

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. The club's advice to members was strengthened in the light of the PM's 'lockdown' statement on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and further again in the light of advice by British Canoeing, HM Coastguards, The Environment Agency - and the Canal & Rivers Trust on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**With immediate effect the Club will cease all activities, at all sites, until advised otherwise by Public Health England.**

This includes:

- **All training courses**
- **GP and racing sessions at Riverside**
- **All activities at the Ferndown pool**
- **All weekend paddling sessions out of Lake Pier**
- **Wednesday Club nights**
- **Trustee meetings and the AGM**
- **All Junior sessions**
- **Open Days at Lake Pier / Wimborne Riverside**
- **Duty Officer training evening at Lake Pier**
- **Use of club boats and equipment and personal stored boats**

Anyone who has paid for unused courses or sessions will be refunded, but please bear with us as we work out the best way to achieve this, the relevant teams will be in touch with those affected.

However, **the club now requires that all paddling activities cease until further notice as advised by all the governing bodies.** This is in the interests of all members of the community and obviously includes all of the health and rescue services.

**\*\*\* Please note too that only *essential travel* is permitted – so **travel to a beach, lake or river for any exercise is not.****

Always following the advice and guidance from Public Health England with regards to social distancing and what constitutes '**essential travel**'. The police have the power to fine those that do not comply.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

In line with the requirements set out above for those of you who have private boats stored within club premises – we ask that you do not use them. In addition bearing in mind that only essential travel is necessary there should be no reason why the boathouse is visited – but nonetheless should any emergency arise that necessitates an official visit we ask that you are **very** careful about cleaning your hands both on entry to and exit from the buildings, to eliminate contamination. At Lake Pier we would respectfully ask you not to use the upstairs facilities at all during this time.

We hope to reschedule the AGM to June (date tbc) at this time, which keeps it within the 15 months time frame detailed in the Constitution but will review this closer to the time. In the event that the conditions and restrictions have not improved, then we may have to take the exceptional decision to exceed the defined timescale of the Constitution.

Please keep an eye on your emails – I'm sure that more paddling opportunities will open up as time progresses, **but the immediate health of the whole community is of paramount concern.** We will send out update emails if any changes can be implemented.

If you have any queries, questions, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Kind regards

**Adrian**

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