCAB have delayed the review until the end of 2023, as there is not an appropriate sample size.

10. Safeguarding and Welfare Strategy Consultation

NS, CC and ZC joined the meeting to discuss the Safeguarding and Welfare Strategy. NS gave a short presentation to highlight the current line of thinking for the strategy with the aim of getting feedback from the group.

NS shared the current title is Safer Together, a strategy for safeguarding and welfare and is split into three areas – (1) competitive paddling (2) participants (3) governance (systems of operation).

There are three core themes – (1) systems (2) knowledge and awareness (3) people.

NS questioned whether the group had any comments, questions, concerns, what the priorities and barriers are for instructors, coaches and leaders to help us get this right.

The group commented that training is a big area for coaches and we need to ensure there is accessible training, which is readily available and sits alongside our awards. We need to look at whether this is embedded enough as part of our courses. It was suggested that raising standards around knowledge and awareness should be a key focus for all those involved in sport.

It was noted that the impact of the strategy will be UK wide and there will be discussion with the Safeguarding Steering Group, which has UK representation, and how we want to work in partnership towards this strategy.

11. Any Other Business

None noted.

12. Dates of next meeting

21st March 2023 – Nottingham, 10.30am – 3pm

4th July 2023 - Virtual, 10.30am – 12.30pm

7th November 2023 - Virtual, 10.30am – 12.30pm