



# British Canoeing

## Slalom Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Location: Holiday Inn Express, East Midlands Airport



## 1 Present

### 1.1 In Person

Dave Spencer [3/4] Chair	Andy Grudzinski [3/4] Technical / Timing	Richard Ramsdale [1/4] British Canoeing
Colin Woodgate [3/4] Secretary	Nick Taylor [3/4] Lower Divisions	Mark Abbott [4/4] Wales
Martyn Setchell [3/4] Vice Chair / Athlete Rep	Peter Curry [4/4] Safety/Comp Mgmt	Les Ford [2/4] England
	Hazel Ridge [4/4] Volunteer	

### 1.2 Apologies

Andy Koszary [3/4] Treasurer	Steve Linksted [2/4] Divisional Development	Vacant CANI
	Jacky Stokes [1/4] Marketing & Publicity	Chris Baillie [3/4] Scotland

#### Also offering Apologies

Anna Gray - British Canoeing Sport Development Manager

## 2 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all participants and noted the apologies.

The meeting offered its best wishes to Chris Baillie in recovery from her operation this week.

The committee recorded its best wishes for Matthew McKnight as he moves from CANI to coaching the New Zealand Slalom Team. His actions in promoting slalom in Northern Ireland were welcome, and it is hoped that his successor will continue the good work.

## 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

## 4 Chair's Report

### 4.1 Meetings

In March Colin Woodgate and I went to Manchester for the British Canoeing EGM / AGM. The ICF were also in town and British Canoeing hosted a dinner at which canoeing volunteer awards were presented. I am very pleased to report that Ken Trollope received an award for service to Slalom. The AGM was preceded by an EGM at which changes to the articles of British Canoeing were proposed. This proved to be a lively session and a number of the proposed changes were defeated. The AGM continued in the same lively fashion with the most significant change being the election of Ivan Lawler as president, replacing Albert Woods. Albert has given many years of service and been a keen supporter of Slalom, for which we are all grateful.

Selection this year was a combined event for Juniors, U23 and Seniors. The race ran smoothly and to time, much to the credit of everyone involved and many thanks to one and all. The new British Canoeing president, Ivan Lawler, attended on the final day and despite admitting being a Slalom novice, was openly impressed by the standard of the competition.

### 4.2 GB Coach / Athlete availability to promote and support events

Significant changes have taken place in GB Canoeing. Paul Ratcliffe has been appointed as the new Performance Director and Mark Ratcliffe as the new Slalom head coach. Both Paul and Mark have stressed they are keen to strengthen links across the sport and this is an opportunity to redraw and reshape the relationship between elite performance and wider Slalom community for the benefit of all.

Attendance will be dependent on the demands of the competition schedule, so after the World Championships will be the main time. A strategy will be developed to make co-ordinated use of this resource and maximise the impact. This may include coaching sessions at a club, coach education, and / or attendance at events for publicity purposes.



### 4.3 Four Year Planning

In concert with the British Canoeing strategic plan we have started work on an equivalent plan for Slalom. This cannot be some “ivory tower” pronouncement and it is imperative that the whole Slalom Community is engaged to shape the future of the sport in the UK. First steps are to create and publish a skeleton plan for discussion and consultation by the end of June. Followed by a consultation period with some open consultation meetings. The intent is to consult at all levels within the sport and with all types of stakeholders. ....**DS**

An early working draft of the four-year plan was tabled before the meeting for discussion and further development / completion.

It was noted that in this Olympic Discipline there has to be considerable overlap and synergy between the Four-year plan for the committee and that of the British Canoeing Performance department. Several of the current draft strategies require co-operation between these parties, and agreement of the roles and responsibilities in fulfilling them. Examples include the Talent Identification, and Performance Programme areas of the plan. All committee members are encouraged to feedback on the early working draft .....**All** Ideas to retain people in the sport, the social dynamic, and cross discipline events were also discussed and will be considered for inclusion.

