



British Canoeing

Slalom Committee

Meeting Minutes

Sunday 30th July 2017

Location: British Canoe Union HQ, National Water Sports Centre
Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, NG12 2LU



1 Present

1.1 In Person

Dave Spencer	[4/5]	Chair	Andy Grudzinski	[4/5]	Technical / Timing	Richard Ramsdale	[2/5]	British Canoeing
Colin Woodgate	[4/5]	Secretary	Peter Curry	[5/5]	Safety/Comp Mgmt	Mark Abbott	[5/5]	Wales
Andy Koszary	[3/5]	Treasurer	Hazel Ridge	[5/5]	Volunteer	Les Ford	[2/5]	England

Also Present: Andy Neave

1.2 Apologies

Martyn Setchell	[3/5]	Vice Chair /	Steve Linksted	[2/5]	Divisional Development	Vacant	CANI
		Athlete Rep	Jacky Stokes	[1/5]	Marketing & Publicity	Chris Baillie	[3/5]
			Nick Taylor	[3/5]	Lower Divisions		

Also offering Apologies

Anna Gray - British Canoeing Sport Development Manager

2 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all participants and noted the apologies.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

4 Chair's Report (tabled in advance)

4.1 Four Year Plan

I met with Rich Ramsdale to understand his approach for TID for England and how that is set to be established and developed over the next few years. This will be more of a partnership approach with key clubs and providers and will be important in developing the slalom coaching structure across the paddling community. Although Rich is concerned primarily with England the strategy needs to encompass all the Home Nations.

Individual consultations will be held to progress individual parts of the plan. Within the UK Committee, the strategy should include development / co-ordination with the home nation committees.

A discussion will be held at the Interclubs regarding the structure of competition in the country, over subscription of division 1 and premier races, double events, then number of racing opportunities will be among the topics raised. **AG / DS**

4.2 Digital Strategy

A number of working sessions have been held with key volunteers across disciplines and regions as part of consultations to shape British Canoeing's digital strategy. An external consultancy hosted the sessions and they have been charged with developing the overall strategy. This work is likely to be completed by the end of 2017 with the publication of the approach before investment in new/updated systems takes place.

4.3 Safety Strategy

DS will seek clarification on the broader BC Safety Strategy **DS**

4.4 Tech Expert on Coaching Panel

Mike Chandler has asked for volunteers to fill the role of Technical Experts as part of new BC coaching awards. Andy Neave has met with Mike and briefed the committee, tabling and discussing the main points.

The three levels of Coaching, Level 1 – Paddlesport Instructor, Level 2 Coach (18 new awards including Slalom Coach), Level 3 Performance Coach.

The remit of the various level of coach is not currently clear, possibly the expectation is that Coaches would be targeting getting athletes into division one.



Slalom Coach

- Direct entry with no pre-requisites other than membership and registration.
- Two days core coach training – common across all disciplines. Followed by three days discipline specific training. The format of these three days is under discussion at present, i.e. three days, three individual days, two days plus one etc. This is followed by a one-day assessment at an appropriate venue.
- If an individual wants to be qualified in other disciplines, they only need to do the discipline specific days, not repeat the common training.

British Canoeing are advertising for course providers, in the meantime Mike Chandler will take the lead for slalom and sprint.

A pilot core training course is proposed for HPP in October / November. It is important that the opportunity is available across the country not restricted to a small venue.

Information on the scheme and course dates and contacts should be prepared for inclusion in the 2018 Yearbook..... **RR**

There is a proposal to run 1 day or an evening, bespoke course for existing coaches. Possibly the day after the ACM, as people may be in the Nottingham area. Potential attendees for these initial courses could be identified through the Regional Representatives, information will be sent to the regional representatives to allow identification of possible attendees and sources of funding.....**AN**

Mike Chandler will be asked to co-ordinate this with the other Home Nations.....**AN**

4.5 British Open

Several meetings have been held to organise the various events surrounding the British Open in September and Lee Valley. Besides the British Open on the Olympic course and the Div2/Open on the Legacy there will involvement from Rafting, Freestyle, Polo and a Boater X competition. Similar to last year, this should provide an exciting weekend and a rich spectator experience.

