

# MACCLESFIELD AND DISTRICT CANOE CLUB (MADCC)

## MADCC ACTIVITIES AND OPERATION

### 1. Introduction

The club's objective is to promote all forms of canoeing, to provide facilities for members and to enable members to develop their full potential in the sport. We pride ourselves on being a friendly club, and we encourage participation by all the family or individuals from 7 upwards. This document summarises the club's activities and identifies how the club operates.

### 2. Club Activities

Club activities include flat, moving water, and sea, canoe and kayak activities, and racing. Club activities take place at weekends throughout the year, with additional weekday evening sessions running from April to September.

In summertime the club meets Monday evenings on the Macclesfield canal, at Adelphi Mill, Grimshaw Lane, Bollington, (where kayaks are available for hire), and Thursday evenings at Brereton Heath Country Park, near Congleton. During the winter months the club uses Bollington Swimming Pool for indoor coaching.

Throughout the year there is race training on Sunday mornings, and monthly hare-and-hounds races. Club members regularly compete in the North West Region races, including the NW Hasler races. They also compete in the UK Hasler finals, sprint regattas, the Devizes to Westminster race, the National Marathon Championship, and out-of-region races.

The club arranges events at weekends. Activities include white water and placid water touring, and weekend activity trips away. Typically the events include:

- placid and moving water day trips ranging from canals and grade one river for beginners, up to grade three rivers for experienced paddlers.
- weekend trips to the Lake District, Llyn Peninsular, Anglesey and the Liffey descent.
- racing events including the UK Hasler finals, the club's Cheshire Ring endurance race and two regional Hasler races each year.
- Other *ad hoc* trips

These activities are advertised to members through the Newsletter and Calendar which are distributed quarterly. The Calendar on the website contains the most up to date information. Email and the forum (accessible through the website) are also used, especially for *ad hoc* events.

### 3. Coaching

Coaching sessions for both adults and juniors include:

- Summertime Monday evenings – beginners introduction, Paddlepower, and One and Two star training on the Macclesfield Canal at Bollington
- Summertime Thursday evenings – Paddlepower and One, Two and Three star training at Brereton Country

Park

- Wintertime baths sessions on Friday evening at Bollington leisure centre.
- Weekend-day placid and moving water trips.
- Race training on Sunday mornings at Bollington
- Monthly club hare-and-hounds race at Bollington.
- Specific sessions for particular groups (e.g. WI, Scouts) – by arrangement

Coaching is provided by BCU qualified coaches. Coaches follow the BCU Long Term Paddler Development Pathway and the BCU coaching guidelines. Coaching is provided following the BCU Paddlepower scheme for Juniors, the BCU Star Tests and other relevant performance awards. Club coaching is available for inland kayaking, canoeing and racing.

#### **4. Policies and Codes of Conduct**

Safety, Child / Vulnerable Adult Protection and Equality are important to all members. The club's Policy documents are available separately.

The club expects members to adhere to the club's Code of Conduct, and the Code of Conduct for Junior Members as appropriate. The Code of Conduct documents are available separately.

#### **5. Club Management and Communication**

The club is managed in accordance with its constitution. The constitution identifies membership, club policies, committee membership, club management, etc. The Constitution identifies club officials who are members of the club committee. Other officials, (e.g. racing, newsletter, youth officer) are appointed by the committee from time to time; these officials report to the committee but need not be members of the committee.

The club communicates with its members through regular distribution of a newsletter and a calendar of events. Distribution is via email and mail. Club information including the calendar of events is available on the club website at [www.madcc.co.uk](http://www.madcc.co.uk). A web based message-board is regularly used as a convenient means of communication.

#### **6. Club Premises**

The club's main facility is a stone built boat store on the Macclesfield Canal on the Grimshaw Lane Aqueduct at Bollington, leased from the Canal and Rivers Trust. A garage in Bollington is rented for storage of a canoe trailer and baths boats.

Keys to the club premises are available to members at the discretion of the committee, on payment of a returnable deposit.

#### **7. Equipment**

The club has a range of kayaks, canoes, paddles, bouyancy aids and associated equipment. This equipment is available for hire by competent paddlers, or for use under the supervision of club coaches. The equipment includes items suitable for juniors and for adults. The Equipment Charges document is available separately.

The condition of equipment used is monitored by those in charge of its use. Any faults are identified for remedial action. The status of all equipment including the flotation capacity of bouyancy aids is checked early each year.

## **8. Bollington and Brereton Resource Boxes**

As these two locations are used regularly throughout the summer a resource box is provided for each location. Typically this contains: a first aid pack; spare dry clothing; a folder containing the risk assessment, members phone numbers, incident procedure with emergency contact numbers, accident forms, etc;

## **9. Risk Assessments**

Risk assessments are carried out for the locations at which the club operates. Documented assessments for locations such as Bollington and Brereton are carried out at the start of each season, and copies are held in the relevant resource box.

Risk assessments for events such as the Cheshire Ring and Mersey Descent races are prepared by the race organiser.

Risk assessments for trips to other locations are carried out by the trip coordinator at the time of the trip.

## **10. First Aid Equipment**

First Aid Equipment is provided by the club in the Bollington and Brereton Resource boxes. Adequacy of the equipment is checked early each year. The equipment is replenished as items are used.

For trips and events at other locations, the event organiser is responsible for ensuring that appropriate first aid equipment is available.

## **11. Finance**

The club's aim is to cover its operating costs and to be able to purchase some new equipment each year.

Membership fees are agreed at the AGM. Charges are made for use of club equipment. Grants are applied for when appropriate.

## **12. Links with other organisations**

The club cooperates with a number of other organisations, including:

- Cheshire Scouts, Guides and Cubs - club coaches assist with their canoeing activities.
- Congleton Borough Council – club coaches assist with Leisure Centre canoe activities for Juniors
- Mersey Basin Campaign – River-Clean-Up and touring activities

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### **Document Update Record**

Reviewed and approved February 2014