### 4.4 Discipline Chairs’ Meeting

A committee comprising the Chairs of the competition disciplines and British Canoeing staff was established in 2016 and meets 2-3 times per year. The meeting is chaired by the CEO, David Joy, and has become a key forum to share and address issues that affect all competition disciplines and provide clear communication between British Canoeing and the disciplines.

An update on event safety and digital strategy will be provided.....**DS**

The links between slalom and regional development teams were discussed, as there is some obvious synergy in ensuring that newcomers to the sport are exposed to many disciplines.

### 4.5 Olympic Program 2024 and Beyond

A paper on IOC strategy and the current British Canoeing initiatives was discussed the general feeling was that is too early in review for general consultation.

## 5 Secretary’s report

### 5.1 Year Book Production

- A Vote of Thanks was passed to Ken Trollope for the many hours he put in each year, over a considerable number of years, in publishing the yearbook . Ken will be asked to produce a description of the role. An advert for the publishing role will be sought during the year to get experience and guidance from Ken. Possible approaches may include use of the BC communications team for some of this role.
- An historic list of international (and national) winners will be developed for possible inclusion in the year book, and posting on the internet. ....**CDW**
- Some time was spent reviewing the purpose of the yearbook, and looking at the sections in the yearbook, to review whether they should be included or not. The yearbook is getting thicker all the time, and has increasing duplication in it, making maintenance harder. Individuals on the committee should seek feedback from slalom stakeholders.
  - Directory of Slalom Officials will be trimmed to no longer include addresses. Where paid staff are included, there will be a short reason for their inclusion
  - Clubs with an Active Interest in Slalom will also be trimmed to no longer include addresses but to include the town (in brackets if not obvious)
  - Selection Policies with a note that this is a version as at a specific date, and that version published by British Canoeing is the master. BC will be asked to make the link to the policy easier to find, possibly including the link on all IP statements.
  - Division 4 Slaloms, this statement is no longer required
  - Equality Statement / Paddlesafe will be confirmed with the relevant page in BC, and will slalom safety/ code of conduct.



- Canoeist Safety Code will be removed
- National Interclub Championships rules will be removed
- Bib Arrangements Bib issuing officers will be removed, with reference to the list on page 7
- Slalom Calendar, retained, with consideration of making the application for events on line.
- Directory of Advertisers
- Judge Qualification / Register will be revised and updated.

Individual committee members agreed to proof read and update nominated sections.

## 5.2 Online Entries – Financial risk

Some clubs have expressed concern over the financial risk between payment being taken for an entry and the funds being released to the clubs. Stripe is an 'Authorised Electronic Money Institution supervised by the FCA' and subject to UK regulation and as such is required to hold customers' money in a separate account from its own funds - which provides reassurance that the risk to customers' funds is small.

It was noted that this sort of failure, leading to a financial loss by the organisers would enable the club to make a request to the slalom committee under D2.3.2.

## 5.3 Points Final on the Day

There was a discussion regarding results (and points) being final on the day. There are some issues where for example a paddler is promoted, and fails to notify the organisers. It was agreed that the rule as agreed at the ACM, will be retained. It was noted that if a paddler feels that their points are incorrect, and this is significant they can apply to the Secretary for their points to be reassessed.

## 5.4 The Future of the Premier Division

There was a discussion surrounding the online thread relating to the viability of Division 1/ Premier races. The committee will welcome all views and include the feedback in considering the development of the four year plan.

## 5.5 Paddler Parent Issues

There have been some issues surrounding relationships between some of the parents of some of the paddlers. This has influenced the conduct of various races, and has include reported abuse to volunteer officials. **Abuse of officials and volunteers is not acceptable in any circumstances.**

The Secretary will write to the parents involved to get both sides of the situation. This will then be discussed between the officers who will agree any future actions.

The code of conduct will be reviewed regarding sanctions that can be applied on the day.

## 5.6 Grandtully Issues

DS reported the results of the investigation into a disqualification at the Grandtully Premier race. The investigation raised a two key points

- The division of responsibilities between the Chief Judge and the Organiser needs to be established in advance
- Disqualifications must be in writing and discussed with the paddler, and (if a junior) with the responsible adult.

