

CDO Notts meeting 18/07/20

Present: Hugh, Kiri, Matuto, Caius, Rachael, Greg, Topete, Jenny

Anti-racism/outreach

Hugh, Topete and Kiri spoke about their attendance at Capoeira4All's online conference into Capoeira, race and social outreach. They addressed Qaasim's speech, and the failings of CDO Notts to reach working class black communities in Nottingham, namely:

- Classes being too expensive
- The ICC not being a black community space
- The group's lack of connection to black community leaders

Topete: it was good to hear other perspectives on commonly faced issues in capoeira and using capoeira in the world.

K: There was lots of talk about how people use capoeira in different ways: a lot of social projects. We could do any of it if we wanted. Acougeiro spoke about "asset based" development, i.e. What assets you have, what issues might galvanise you together, and what's stopping you getting that off the ground? eg. working with Romani kids, refugees etc. We don't have someone who is regularly in contact with that community, so that is a barrier. Working with black people: we have the asset of Qaasim, who wants to teach more. Asset-based development it is about looking at who has the skills/contacts/desire within the group, and building projects around those assets.

Qaasim has been and will continue offering free classes to his peers on the park, following government social distancing guidelines.

A speaker on the conference suggested commemorating key dates of black figures within Capoeira's history, eg. Mestre Bimba. We should establish a calendar of year-round and annual activities. We can tie in a performance in a black community space to one of these dates.

Matuto: We could collaborate with Nottingham's samba schools, who also have to engage more with black communities. Carnival, cancelled this year, is a really good way to connect with black communities.

Greg: it is good to want to engage, but don't assume they are interested- it might come across as patronising and reductive.

Hugh: Maybe we need to not perform based around a capoeira black history date, but just perform for the sake of engaging. We can commemorate the dates with view to educating ourselves and our students, and maintaining a stronger link to black history. As for pricing, Kiri and I have discussed and would like to pursue a new approach- each class would have a "suggested guide price", but students can pay what they feel able to. The emphasis will be on online payment, but the cash tin should still be available in class

K: Classes will have to be pre-booked post-lockdown anyway, paid online, so we can integrate this system instantly, as it has worked already with the Zoom classes.

G: We can do it as a trial, then see if it's working

Restart of physical meet-up classes

K: we've done well during lockdown, considering the challenges. Zoom class attendance has been ok, especially compared to other Capoeira teachers' online classes in the same period.

Caius: if we are trying to get people to pay online, they should write if they paid online when they turn up

K: this new system won't create too many admin issues, as in terms of finance, it is just necessary to know how much money was taken per class, not how much each student individually paid

M: people can tick off their name on the register still, when they come

G: Will we still have a ten class card? we need to record that information on the register too

M: people need to know where their money is going: We should emphasise that by paying the full amount of the suggested price, they are "Paying it forward" to help poorer students. We need a sheet next to the register and on the website to break our price policy down clearly in bullet points

K: I have spoken to Gill about reopening. We can start with a weekly Saturday class, which will cost £40 to use the large hall for 2 hours. They will need to be pre-booked students.

G: will we need to clean the space in between classes?

K: Yes, so they will be 45 mins sessions with cleaning time in between and afterwards.

Rachael: will we be paying the teachers?

K: Yes, but we'd need to bring in £70 (ten people paying £7); £40 for room hire, £30 for teacher. It's possible, but not guaranteed.

M: is it groups of 6 we can have in?

H: Will students come in one door and leave through another? What is the plan? We should have all this drawn up well in advance, so students who book can receive clarity. Advertising will need to be really good, bold and clear, including information to assuage doubts. When could/should we start these classes?

K: Saturday 1st August?

G: do we want some outdoor classes in the meantime?

H: maybe we should start with park classes? lower overheads, as we build momentum towards full reopening

M: On the park we could have more than 6 students, as we could break up into smaller groups of 6, if monitors are there to lead a session in parallel to the main teacher.

T: we need to build momentum. Repetition. Building regularity for students to make a success of reopening.

K: We could take the informal Wednesday zoom class, which is currently done under my self-employed name, and market it as cdo notts now doing it, with the pricing system to reflect that, and me coming off furlough

H: For me, offering the same thing but with adjusted terms is an indistinct offer to students, and isn't going to build enthusiasm or momentum, helping us to build towards a more "normal" reopening of physical classes.

C: How about we have one weekly class at the ICC on reopening, plus zooms, plus outside classes, but with the outside class done on the "pay what you can" model, and the ICC ones on the old class payment model?

H: I think we should sell indoor, indoor and zoom classes as the same product. We can't make one cheaper than the others, as that will sell it as "not as good". I think we need to be clear and confident in the message we put out.

M: Maybe we could do acrobatics and music for inside classes? I.e. stuff that isn't as possible outside

K: I don't want to kill peoples' enthusiasm for meeting up informally in parks. Socially distanced rodas, etc. Selling it as product may muddy the waters for the great community feel of those informal things.

T: should we ask people what they want?

H: I will put up a consultation for students this week.

Jenny: I have been taking things in, and will formalise some thoughts to bring to the next group meeting. I have been part of the brownies/guides on-going discussions around reopening, so that might feed in usefully to how CDO Notts does it.