

National Coasteering Charter
National & Regional Reps Meeting
Date: Monday 7th November 2022
Time: 7.30 pm
Venue: Zoom



Attendees:

Dave Slade (DS) – Secretary & Scotland rep; Mark Agnew (MA) – Treasurer & South Devon rep; Jet – Chair & Pembrokeshire rep; John Byrom (JB) – Pembrokeshire rep; Jess Gundry (JG) – Dorset rep; Jorrin Massingham (JM) – Cornwall rep; John-Paul Eatock (JE) – Cornwall rep; Steve Daniels (SD) – North Wales rep; Ash Hone (AH) – South Devon rep; Robin Ross (RR) – Cornwall rep; Cleopatra Browne (CB) – Pembrokeshire rep; Claire Eatock (CE) – Cornwall; Rosa Thompson (RT) – Cornwall rep; Allan Dunlop (AD) – Scotland rep; Matt Upward (MU) – Somerset rep; Sharon Vickery – minute taker.

Apologies:

Mark Garland; Greg Cain; Tom Partridge

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies

Jet welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted. Introductions were made.

2. Previous minutes and matters arising

Minutes were agreed by all and seconded by Claire Eatock. No matters arising to discuss.

3. Incident & Near Miss Reporting

Pembrokeshire – JB reported:

- At one centre a client had a mild heart attack – this was dealt with well and internal learnings were taken away around communications
- There were a few helicopter visits to this area mainly due to the public
- Jet advised some residents in the living communities in the area have been upset due to the access which may lead to future problems

North Wales – SD reported:

- Fatality in May from cardiac arrest coastguard attended and CPR done but the person passed away

East Scotland – DS & AD reported:

- Slips & falls occurred from slippery rocks
- A broken leg was sustained but not associated with any of our groups and was reported in the paper as they were on the cliffs

Dorset – JG reported:

- Member of staff dislocated their knee whilst in the water
- Client had a fit in the water but had not noted on their medical form they had FMD
- Coastguard called when a teacher with health problems had low oxygen levels from long covid that was not noted on their medical form

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- Lots of near misses in the heat waves – lesson learned to walk down half wet-suited and take more water
- Near misses with public jumping in and the company have now changed their session times
- Had a question from a company that if the reporting goes through the NCC where can the outcome be found?
- Death in 2019 the criminal court have dropped the case of corporate manslaughter and have now made improvements by adding personal beacons in lowered conditions and have added a ledge leader to oversee coasteering for each day

South Devon – AH & MA reported:

- No win no fee claim from previous year is still ongoing
- Recent area meeting was not well attended
- Unhappy residents in one location due to increased coasteering activity

Cornwall – RT reported:

- Barnacle scrapes and dehydration during the hot weather
- One lady suffered cracked vertebrae where she lifted her legs slightly before landing, but no claim involved
- Dislocated knee in another area
- In another area the person landed at an angle in the water causing their helmet to fill up and wrench their neck back, ambulance attended but not taken to hospital
- Lady swept off a ledge and suffered secondary drowning as she took water in – more information is being gathered on this condition and will be shared

North Devon & Somerset – MU reported:

Nothing to note as a quiet year

A discussion ensued around the incident in Cornwall of the cracked vertebrae when lifting legs on landing and a theme emerged.

CE suggested the gathering of data on this issue with videos and pictures of those who have injured themselves and consult with a physio or sports specialist to look at and ask about injuries occurring on impact with the water and compare to those people who have not damaged themselves.

4. Jumping and the role of tricks and flips within sessions and or promotional material*

Jet led this discussion following stern words with a provider performing jumps and tricks, this will need a longer discussion and will be opened at the symposium

MA read out the current statement in the safety documents.

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The present reps advised on how they deal with this situation in their groups, and it was felt that the current wording in the NCC guide was too 'woolly' but does give flexibility.

Decision: set up a working group to investigate, collate information and produce a suggestion on new wording and ruling

5. AIM, SLSGB & RNLI feedback

No feedback had been received from these bodies, but they are all still in support of the NCC and with stretched resources do not have spare staff to attend NCC meetings.

6. Regional feedback

Covered in agenda item 3.

7. NCC Guide Award

MA reported on behalf of Tom, the guide was launched in April and to date have 8 training courses, 20 assessment courses, 93 membership registrations, 38 trainees and 34 assessed.

There will be a larger discussion at the symposium.

There will be a review in the Autumn of 2023 following the second season. Overall, it has been a successful start.

8. Regional Rep Roles

Jet reported there are issues across the country getting reps in certain areas and a working group around communications could be a way to help improve this.

MA added that rep roles need to be tightened up to stop people disappearing and that a formal contract will be put in place to prevent this.

JE confirmed tenure for a rep is 2 years and volunteered to spend time with new reps going forward & that the constitution needs to be mailed out to all members.

Jet advised that if marketing was the right thing to do there is money for 1-2 days a month to cover this, and this idea will be taken forward to the symposium. Ideas around this were in the form of newsletters, emails, social media, and template creation to send out to different areas for their use.

9. AOB

JE advised all that one provider has been asked not to renew their membership in March 2023 due to a breach in the NCC's environmental policy.

Action Points: produce groups from the symposium to cover the jumping and another to cover increasing the profile of the NCC.

Meeting closed