## 5.7 Disqualifications at races

In the premier and division 1 races held so far there have been 22 disqualification for underweight boats (one run only)and 6 disqualifications for nit staying on the water (whole event). A notice will be published alerting people to this trend in underweight boats. The notice will highlight the fact that the British Open will be run under ICF rules so boat measurements, end radii, helmets and BA's may be tested.

## 5.8 Scales

A new set of scales, with calibration certificate, will be purchased, a second set will be purchased for Canoe Wales.....**CDW**

End radii gauge will be purchased, one for each home nation and two for the committee.



## 5.9 Processing Wait Lists for Oversubscribed Races

A guidance note will be issued regarding processing of those on the waiting list. Where people withdraw from an event, places will be offered to those on the waiting list in the order of host division, by order of receipt, then paddle up in order of receipt.

## 5.10 Possible ACM 2017 Motions

### 1. Super Final Format

For the Bala Premier race in September / October two race formats will be trialled followed by a poll of paddlers, gathering reactions to the three formats used this year (Bala, and the two formats above). As we all know the formats this year have come in for strong paddler and parent criticism with advertised formats being changed.

On the Saturday - Super final format (7 from first run / 3 from second run into final). Top 10 places decided on final all other places decided on best of two runs.

On the Sunday - Czech format. 10 go through to second run final which will decide the top 10 placings. All other places decided on best of 2 runs.

It was acknowledged that the two formats are not as per the agreed formats in the year book, there has been an adverse reaction to the Super Final format adopted without opposition at the ACM. This will allow further information to be gathered and presented to the ACM this year.

### 2. Regulations and Administration (page 178 onwards in the yearbook) action is on CDW, waiting for information from Vasi as to BC ambition to make statutes similar across disciplines.

### 3. Division 1 Practice and course erection. MA will bring a draft motion to the next meeting, circulating it in advance if possible.

### 4. Deadlines

The rules relating to priority deadline and late entry fee application date will be moved to be in the same place

### 5. Late Entry Rules

The rules relating to the acceptance of late entries and application of late entries will be reviewed to make the process clearer.

### 6. Entry Fees for Doubles

The impacts of making entry fees standard for all races, with no discount for double entries will be investigated with the aim of financial neutrality..... **AK**

## 6 Finance

### 6.1 Draft Accounts

Draft accounts covering the six months ended 30 April 2017 were circulated. These show a deficit of income over expenditure of £3,185. The accounts are unaudited.

The Accounts assumes that no grant from British Canoeing will be received for the current year.

### 6.2 Slalom levies

The gross levies of £12,739 for the period to April, compare with £11,469 for the same period last year. It is a little too early in the season to assess how any change in participation figures this season will affect our income for the year.

### 6.3 CESC

The cash balance held in our accounts, due to the Canoe England Slalom Committee (CESC) was £22,132. The method of funding the CESC for 2016/17 is now via a share of race levies (from races run by English Clubs). This now matches the previous arrangements that have been in place for SCA Slalom & Canoe Wales Slalom committees over many years.

### 6.4 Selection Races 2017

These accounts exclude income & expenditure from the Lee Valley races held on April 15/16/17. These will be included in the next accounts.

### 6.5 Year Book

The net cost of the 2017 Year Book is currently £1,454.



## 6.6 Debtors

There are a small number of items of (small amounts) of unpaid levies and advertising invoices still remaining from 2016. Recovery of these will actively pursued by the Committee.

## 7 Athlete Representative

All issues to raise / report on were brought up in earlier parts of the meeting.

## 8 Divisional Development

An analysis of the location and organisers for division 2 races over the preceding 35 years has been produced. This will be reviewed to identify any appropriate actions to encourage the more challenging courses to be re-introduced.

## 9 Lower Divisions

### 9.1 Progress

NT is still asking organisers for feedback after each event

Not so much response this year – perhaps they have all told me all their thoughts...

