

# **BOYS' BRIGADE CANOE CLUB (BBCC)**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**2019 - 2020 Session** (1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020)

**Date of Report:** October 2020

### **About the Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's Report summarises the principal activities and salient aspects of the year (session).

### **Introduction**

It is with sadness that the report begins with the news that Mike Todd (BBCC founder) passed away earlier this year. Mike formed the BBCC in 1969 and for many years led it from the front; we will be forever grateful to Mike for founding the Club, his dedication to the Boys' Brigade and to paddle sports.

We send our condolences and love to his family and friends.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created a truly unprecedented situation that affected us all.

Due to the pandemic and Club's adherence to both Boys' Brigade and British Canoeing guidance, the Executive Board cancelled all events from March 2020 including the BBCC's 50<sup>th</sup>-year celebratory Paddlefest. Although disappointing, the focus of the Club was, and continues to be, the health, safety and welfare of its members, associates, coaches, paddlers, their families and the wider community.

The pandemic did not just affect our 2019/20 paddling activity; it affected the Club's non-paddling activities, and progress against plans either slowed or stopped particularly when external organisations involved with the Club needed to respond to the unfolding health crisis.

Whilst some things did not progress as hoped, the 2019/20 session was not without progression and positives.

### **Progress this Year**

#### ***Club Endorsement***

The Outdoor Club meeting with Boys' Brigade Headquarters (BBHQ) in November 2019 was significant, for it led to the Club's endorsement and a more involved relationship with the Brigade. The endorsement means we are now a recognised outdoor club of the Brigade which is critical in achieving the BBCC's aims, those being:

- To ensure that each and every young person has the opportunity to experience paddle sport and receives the same safe, enjoyable paddling experience from knowledgeable and skilled coaches.
- To be a visible, useful and knowledgeable resource for Companies that wish to develop young people's interest and aptitude in paddle sports.

The endorsement also promises improved Club visibility by making use of the Brigade's communication methods e.g. website, gazette and e-bulletin to market the BBCC and reach BB Companies that we currently do not engage with.

After November's meeting, positive and constructive engagement with BBHQ continued, leading to:

- decisions on a club constitution and the qualification requirements for BB Leaders taking groups onto water; and
- use of the Brigade's IT infrastructure to host a new BBCC website.

### ***BBCC Constitution***

BBHQ approved the Club's request to develop a club constitution (if required by British Canoeing in order to obtain club affiliation status).

### ***BB Leader Paddling Qualification***

Another significant decision by BBHQ was the agreement that a qualification for BB Leaders taking groups out paddling was necessary, and it specified British Canoeing Paddlesport Leader as the minimum qualification. Communications to Companies about this will be managed by BBHQ.

### ***Website Hosting***

Through using the Brigade's IT environment, the Club can proceed with plans to reinvigorate its web presence by creating a new BBCC website that better supports our objectives and attracts more website visitors.

### ***Club Events***

Owing to the pandemic and resultant restrictions, eleven events did not proceed. Nonetheless, attendance numbers to events held between September and November exceeded that of attendees in either full session of the previous two years.

Pre-Covid19 events (1st September to 24th November) were attended by 173 people over five events:

- one training; and
- four paddling.

The breakdown is shown in Appendix 1.

### ***Leader Awards***

It is safe to assume that the pandemic will have affected BB leaders' ability to attain their British Canoeing paddling qualifications, and as such, likely to have an impact on Club aims around growth and increasing the number of Companies being able to get out onto the water safely.

### ***Club Membership***

The increased attendance at pre-Covid events resulted in a small growth in membership numbers and Companies subscribed to the Club's mailing list. Positively, there had been an increase in enquiries and bookings for services which would have increased membership further.

### ***Club Equipment***

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

- Canoe paddles: £715.00
- Stand Up Paddle Board (additional one): £239.99
- Trailer locks: £16.50

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

## Looking Ahead to 2020/21...

Despite the pandemic and many uncertainties, we will endeavour to make ground with regards to:

- Online Brigade Manager (OBM);
- Special Activity Form (Adults);
- new BBCC website; and
- club affiliation to British Canoeing.

On 2nd November, the Club is scheduled to meet with British Canoeing's Head of Participation & Club Services to discuss:

- **Badge Work Integration**  
The Club has been asked by BBHQ to engage with British Canoeing to explore the integration of paddle sport into BB badgework activities. This meeting will be an initial step in that exploration exercise.
- **Safeguarding**  
The meeting will serve as the pre-cursor for future discussions between the Brigade's safeguarding officer and British Canoeing about the possibility of accepting the Brigade's safeguarding training (three-hour face-to-face course) as an approved alternative to British Canoeing's own safeguarding training.
- **British Canoeing Affiliation**  
We will be paying particular attention to the areas of our club structure that differs from British Canoeing's affiliation criteria.

### **Events 2020/21**

Training events are provisionally booked for March (Wales) and May (Sheffield). Should it become necessary to cancel we will notify by e-bulletin (if subscribed), Facebook and the Club's website.

It is looking unlikely that residential events will resume in the foreseeable future, but we will consider the feasibility of offering day sessions (were guidelines permit).

## Thanks...

### **... from the Boys' Brigade England and Wales Regional Committee**

The England and Wales Regional Committee thanks the Club for all its hard work.<sup>1</sup>

### **... from the Boys' Brigade Canoe Club**

The Secretary's Report isn't just about highlighting the year's activities; it provides the opportunity to say 'thank you' to everyone who supported the club over the past year.

Your support came in different shapes and sizes (all of which was gratefully received) and for this I would like to express sincerest and heartfelt thanks to all of you.

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<sup>1</sup> Boys' Brigade England & Wales Regional Committee Meeting - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Appendix 1: Boys' Brigade Canoe Club – Paddler attendance at events.**

2019-2020 (5 months prior to Covid19 cancelling remainder of events)									
Contact session type	Adult (M)	Adult (F)	Young Person (M)	Young Person (F)	Totals	Known Disability	PPA gained: Leaders	PPA gained: Young Person	Coaching elements gained
Training	14	1	7	2	24	0	0	3	1
Paddling	15	1	4	0	20	0	0	0	0
Taster/Fun	22	6	93	8	129	0	NA	NA	NA
Other Youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

2018-2019									
Contact session type	Adult (M)	Adult (F)	Young Person (M)	Young Person (F)	Totals	Known Disability	PPA gained: Leaders	PPA gained: Young Person	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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

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: Young Person	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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

Note: PPA: Personal Performance Award