

The Boys' Brigade Canoe Club

Secretary's Report: 1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019

Introduction

The Secretary's report encapsulates the work, activities and developments that have taken place since last year's AGM of the Boys' Brigade Canoe Club (BBCC).

The BBCC Executive Board has worked together to plan and organise the running and development of the club, which, for those who may not be aware, will celebrate its 50th birthday in December.

Since inception, the BBCC has remained true to its purpose of introducing young people and officers of the Brigade to the joys of kayaking and canoeing; however, what is always evolving is how the club:

- ensures each and every young person has the opportunity to experience paddlesport and receives the same enjoyable, safe paddling experience led by knowledgeable and skilled coaches;
- is a visible, useful and knowledgeable resource for Companies that wish to develop young people's interest and aptitude for paddle sports.

The activities carried out in the past twelve months, have, in some small way, moved the Club closer to its aims and objectives, and the Club would like to thank everyone who has given their time so generously.

Not only has the Club been able to provide paddling opportunities to many young people, over the past few years some have become employed in the outdoor pursuits industry following their time with us. The BBCC wishes all of them success in their careers.

Progress

At last year's AGM, Members' agreed the Club's operational and voting system. In the coming year the Club plans to:

- appoint three Executive Board members each with a specific area of responsibility
- develop a constitution (subject to BBHQ endorsement)
- affiliate itself to British Canoeing (if considered viable)
- engage with BBHQ on how best to help the Club achieve its aims and objectives

Following the 2018 AGM, the Membership agreed to delegate the decision as to whether to affiliate the Club to British Canoeing to the Executive Board. The Board can't make that decision until British Canoeing has established how the Club would be affiliated as we do not fit into a traditional club structure.

BBCC continues to have an informal presence at British Canoeing events such as the NW Development Group, and we encourage BBCC Members, who are also British Canoeing members, to attend other regional forums and events for information gathering and feedback to the Club.

Discussions between the Club and BBHQ are still ongoing with regards to:

- ensuring that the club is aligned to, and meeting the aims of, the Brigade
- utilising the marketing tools of the Boys' Brigade (such as e-bulletins) to extend our reach to all BB Companies
- achieving a more prominent presence on the Boys' Brigade's website

Events & Awards

Paddlefest did not run this year; it is an area that we should endeavor to re-establish as it has always resulted in an event that fosters good paddling relationships from around the region.

The Club delivered four training events, two paddling events and supported several BB Camps. The four training events included formal assessments for leader qualifications.

Progression in leader training is now starting to show benefits with a number of Officers achieving Foundation Safety and Rescue Award (Oct 2018), Paddlesport Instructor Award (May 2019); with some now going on to the Paddlesport Leader Award in the very near future (Oct 2019).

Event attendance data collected in 2017/18 and 2018/19 (Appendix 1) show that the number of leaders gaining qualifications has increased and the numbers paddling has been maintained. Early indications for 2019-2020 are that these numbers will increase again.

The first events for 2019-20 are already scheduled with an October (Training) course in Wales, November (Paddling) weekend in the Lakes, and a further (Paddling) weekend in March 2020 in Wales. Requests for events further south would be welcomed, if there is demand, particularly where local Companies have knowledge on paddling venues and suitable accommodation. Events will be advertised on the BBCC website, Facebook page and then by email notifications. Our experience this year is that all of the events have been in very high demand and early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Communication

There has been a small increase in the number of Companies that have joined BBCC, and there have been an increased number of enquiries about our services.

The Club's Email contacts and distribution list continues to grow, and contacts within some Battalions are now circulating information on the Club's behalf.

Due to time and technology limitations, we were only able to make small changes to the BBCC website. The Event Calendar is fully populated, up-to-date and accurate, and an online payment service should be available soon.

Equipment

Under delegated powers the Executive Board approved the following expenditure (under £1000):

- canoe paddles (£715.00) – to be purchased in 2019-20
- Stand Up Paddle Board (£249.99)
- canoe pole (£62.99)
- Ranger 16 repair: weld, end grabs, yoke (£60.00), and
- WWSR book (£10.00)

The purchase of the paddles will complete the trailer refurbishment which has also included in previous years: a new trailer, five replacement canoes, helmets and buoyancy aids.

There are no plans at present to procure any more equipment other than ongoing maintenance.

Keith Traverse
Secretary

Appendix 1

2017-2018									
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

2018-2019									
Contact session type	Adult (M)	Adult (F)	Young Person (M)	Young Person (F)	Totals	Known Disability	PP awards gained Leaders	PP awards gained YP	Coaching elements gained
Training	34	5	15	2	56	0	8	12	8
Paddling	15	1	3	1	20	0	0	0	0
Taster/Fun	7	7	48	18	80	0	NA	NA	NA
Other Youth	0	0	1	2	3	0	NA	NA	NA
Totals	56	13	67	23	159	0	8	12	8