

MCG Committee meeting minutes June 25th 2020

Present by Zoom: Bill Chadwick, Tom Harrison, Dan Mathews, Dave Lossi, Nicky Pearce, Andy Horeckyj, Tanya Sparey, Jason Kirby

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to proceed with post lockdown cottage reopening. Much of the government guidance is just guidance rather than law. There is expected to be law prohibiting the assembly of more than 30 persons.

The relevant sections of the government documents may be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do-after-4-july>

and here

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/hotels-and-other-guest-accommodation#section-2-1>

It is important that we follow the government guidance in the event that a covid-19 infected person is traced to having been at the cottage. If that happens, it will be important that we have good records of who has attended at our cottage and when, and that we can be seen to have made a good attempt at following the government guidelines.

Another important consideration is that we do not employ cleaners at our cottage. Jason, Dave and Nicky have worked hard at a cleaning checklist. Jason has done a sterling job of procuring and installing sanitising equipment. More than ever members need to think of others. The recommended cleaning regimes should be followed or exceeded. Members should expect that previous visitors have followed our published regime but observe that this cannot be guaranteed.

In light of the new government legislation and guidance the committee concluded that we should open the cottage for restricted overnight stays and day visits from the 4th of July. Initially, the restrictions outlined below are to be applied. These will be reviewed monthly or following government legislation or guidance changes.

1. Limit each bunk room to one household per night (we will use the term household to include the government's current definition of a support bubble).
2. Permit two additional households to camp outside in a tent or campervan. This restriction enables the majority of the outside lawn space to be reserved for fair weather, outdoor socially distanced socialising.
3. Limit the total number of persons using the bunk rooms, kitchen, lounge, library and showers to fourteen pre-booked members at any one time. The rationale for this is that we will soon have 14 wipeable mattresses.
4. Permit pre-booked households, including those camping, to use the shower room on a clean before and after use basis.

5. Permit pre-booked indoor households to use the kitchen on a clean before and after use basis. Camping households should make their own outdoor cooking arrangements.
6. Permit pre-booked households to use the library including the loan of books.
7. Allow un-booked members access to the tackle store and toilets. They are not to enter the lounge or ascend the stairs, preference should be given to using the side entrance.

To facilitate this restricted access:

1. All members are to follow the provided sanitisation instructions. Handwashing on arrival and before entering the tackle store is vital. The toilets have detailed instructions for use!
2. All members, both booked and un-booked, are to swipe their card key or fob on the front door or tackle store door when using the building. This will provide us with the information we need should we ever have to trace an infection event.
3. We will divide the lounge into two parts with two dining tables so that two households can meet in it, socially distanced.
4. Households staying at the cottage are to organise the schedule for use of the shared kitchen and showers amongst themselves. Un-booked members are not to use the kitchen or showers. The changing room should only be used in association with the showers.
5. Households staying at the cottage are to manage their own recycling (bottles, cans etc.), leaving nothing at the cottage for others to deal with. All rubbish should be placed in the outside bin and no food left in the kitchen or fridge.
6. We will provide a household booking system, accessed from our web site. Three committee members will be responsible for recording the bookings on the MCG's Google calendar. The principle of the booking system will initially be first come first served. We expect members to respect that and not make speculative or repeated bookings that would exclude other members from using the cottage. The booking will be by member name and household size – which may be one. The committee reserve the right to decline a booking.
7. We will quarantine caving kit for 72 hours between uses. In the light of that, Dan has ordered some extra lifelines, slings and bags so that for example, several Swildons trips might be made within a few days. Further details on the logging and use of club kit will be made available.
8. When our new wipeable mattresses arrive, hopefully in a few weeks' time, we will put 4 each in the Six and Eight room and 6 in the Foreman's Lounge. In the meantime, the rooms must be left for 72 hours before use by another household group.

9. With fewer folk in the cottage, the call-out board should not be relied upon. Caving parties should make alternative call-out arrangements.
10. Pre-booked in members should wash their hands before entering the library and handling books etc. Please refrain from using the PC in the library – it is needed by the committee to monitor the access system. You may be able to print wirelessly from your device after installing an HP App.
11. The committee will not be able to state to members which caves are open for visiting. Members will have to make their own enquiries which the committee may be able to help with.
12. For the time being we do not consider it appropriate to take beginners caving. Requests from non-members will be politely deferred.

Bill Chadwick MCG Secretary – 26th June 2019