**CKC SAFTEY OFFICER REPORT 2023**

AGM 11th December 2023

Liza Easmon CKC Health, Safety and Welfare Officer.

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| Number of Incidents reported | 0 | Number of Welfare concerns reported | 0 |
| Number of Learning (Near Miss) Events reported | 7 | Number of Health incidents reported | 0 |

**Learning Events / Near Miss Reports received.**

|  | **Event/ Trip/ Date**  **Issues of Concern** | **Learning raised** | **Level of action required** |
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| 1. | Minnis Bay 22nd January 2023  **Capsize/ Assisted Rescue**  **Towing Required**  **Cold Water** | Pre Trip briefing to include anxiety / experience assessment.  Double Check that all paddlers are feeling correct with their boat, foot rest, paddle etc  Re check swell height as part of dynamic assessment on the day is appropriate for the Grade of the paddle set out to do  Recent Explore level paddlers not to do cold weather trips?/ Cold weather paddles should only be C grade | Event reviewed within club Committee to consider if Club processes need to be changed. So that the Extended Remit includes the following considerations.  No B grade paddles if air temp less than 10 degrees. Or swell height > 50cm < 12 seconds . All cold weather paddles need to be C graded.  If paddlers **only** sea experience is the Explore course that the Lead needs to ensure the trip conditions are optimal for this. |
| 2. | Thames Taster 16th April  **Incident A) – a guest paddler bounces off houseboat on the North side of the channel behind Brentford Ait. Fortunately their kayak is parallel to the houseboat, and they paddle away.**  **Incident B) Guest paddler was swept into the top (west) end of Brentford Aid because they mis-judged the flow & how hard he needed to paddle to get around the island. This led to the group of guest paddlers being spread out. If the guest had capsized on landing & separated from their kayak in some way – that would have been v challenging to handle.** | Session organiser not to attempt to guess/anticipate fluvial flows on Taster session.  Briefing is very clear that all leaders running Taster sessions must be on the water before first guest paddler is launched, in case we underestimate a guest paddler’s skill and/or they mentally or physically can’t manage.  Organiser to have enough confidence to cancel or postpone/rearrange when guests do their session based on anticipated conditions  Leaders may think that the guests want to have a more interesting paddle – than we can safely provide. (But in fact paddlers have such a sense of achievement improving their skills – more isn’t needed.) So suggesting that paddlers can go out from behind Brentford Ait into the main flow to return to Kew Bridge when the flow is too fast is dangerous. There is the potential for several capsizes and the 2 vols wouldn’t be able to handle the rest of the group & nor did the group have an easy landing/beach to go to at that state of tide.  Leaders are too optimistic about guest paddlers skills – both on launching and during the paddle.  Leaders and volunteers to be more aware of all the hazards.  Leaders and volunteers to be assertive in managing the group and individuals to safeguard them better from potential hazards. Launching landing and on the trip.  When the flow was as strong as it was more experienced helpers needed on the water. | It was discussed within the group on the day,  this form was submitted to the Club Safety Officer for comment and collation.  Thames Leads emailed the learning for future Taster Sessions as in this report |
| 2. | Caswell Bay, Gower Surf 22nd April 2023  **Paddler collision surfing a wave and chest injury** | If in a coaching session paddlers being coached should not wear ear plugs so they can always hear every instruction.  Etiquette and protocol of ‘sharing’ surfing waves to be very clearly understood.    Paddlers being coached not to use waves that other paddlers are being coached/ taught on and not to use the wave that the coach is demonstrating on. | It was discussed within the group on the day, this form was submitted to the Club Safety Officer for comment and collation.  To present to AGM |
| 3. | Selsey Trip June 10th 2023  **Incapacitated Paddler as became unwell. Which required towing home.** | Paddlers not to combine Hot weather days with consumption of alcohol previous evening .  Paddlers to be more cognisant of ensuring hydration using electrolytes.  Experienced paddlers to ensure less experience paddlers are not made to feel anxious  Towing episode went well. | It was discussed within the group on the day, this form was submitted to the Club Safety Officer for comment and collation.  To present to AGM report  Disseminate to Club members to read and learn from as part of AGM minutes |
| 4. | Thames Eve paddle Aug 2023  **Horse Fly Bite** | As part of safety briefing Thames leads to make paddlers aware that on summer evenings there can be biting insects so they may want to choose to wear protective long sleeves and if they choose not that is their own chose / risk. (none of the UK insects cause significant harm) | It was discussed within the group on the day, this form was submitted to the Club Safety Officer for comment and collation.  To present to AGM report  Disseminate to Club members to read and learn from as part of AGM minutes |
| 5. | Dorset Rock hopping 9th Sept  **Capsize and assisted Rescue in rocks and swell.** | Improve the skills and quickness of club members to be more proactive in managing assisted rescues. | It was discussed within the group on the day, this form was submitted to the Club Safety Officer for comment and collation.  To present to AGM report  Disseminate to Club members to read and learn from as part of AGM minutes |
| 6. | Thames Eve Paddle 31st Aug  **Capsize with assisted Rescue**  A guest paddler capsized within 120m of Kew Bridge on the upstream side, at the Eastern end of Brentford Ait. Paddler completed an assisted rescue and was contact towed back to the shoreline at the Arches.  No injuries were sustained, and the location of the capsize meant that there was no tidal flow and so no risk of drifting into a hazardous object during the rescue. | Leaders to be alert during the start and end of trips where momentum is less and new paddlers can potentially become nervous as they are leaving/coming into land, which makes them tense up and less stable.  Greater awareness of the transition of flow at the East end of Brentford Ait may help Thames Leaders manage their groups.  All paddlers were sent to the shore for group safety, but keeping one with the rescue would be helpful in order to assist if needed.  Lots of the Discover level group of paddlers do not know what a contact tow is. It would be a good idea to include this into the Discover course at least as a demonstration. | It was discussed within the group on the day, this form was submitted to the Club Safety Officer for comment and collation.  Thames Lead on day to disseminate learning points to all Thames Lead  Disseminate to Club members to read and learn from as part of AGM minutes |
| 7. | Thames Eve Paddle 7th Sep  **Capsize with assisted Rescue.**  First paddle for a newly qualified Discoverpaddler. Capsized behind Isleworth Ait when attempting slalom between posts in flow.  Paddler had not seen an assisted rescue previously as too cold on Discover course. | For first Thames paddles, do not attempt slalom around posts, unless at slack/no flow.  If paddlers have not seen an assisted rescue on the Discover course there needs to be a determined effort to do that at the earliest opportunity.  Rescue was complicated by flow and that the second senior person did not have a tow rope/contact tow to hold kayaks in place. Should have at least 2 tow ropes/contact tows in all groups. | It was discussed within the group on the day, this form was submitted to the Club Safety Officer for comment and collation.  Thames Lead on day to disseminate learning points to all Thames Lead  Disseminate to Club members to read and learn from as part of AGM minutes |

* WELFARE NOTE - Any coach or leader whose main role does not involve working with children or adults at risk is required to initially complete, as a minimum, an online **safeguarding** course and then, every three years, refresh their training with an online training course.