**UHCC Club Survey**

As part of our move to gaining British Canoeing Quality Club status the club surveyed all members to find out what is important to them and where we should focus our energies.

**And the results are in…..**

Firstly, to say a massive thank you to everyone who responded to our survey, whether by email, on paper or on Facebook, we had an excellent response.

So, from the survey we can see that we did manage to engage with a broad swathe of the club. We had slightly more engagement with those who had been members of the club less than a year and those who had been in the club more than 5 years and slightly lower engagement from those in the middle.

I had always thought that Friendship would be the highest reason for joining the club, so it was interesting to see that “Challenge” scored highest for reasons for joining/staying in the club, with friendship coming second. This is an important message for those of us on the committee to hear and we will be looking into providing more paddle/leadership development challenge across all disciplines of the club. There was also a good number of members who wanted to give back and this is shown later in the response to the “could you be a leader” question.

In terms of what activities members are interested in Whitewater and Sea Kayaking received by far the most votes, with flatwater, expeditions and social events all receiving similar numbers of votes. Interestingly paddleboarding was mentioned but didn’t receive many votes.

Most members seem to want to paddle once or twice a month, but there were still a good number of members in the once-a-week category as well. This can help us when putting development programmes together to aim for once a fortnight with maybe optional practice sessions in between for those that want them.

The “What do you most like about the club” question was answered with an overwhelming “The people – the atmosphere – the welcoming nature of the club, the friendliness of the leaders/coaches etc” so as members, leaders and coaches please take this a very well done! In my opinion this is one of the best compliments that any club could receive.

In terms of how we could most improve the club, the majority of responses were in two camps. Improve communications, which is always an issue in clubs like ours, but hopefully can be tackled as we move forward with gaining the British Canoeing Quality Club status, and arrange trips to new and different venues, not just the traditional trips that we do every year. This has been taken on board by the committee and we will look at this going forward.

Over two thirds of the members who responded were in favour of a club family day where we can maybe have a BBQ etc and introduce our friends and family to our club friends and have fun, with an emphasis on providing activities for children and young people to see what we do as a club.

What was really encouraging was the number of people who would be prepared to be helpers/leaders across the different domains in the club if given the right training and encouragement, more than three quarters of all those who responded. So, the next steps will be for the committee to move forward with helping members to get involved and get the training needed to be confident in whatever role they volunteer for.

The vast majority of members felt that the Barkstore had the right mix of equipment, but there were a few suggestions of where we might have gaps, and these will be looked at to see what’s available and what we might need going forward.

In conclusion, this survey has shown that our club is thriving. It is seen as warm and welcoming and has members wanting more challenge, new trips and to help develop the club by taking on leadership roles where needed. This is such an amazing outcome, a club not only solidly bouncing back after Covid, but wanting to move forward and develop our paddle skills whilst loving our trips away as well.

What Changes will you see going forward?

**The big change**- we will look at our overall purpose of the club with an emphasis on development likely to be a key feature.

**The little changes** you will start to see

* Reviewing our communications systems
* Club family day to be planned for the spring.
* A little more formality in the club trips- risk assessments, review and action.
* Workshops on planning and organising paddle trips either for the club or as a group of friends
* Review of trips for 2024