Nothing new sticks out as being the one problem that needs solving

NT reviewed John Sturgess' very diligent analysis of retention & also spoke to Karen Crowhurst (Div 3 bib officer) about retention & progression of paddlers in the ranking system. Very interesting but I don't see any obvious problem that we can fix. I suspect all sports suffer from this. What's very hard to know is "Do we have declining numbers progressing through div 2 to 1 & beyond?" Standing in the bank at HPP on a very cold January Sunday afternoon when there must have been nearly 100 div 1 & prem paddlers on the water I'd say "No"

### 9.2 Areas for group discussion

#### 9.2.1 Complexity

Everything is complex: entries, levy forms, safety, ... Efforts must be made to reduce the complexity for organisers to aid in retention.

#### 9.2.2 Division 4 Insurance

Expecting Div 4 organisers to police membership of appropriate club is optimistic. Could BC cover insurance for Div 4? This is believed to be part of the being addressed as part of BCs review of membership.

#### 9.2.3 Division 3 Bibs

Consideration will be given to a scheme where paddlers can retain points at division 3, regardless of whether they have applied for a bib or not. ....NT

## 10 Marketing & Publicity

No report

## 11 Safety/Comp Management

### 11.1 Safety Plans

Safety plans have been received, it appears that not all plans have been fully implemented, but this has been addressed with the organisers.

The plan is to start chasing plans for next year with calendar applications from July onwards. Hopefully this year we can then have them all in place prior to the ACM.

### 11.2 International Travel

Paddlers are to be encouraged to thoroughly wash their boats and equipment before and after leaving the country.



## 12 Timing/Technical

### 12.1 Judges

There is a shortage of judges, whether this is experienced section judges volunteering less often.

A review of those currently judging will be undertaken, with a view to reviewing the judge qualification process, and judges' exams from gate judging, section judging and senior judging. Then the process to be nominated for the International Judges Exam.

Consistency of approach will be priority, including approaches, briefings, positioning and exam contents.

## 13 Volunteer

### 13.1 Welfare:

National, Federation and Club committee members should do the online Safeguarding training course. It was noted that this costs £9.99 to register as a BC member £17.50 as a non-member. {<http://bcu.wt-associates.co.uk/>}..... **All**

A DBS check and additional training is not necessary unless undertaking an active in a training / safeguarding role, in which case the guidelines for suitable training as listed on the BC website should be applied. Kimberley did say that presently the Sports Coach UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children course and then Time to Listen Training course are not run that frequently in Wales, although they do run in England (again links on BC website are being updated, but do not work currently). A note will be sent to clubs to ensure they apply / check promptly now at season start to ensure compliances. .... **HR**

### 13.2 Volunteering:

Some gate judge and section judge 'buddy' training at HPP event recently and timing team training at CIWW event. Still a shortage of volunteers at race events. Un-associated / disparate volunteer groups don't seem to be the preferred source of volunteers generally. It has been suggested that many clubs have helpers that want to be 'asked' to help... Volunteer appeal note sent to Nick Penfold for circulation on his website to this effect as well as ongoing contact with clubs – prioritized by event calendar, to ask if there any identified parents / associates who may be encouraged to become more involved if approached directly, who may not otherwise come forward.

### 13.3 Thank You.

This is just a brief thank you, to each and every one of you who have helped in ANY way to organize, run, clear up or 'all of the above' at any of our Canoe Slalom events this past year. We are so fortunate to have so many capable people throughout the UK who are passionate about our sport, that year in and year out help put on training events and races for the good of all. So much so, that it is easy for us to forget that THIS IS DONE VOLUNTARILY. Whether it be putting up the course, judging, timing or making cups of tea, these events could not happen without you. So, "THANK YOU" most sincerely. And to those of you on the sidelines, don't be shy. Get involved. Many hands make light work! It's fun! You will get to know your fellow paddlers and supporters and if you're unsure of anything...there are plenty of people around to support you and build up your confidence! For Club/event organisers please drop me a line if you are struggling with volunteers in your area to run events. I am compiling a list of volunteer support groups around the country that may be able to help. [hazelbowenridge@gmail.com](mailto:hazelbowenridge@gmail.com) Very best of luck for 2017!

