

Boys Brigade Canoe Club: AGM 2018

Secretary's Report 2017-2018

Introduction:

Since my appointment as Secretary at the AGM (Bath) last year, I have immersed myself in understanding and hopefully improving our club 'positioning' with regards to BBHQ, Insurance, BB Companies, our membership, British Canoe Union, event management, and gaining clarity on our support for other uniformed and church organisations.

Changes made to date have been relatively simple – mostly procedural – such as ensuring compliance with BBHQ regulations, capturing data to assist with membership decisions, compliance with GDPR, and working towards a consistent operational framework. To this end I hope, with your support, to establish a BBCC constitution, management framework, and clarify our main aims.

During the past year I have represented BBCC at a number of meetings of the BCU North West Regional Development Team. This has been very useful in fostering greater support for youth organisations; keeping up-to-date on proposals for white water developments at Warrington and also the Burrs Country Park; as well as starting to link in to BCU training opportunities whilst promoting what we do to a wider audience.

I have to thank the out-going Secretary (Rob Langdon) for his support in transitioning the role (although he did say that the Secretary just took the minutes!). Also I am grateful to BBCC, BB Mountaineering (BBMC) and Rowing Club (BBRC) members who have provided their comments and assistance in helping me settle into the role.

Review of events:

Paddlefest 2017 (Bath) was held at the Scout's campsite. The event was held as a 'fun' weekend (non-competitive) with water activities based at the Rowing Club. As well as paddling kayaks/canoes there was also the opportunity to sample Standup Paddle Boards (SUPs) which produced some great photo opportunities! The weekend weather was glorious and Saturday evening included a delicious BBQ and a huge campfire. The event concluded on Sunday afternoon with a short service. Thanks go to the Minerva Bath Rowing Club, Bath District Scout Camp, and particularly 2nd Bath BB as facilitators.

Our events are now categorized as either 'training' or 'paddling' so as to be clearer to potential participants. This year we ran five training events, one paddling event, provided canoeing / kayaking at five BB camps, and support at two non-BB events as independent BCU coaches. Sadly the two courses booked for Scotland (Craggan) this year were cancelled despite the huge success of the previous two years' training which took participants to their

BCU 2* awards in October 2017. We hope to revisit Scotland as part of our training calendar next year. On the May training weekend in Chirk, five BB Leaders undertook 3* training and assessment in Kayak Touring - congratulations to them all on passing.

It is worth reviewing the event statistics (summarized below) for the past year and perhaps reflect on triumphs and shortcomings depending on your perspective. Either way it may provide assistance in helping plan the direction the Club may wish to take into the future.

Contact session type	Adult (M)	Adult (F)	Young Person (M)	Young Person (F)	Totals	Known Disability	Star awards gained Leaders	Star awards gained YP	Coaching elements gained
Training	29	3	17	1	50	0	10	8	0
Paddling	6	0	7	0	13	0	0	0	0
Taster/Fun	31	3	50	8	92	1	na	na	na
Other Youth	2	0	0	9	11	0	na	na	na
Totals	68	6	74	18	166	1	10	8	0

The BBMC event for ConVenture was cancelled this year. BBCC supported the pilot in July 2017. The event will now be in July 2019 coinciding with the Keswick Convention and requests for support are on our website.

We are now well into planning the 2018-19 session. Events will be advertised on the website, Facebook page and by email notifications as soon as they are confirmed.

Equipment:

The canoe trailer was upgraded with new helmets and BAs, also the kayak trailer provided by 1st Ormskirk for supporting BBCC events received new BA's as well. Groups using the equipment have been very appreciative of its quality. Canoe paddles are probably the next area for review.

Communications:

The website calendar has been developed and now has complete details of events including locations, cost, activities and menus. The website has also had a technical upgrade (thanks to Jack Andrews for this work). Website developments being reviewed are online payments, photo galleries, and media feeds. Suggestions on improvements are welcome.

Our contacts list is now re-assembled having complied with GDPR. We had a disappointing response from our initial e-mailing lists – so if you know someone who isn't being communicated with please let me know.

Coaching:

We continue to encourage leaders (and young adults) to develop their coaching and leadership skills. As a club we follow the British Canoe Union (BCU) qualification schemes, and we are particularly excited about the new Paddle-sport Leader and Paddle-sport Instructor awards which allow those qualified and experienced to take groups out in sheltered and very sheltered water environments. Our October 2018 training course is providing a key step towards assisting BB leaders in gaining these awards.

Our aim is to provide coach and leadership training at the lowest cost possible, and wherever possible provide training and assessment that leads to recognised BCU qualifications.

Keith Traverse
Secretary