

# Baldock and District Committee meeting minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2015

Members present:-

Alistair Riches, Jon Malins, Graham Davies, Deb Taylor, Craig Taylor and Chris Price.

Darren Fergus participated by phone.

1. Jon, having attended the polo clubs AGM, has come up with the idea of contacting local clubs that do not have facilities for their own polo teams, to see if they would like to join us, possibly as Country Members, as a way of boosting our polo (and inevitably club) membership. This could also lead to the viability of employing a polo coach.
2. Deb has checked out the possibility of Lottery funding, but so far has found no apparent leads at the moment.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed:-

3. The idea of the pool session changing from 8.15 pm to 7.00pm was questioned and a possible solution is to ask for members opinion.
4. The idea of organised games at the pool was agreed as a good way of making pool sessions more fun and should be introduced as soon as possible, integrating with polo and slalom nights. Deb has volunteered for this.
5. The need for coaches at the pool is very apparent and so Jon is going to compile a list of qualified people from the members list and contacting them with the idea of compiling a 'coaches rota', much the same as the trailer one.

The need for a specific rolling class was discussed. As that is the aim for most new paddlers.

6. With the very apparent increase in younger members. The need for appropriate equipment was discussed and agreed that possibly two junior boats were needed.

Also one more adult large boat would be useful, to replace damaged stock.

(Craig has details of a slightly damaged 8.1 Mamba in North Wales being sold for £150 that he is going to investigate)

With a budget of between £500 and £600 it was decided that second hand was the best option, with Craig and Jon volunteering to check out ebay, lomo, ect.

There is also a need for a large C1 deck and a competitive C1 paddle which Jon is to look into.

7. The roles of certain officers were discussed and with the changing needs of the club, the necessity for a social secretary was questioned, with the possibility of a funding/publicity officer being more beneficial to the club at this time. As social ideas could be encouraged and created by all members .
8. The idea of posting the highlights of committee meetings was seen as a good way of keeping the members informed of what the club is trying to achieve and hopefully helping them to feel part of what goes on. However, if we want their opinions it should be worded in a way that invites feedback.

Chris is to compile a 'Highlights' letter for the members on onelist on news of what the committee are doing and asking for this feedback.

9. It was decided that we make a break in every pool session, to announce events/trips and invite any comments/queries from the pool attendees.
10. The need to get more interest from club members was discussed and possible ways of attracting more to get involved and attend AGM's were put forward. One idea was to attract them with a free drink and refreshments.
11. The list for available trailer driver volunteers is dwindling and so Jon is to check the members list for possible candidates.
12. With the imminent departure of at least 3 of our present committee, it was decided that those intending to stand down, should attempt to find and nominate their replacements.
13. The website still remains a bad image on our club, as a lot of the news is still from one or even two years ago. It is felt we either get it updated or reduce it.

There has been loads going on this year, but sadly our website does not reflect that.

It is strongly felt by Chris that there is a need for members to have one administrator that they could send news, photos, trip reports and achievement results to, so that they can be quickly and efficiently added to our facebook, website or other media. Chris is to inquire through the onelist if anyone would like the 'challenge'.

It was also felt that we need to make more of an effort to get ourselves in the local papers with reports on polo, slalom and any achievement results. Darren has been assigned the task.

14. The need for a calendar with weekends and dates earmarked for intended trips away was expressed and Chris and Graham are to get together on this one.
15. Having been approached by Active North Herts to inquire if we would like to be included in their website, Chris sees this as a vital opportunity for publicity and Darren has been asked to oversee this.
16. Chris is concerned that there are becoming less advanced paddlers in the club and with that a lack of experienced paddlers to take on the responsibility of trips away.

Our club is special because we do organise trips away, Chris feels we should be promoting this fact in order to attract more advanced and experienced paddlers into the club.

17. Having been approached by Jeff Toser from the BCU, we have been invited to join in on the 'Family games day' at Wimpole Hall in June 2016 by John Harris of the National Trust there.

This would require a re-run of what we did last year at Letchworth, but slightly scaled down. Chris feels, as we proved so well, we are very capable of doing this and as most of the promotional stuff is already at hand, that we give it a go, as once again it would be a great opportunity to promote our club and sport.

Jon is to contact John at Wimpole Hall to inquire if we would be allowed to raise funds for our club on the day and also to check the 'documentation' required by Wimpole Hall.

The next meeting is earmarked for Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2016.