

The Trustees have discussed and agreed the following course of action having received the latest British Canoeing advice and that of Public Health England. This should not only help **limit the spread of the virus in our local community**, but also to help protect our members, families, coaches, and trip leaders during this challenging time.

If you are or any member of your household are showing any symptoms of Covid-19, please do not engage in paddlesports at all, please self-isolate at home, for 14 days.

Dear Members,

We are pleased to announce that throughout June we are going to try a partial reopening. This will involve running small trips for club members on Wednesday evenings and Saturday **or** Sunday daytime each weekend throughout June. As the Covid 19 unlocking process progresses we hope to provide more such as training courses, new paddler sessions and junior sessions. This is very much a first step.

We plan to offer guided harbour-based paddles led by a qualified coach or leader with a group size of 6 maximum comprising the leader and 5 members. We plan to run with two separate groups operating independently and at slightly different start and finish times so that social distancing can be achieved. Whilst there are 10 places available, the groups will be allocated in advance to make up the two groups of 6 paddlers.

Social distancing rules **MUST** be adhered to and any member wishing to join must be aware that in the event of a capsizing or similar incident, carrying out effective support or a rescue is exceedingly difficult whilst keeping to these requirements. On that basis, the trips will only happen in winds of less than F3 and sea states of smooth to slight to minimise close contact situations. Novices are asked to hold fire for the minute, and it is expected that competent paddlers who normally manage their own peer paddles will continue to do so.

To assist with Paddler safety, British Canoeing have some excellent guidance on their website and we would strongly recommend you take time to look at this so that when you join the club paddles you are up to speed with current guidance and your kit is in good condition and you are ready and able to paddle.

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/news/2020/stay-safe-on-the-water>

<https://gopaddling.info/kayaking-safety-checklist/>

Initially we will be running these sessions in June, as guidance evolves, we hope to offer more to all. At this stage we will only be offering these trips to intermediate paddlers (Explore or 2 Star Equivalent) due to the on the water safety social distance requirements described above. Paddlers will be briefed on the beach as normal and this will include the management of rescues in the event of a capsizing. The briefing must be attended in order to join the paddle.

Any members wishing to join paddles must book a space on WebCollect and liaise with trip leaders if you wish to use club equipment. The bookings are live now and the volunteer coaches and leaders are in place. We will arrange for you to make payments electronically for kit hire, the cost to hire a sea kayak and related kit is £6. It is hoped that most members will have their own kit, indeed now might be a good time to buy your own buoyancy aid. The trip leaders will be responsible for getting kit ready at the start of a session and putting it away at the end. The only access permitted to the Boathouse by group members will be to access the toilet. Please use the sanitising materials provided when using the toilet. Access to changing rooms and upstairs areas are prohibited. Paddlers should avoid lending or borrowing equipment, all equipment used by the Paddler should be their own.

Please do not sign up to every week as we are a large club and need to make sure as many members as possible can access these activities.

So, in summary:

1. Trips are for intermediate paddlers only - novices are asked to hold fire for the minute and experienced paddlers to continue peer paddling.

2. Trips will be led at a maximum of 1:5 ratio with qualified trip leaders and coaches that are happy to volunteer. They will be responsible for organising any kit required and putting it on the wash down area.
3. You have read the British Canoeing guidance and feel safe to get back in your kayak or canoe.
4. Any paddlers wishing to join the paddles must book their space on Webcollect and liaise with the trip leader if they wish to use club equipment.
5. The clubhouse remains closed to everyone, except trip leaders, trustees and those with private boats stored there using only their own equipment.
6. No club member should be entering the clubhouse or using the hoses etc unless in the above groups.
7. We respectfully ask members not to try and book themselves onto every paddle - numbers are limited and demand will be high. Give everyone a fair chance to get on the water.

Finally, if you are experiencing any Covid 19 symptoms, we ask you to please stay at home as per Government advice.

Stay safe and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

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For phone #

see "club-members' emails" sent 8th June 2020

Best wishes
Adrian Oates
Chairman