

MINUTES

In Attendance:

David Joy (DJ)	Chief Executive
Lee Pooley (LP)	Head of Coaching and Qualifications
Darryll Shaw (DS)	British Canoeing ECLN Representative
Doug Cooper (DC)	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
Sid Sinfield (SS)	Performance Coach Developer

Also In Attendance:

Natasha Devonshire (ND)	Coaching Development and Engagement Lead
Anna Gray (AG) - Joined for Safety Review	Sport Development Officer

Apologies:

Ed Christian (EC)	British Canoeing ECLN Representative
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1. Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming everyone, highlighting that today's agenda includes some big items that will influence the next 4 years.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting (No45), July 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.

5. British Canoeing Board

The Chair shared that the Olympic and Paralympic teams have returned after a successful games. The Sprint and Slalom teams recognise that work is still needed for the future of the disciplines, to ensure there are pathways for clubs and coach engagement.

The Competition Disciplines have returned from various European Championships across the summer. We are asking the disciplines to look at the next 4 to 8 years, looking into coaching, talent, international teams, etc., so then we can consider investment into the disciplines appropriately.

We are still working towards gaining NGB recognition for SUP, working with the National Associations and Surf Bodies. We are hoping to get recognition and be formally recognised by March 2022.

The Chair shared that we are working with the National Associations for the UK Agreement and how we work together. The Coaching Model will be within the UK Agreement. It is unlikely that there will be any major changes. The main topic to be discussed is branding across the 4 companies and where

the English identity sits. We are looking to externally tender a company to see whether a change is required.

Work continues on the strategy and the final version will be shared for further consultation in the next few weeks. There are some areas within the document that are English and some are UK. The final version will then be presented to the Board in January. Coaching and Qualifications will be reflected in the strategy and key actions within the Coaching and leadership plan. This strategy will be an evolution, rather than revolution.

The Sport England funding has been agreed with a small increase.

Membership is continuing to rise. At the end of October, we had 90,000 members, which is up from 62,000 at the end of March 2021. Membership satisfaction scores are incredibly high. The net promoter score started at -9 in 2017 and is now 44. There are similar high satisfaction scores within coaching.

The Chair spoke about the opportunity to share our eLearning platform with other organisations, which could bring income to reinvest into the strategy. Sport England is also interested in exploring the project and how the platform could support other Governing Bodies.

6. Safety Review

Paper circulated

LP gave an overview of the Safety Review and Report, sharing that themes started emerging at the early stages so it was clear that change was required. The Review findings were shared with all those who contributed, to check for accuracy and any misunderstanding.

Due to the scale of the project and the recommendations, it was suggested that this work should be delivered over a 3 phase period, with the regulated First Aid course offering taking place in phase 3.

The Chair questioned whether the group were comfortable with the process, the phased approach and whether there was anything missing. The group confirmed that the report was both thorough and comprehensive.

DC asked whether open water canoe was included within the recommendations, LP confirmed that this would be part of the second phase.

LP confirmed that incidents and statistics have been considered and that the Safety Advisory Panel (SAP) have also been involved with the review. LP shared that in terms of 'traditional' paddlesport activity, we are not seeing incident themes. Within the racing community, there has been incidents reported, of which, we have shared lessons learned and case studies. There has been an increase in SUP incidents, which is why the increase in guidance and advice, as well as a SUP Safety Course is recommended within the first phase.

The group highlighted that we need to ensure that people do not start perceiving that this is an unsafe sport.

The group questioned that when there are SUP incidents, how we work with other SUP Bodies and outdoor Governing Bodies. LP spoke about how we collaborate with other organisations to promote SUP safety awareness, such as Adventure Smart and the RNLI as well as some retailers at point of sale.

The group agreed that we need to increase our marketing, sharing that we are of high standard and be recognised as the 'Go to' product. We need to be clear about what we do, sharing what makes

our qualifications robust. We need to work with other partners, such as British Cycling and Mountain Training, as we all have similar challenges.

It was highlighted that the Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS) recognise other qualifications and awards as appropriate for leading paddlesport activities and how was quality assurance monitored. LP would explore this specific area and raise any concerns with the regulatory body, as well as other inspector bodies such as AHEOC, BAPA and Learning Outside the Classroom.

The group discussed the recommendations to do our own Paddlecraft Swim Safety Award and First Aid qualifications. The British Canoeing Lifeguards currently run similar courses. The report highlighted the opportunity to create a swim safety course to support the growth in swimming and triathlon, as well as develop our own First Aid course aligned to the Educational Philosophy.

AG spoke about the BC Lifeguards, and how they are a Discipline Committee but work differently to other disciplines. For the past couple of years, we have been working with the Lifeguards, suggesting they could be a Technical Group, as they are more closely aligned to award delivery. The Chair shared that LP should create an overview of the project plan for the safety review to inform stakeholders of timelines and associated working groups.

Actions:

LP to create an outline of the project plan to communicate and share with stakeholders.

DJ to meet with the Lifeguards Committee.

7. Coaching & Leadership Plan

Paper circulated

LP gave an overview of the updates to the Coaching and Leadership plan and confirmed that now CSG have approved the Safety recommendations, these can be added to the document.

The group briefly discussed the 4-year plan and it was questioned how we define 'delivery of high quality qualifications'. In Scotland, only 33% of Coach Award candidates are going from training to assessment. If candidates want to do the training for CPD, that was seen as positive, or was it that the individual is unable to complete the course due to the assessment requirements. It was suggested to work with CAG to see if this is problem across the UK. We must also need to take into account that for a significant amount of time, people have been unable to do courses due to the pandemic.

It was suggested to update the plan, ensuring there are no acronyms and share this publicly via the British Canoeing website.

8. Coaching Diploma Review & Proposal

Paper circulated

The Coaching Diploma programme has been highly successful, and has created research, supported coaches to develop and has enabled BC to develop its qualification and award structure.

It has been a highly successful programme for the first two cohorts. However, we have struggled to recruit people onto the programme. The cost is seen as prohibitive at £8k plus travel and expenses and we are keen to explore how we create opportunities for more coaches to engage with some form of programme or research.

LP proposed that we no longer have a Coaching Diploma and that we use the finance to support the wider community to complete targeted research with coaches still signposted to Higher Education programmes to undertake modules and post graduate degrees.

The group thought that the practical application and community events were really useful. Moving forwards, these could be done through the Performance Coach Programme, with the Community of Learning Events and the Mentoring aspect.

It was suggested there is no immediate rush for the proposal. We need to ensure learners who are already engaged with us are supported. We also need to be aware that the research helps keep us at the forefront of developments.

Action: LP to reshape the Coaching Diploma Proposal and next steps, taking the comments of CSG and present at the 5th July 2022 meeting.

9. Awarding Body Update

LP update the group on the progress of the Centre Assessment Scrutiny Strategy (CASS), ensuring more standardisation of assessment decisions within regulated qualifications. All Delivery Centres are set up for this and have already started their standardisation events with assessors.

The Statement of Compliance is due in January 2022 and BCAB will declare that we are compliant and future compliant. This is currently with the AB Committee, and will be sent to the Governance and Risk Committee for scrutiny and will then go to our Chair for final approval.

The Coach Award changes have been implemented in terms of ratios and the Coach Award eLearning is being reviewed and ready for January 2022.

AB policies have all been reviewed.

10. Any Other Business

None noted.

11. Date of next meeting

Virtual, 10.30am – 12.30pm

22nd March 2022

5th July 2022

8th November 2022