Thank you again.



## 14 Home Nations / BC

### 14.1 England

ESCS held an open meeting at Grandtully providing updates on a range of issues, including development and funding, Pan Celtic races & teams, coaching, and how we raise the profile of the committee and its role within the slalom community. We still have gaps to fill in our regional reps (for South, London & SE) so we would welcome volunteers from these regions.

Congratulations to all English athletes selected for the coming season. Hopefully the sessions that we supported and ran at Lee Valley contributed to performances at selection. We are currently working on confirming the support to unfunded athletes that have been selected to team.

England enjoyed successful days at the Grandtully Pan Celtic races (thank you to the organiser). There was a good team atmosphere and visibility from our new team kit and branding – thanks to our new Team Manager Rob Softley.

### 14.2 Scotland

#### 14.2.1 *Grandtully*

The development work on the Hydro Scheme is complete and has been signed off by site engineers.

The Hydro scheme has been in operation all Winter, at the Premier and then was automatically off at the Division 1. It is believed we can confidently state that the hydro scheme is a complete irrelevance as far as water levels in the main river are concerned – when the river is high enough, the volume it takes is tiny in comparison to the volume in the river and when the river levels get anywhere near low enough to be bothered, we now know that it will automatically be shut down.

Slalom Organisers, coaches and paddlers using the river at Grandtully should be aware that the overspill area on the far bank down to the bridge is out of bounds at all times, ie whether training or racing. This effectively means no-one should be judging or coaching from that area on the far side. Any clubs running an event would need to include this in their “event risk assessment and safety management plan”.

#### 14.2.2 *Selection 2018, discussion in Cardiff*

The opportunity to discuss with other home nations the plans for selection 2018 was welcomed by the Scots.

### 14.3 Northern Ireland

#### 14.3.1 *Personnel*

Matthew McKnight has accepted a role with New Zealand. A replacement for the role will be sought.

### 14.4 Wales

#### 14.4.1 *Tabled Report*

Following the HPP Premier held recently a Wales Slalom Committee meeting took place. One of the main agenda items was the Olympic Programme 2024 & Beyond. This was discussed in some detail with various comments / suggestions being discussed.

The issue of volunteers was discussed and the general lack of help at races both at home and within other home nations was discussed. Different proposals were discussed with some submitted for discussion at the meeting. One of the main reasons discussed was the paddler age profile and that many of the paddlers that are In Prem / Div 1 are actually driving themselves to events.

The development of younger paddlers continues to make progress with new training groups developing at the various slalom training venues round Wales.

Training groups and camps are continuing during the summer with regular camps for all the age groups.

Discussions are taking place with other Home Nations about selection proposals and about the Pan Celtic formats.



#### **14.4.2 Judges and the Availability of Judges**

Following the Premier race at HPP on Saturday a Wales Slalom committee meeting was held where the subject of volunteers and judging was discussed in some detail.

The course design at HPP last weekend was good making use of various water features, but had the problem of having sections with only two gates which could not be judged from other sections on the course.

At various races this year we are having issues with the number of judges being available and the long periods of judging. There is no doubt our sport on many occasions this year is struggling for volunteers.

Course designers are to be encouraged to consider the judging of a race, gates are not on moving, or surging features so that gates are grouped where possible, avoiding isolated single or pairs of gates. For the remainder of the season for Division 1 and Premier races that courses are strongly recommended to have a maximum of 18 - 20 gates designed to be judged in four to five sections.

#### **14.5 BC Performance**

The meeting welcomed Richard to his role, he will provide a report to the next meeting.

### **15 Other Business**

#### **15.1 Interclubs**

The opportunity to use the marque at the Interclubs for communication with the slalom community will be considered. Opportunities will be discussed by electronic means and at the next meeting.

### **16 2016/2017 Meetings**

- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October, evening
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November Annual Consultative Meeting
- Sunday 26 November post ACM Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 16:12 p.m.