CLUB ACTIVITY & DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In 2026, the club plans to carry out activities and development under the following headings:

Kayak Training

- **Run a two-day weekend course and five-week evening courses to get members to work towards Explorer stage of development in June and July.**
- White water - over late autumn / winter. Training to include introductions to white water and to develop existing whitewater paddlers.
- Run skills and fun sessions during and after the formal training courses end to prepare members for late summer / winter activities.
- Sea / Touring kayak training and trips during the summer and autumn.
- Encourage members who are predominantly canoeist to try kayaking e.g. on local paddles, encourage canoeists to paddle a kayak with an experienced kayaker.

Open Canoe Training

- **Run a five-week evening course to get members to work towards Explorer stage of development in June and July.**
- For members interested in white water canoeing, encourage and support attendance on the Open Canoe Association introduction to white water course.
- For members looking to improve their whitewater canoeing, encourage and support attendance on the OCA's 'follow-on' white water trips.
- Encourage members who are predominantly kayakers to try open canoe e.g. on local paddles, encourage kayakers to paddle with an experienced open canoeist as part of a tandem crew.

Coach/Leader Development

The club is always looking for coaches / leaders to run its courses and away trips; the seemingly transient nature of Oxford means that only a few individuals remain in the club long enough to provide all the coaching and leading within the club. We plan to:

- Identify longer term members who would like to become coaches to run our sheltered water courses. We would support their attendance on Coach Award courses and we will involve existing coaches to mentor aspirant coaches to assessment.
- Identify longer term members who would like to take on a leadership role and to run club trips. We would support members who would like to attend leadership courses and assessments.

- Support the development for coaches / leaders from sheltered water onto moderate / advanced water conditions, if they aspire to do so.

Membership

- To try and retain members within the club, we plan to run plenty of trips and fun sessions (both local and those further afield) for members of all abilities. We aim to include touring, sea, surf and whitewater trips.
- We aim to provide sessions to enable members other than beginners to develop their paddling skills; if we cannot achieve this with club coaches, we plan to bring in external coaches to assist.
- As in previous years, the club aims to have a vibrant social scene. Examples of events coming up include pub paddles, BBQs, Ceilidh, seasonal parties, cheese and wine evenings etc.
- Raise membership numbers by advertising courses – banners/posters/flyers/business cards, improving website and online communications. Ensuring swift communication to enquiries for courses or joining the club.

Equipment

The club is well equipped with high-quality general-purpose kayaks, sea kayaks and open canoes. Additionally, we have a couple of sit-on-top craft. We will ensure our kit is maintained to a high standard by holding maintenance days twice a year where members help with checking and the maintenance of the equipment and investing in new equipment as and when required.

Reviewed by: Hannah Murray - Chair
Date reviewed: February 2026
Next review date: February 2027