

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

WEDNESDAY 23rd. MAY.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

SUMMARY OF LAST YEAR.

The last year has been a quiet second year of development for the Club. Activities and trips have taken place together with a fair amount of general paddling, in spite of the difficulties. The membership, doubled with only the loss of two members from the first year. We still maintained over 50% of the Club being members of the BCU Coaching Scheme. This is an extremely high percentage and one would have thought this would have warranted some serious contact being made by the RCO. Unfortunately this has not been forthcoming ! A number of members have improved their coaching qualifications and the Club has run its first 'Coaching Event' with a Star Test Standardization Course.

We have already got ten new members for this year, together with a number of enquiries for other prospective members.

RIVERSIDE SITUATION.

Thursday evening sessions again ran very well last year. We ran 18 sessions at the Riverside Centre with 156 paddlers attending and providing the Centre with £234 ! We had to cancel a number of sessions due to water quality problems but we were able to have some sessions at Llangollen.

We applied in December for use of the Centre for this year. In January the Chairman of the Management Committee wrote to me saying that, as Riverside Adventure were no longer operating on the site, there would be no external lettings and use would be limited to School and Youth Service. We would be informed in due course when a decision has been made about future lettings.

To date we have received no letter informing us of any change in their policy.

Whilst at a NW Region meeting I spoke to Derek Brooks, who is the Chairman of the Centre Management Committee, and he informed me that he would not be allowing any external groups to use the Centre.

THURSDAY EVENINGS.

We started the Thursday evening sessions this year on April 19th. at Sandy Lane and these have so far been well attended, with 20 to 30 people paddling. We have had a night with open canoes available to try and will try and do the same with sea kayaks. We will also be having a number of sessions at Llangollen.

CLUB WEB SITE.

Matt has set up a Club Web site for those who like surfing the Net. I don't know how much it is actually used. I think that we might need to update it and revise the format.

NW REGION WEB SITE.

The NW Region have set up a Web Site and I propose to put submit a Deva Canoe Club page with the general details of who we are and what we do.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST.

I have created an E-Mail distribution list for all members who have given me their E-Mail address. This means that I can send out the Newsletters (which go out every month, for which much thanks should go to Lyn) and also quickly distribute information about trips, sales, events etc. quickly. If you are on E-Mail and are not getting information regularly, then contact me and let me know. Otherwise I must assume that it is getting through to everyone. Those on snail mail will get their Newsletter by post.

CLUB EQUIPMENT.

The Club has two old masters, spraydecks and paddles. We also have use of some buoyancy aids and cags, loaned by members. We are always in the market for 'looking after' any old equipment or boats you are no longer using ! This helps us to invite potential new members to come along and 'have a try'.

FUTURE DIRECTION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CLUB.

We have put together a proposal for developing the activities of the Club and submitted it as the basis for a Lottery grant from Awards For All. This group makes grants of between £500 and £3000 to Clubs and Groups who are able to fit into their specific criteria.

We have asked for £2700 to:-

- a) purchase two sea kayaks and necessary equipment.
- b) money to assist coaches to obtain higher coaching qualifications which would be of benefit of the Club.
- c) money for laying on coaching courses for all members of the Club and also potential new members.

It will be three months before we know whether the grant has been awarded to us, or not !

We need to have feedback from Club members to let the Committee know what you want from the Club. It is very difficult, and slightly unfair, to expect two or three individuals to come up with all the ideas and run the Club for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone else !