The British Open will be an ICF ranking race, CDW will confirm the national rules that can be imposed in addition or replacement of the ICF rules. Particularly staying on the course at the end, Enquiries vs protests, video judging etc.**CDW**

Advertising for the event will be arranged by British Canoeing, and possibly through flyers at World Cups and World Championships.....**CDW**

5 Secretary’s Report

5.1 Historic Winners

A list of historic international (and national) winners is being developed. Work in progress was shown at the meeting.....**CDW**

5.2 ICF and ECA Rule changes.

It is understood that the next ICF Congress and ECA board submissions may include technical rule changes. Any changes that the committee want to make to the international rules must be formalised, and submitted to the British Canoeing Board in sufficient time to be agreed and submitted. The committee was encouraged to consider any rule changes appropriate and bring them to the next meeting**All**

5.3 Grandtully Issues

The complaint from a fisherman at Easter is now closed. The landowner is happy for slaloms to run as in the past. Organisers will inform the land owner of slalom dates so that conflict with fishing licences can be avoided.

5.4 Scales

A new set of scales, with calibration certificate, has been purchased, a second has also been purchased for Canoe Wales. End radii gauges have been ordered, delivery is expected shortly.



5.5 Equipment Safety Standards

Safety Standards will continue to be randomly, visually spot checked with extension to helmets and buoyancy aids.

The bib application form will be extended to include confirmation of, and acceptance of, the safety requirements.**DS**

CDW will investigate the costs of a buoyancy jacket test cage to ICF Standards. If appropriate this will be made available at various times and locations throughout the UK and used at major events.**CDW**

5.6 Entry Limit

UKC12.2 states that the total number of paddlers for the day should be published as the race limit, not just the ranking paddlers. It is acknowledged that different interpretations have been used this year.

Where a premier or division 1 race is run in conjunction with another event (such as a Pan Celtic race) additional entries must not be taken in preference to the host division. Organisers are encouraged to publish the basis for the entry limit, e.g. maximum number of paddlers, or maximum number of ranked paddlers.

5.7 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).

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 circulated a draft motion.

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

5. Processing Wait Lists for Oversubscribed Races

A motion will be put to the ACM to clarify the entry process around the various dates, including priority deadline, online payment date and late entry date.**DS**

6. Late Entry Rules

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

7. Non Refundable Entry Fees

Entry fees will not be refundable after the late entry date except for exceptional cases.

8. 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**

9. Officials

The Rule book refers to a maximum of 60 officials, this limit is to be removed.

10. Entry Opening Date

Introduce a new rule to the effect that entries for an event will not be accepted more than three months before the race weekend.



11. Possible CR CATS motion

CR CATS have notified the Secretary of some possible motions. These were briefly discussed, with some questions raised. The drivers behind the motion will need further clarification and understanding of the potential consequences. These will be discussed further when the motions and justification are received. Some of the aspects may be included in the strategy discussion at the interclubs.

6 Finance

6.1 Draft Accounts

Draft accounts covering the eight months ended 30 June 2017 were circulated. These show a surplus of income over expenditure of £341. 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 £24,038 for the period to June, compare with £27,430 for the same period last year, which included late receipt around £1,200 of 2015 levy.

6.3 CESC

The cash balance held in our accounts, due to the Canoe England Slalom Committee (CESC) was £23,045.

6.4 Debtors

There are a small number of items of (small amounts) of unpaid levies and advertising invoices outstanding from 2016 & 2017. Recovery of these will actively pursued by the Committee.

7 Athlete Representative

No Report

8 Divisional Development (Report tabled in advance)

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.

The possibilities for additional races at existing venues was also discussed,

9 Lower Divisions (Report tabled in advance)

No particular news to report. Feedback received is in line with what we've heard before

10 Marketing & Publicity

No report

11 Safety/Competition Management

11.1 Safety Plans.

Safety plans have been received before every race this year. There is some evidence emerging that there are incremental improvements in risks management.

Some events have safety professionals as part of the organisation but who have not been to a British Canoeing seminar. BC will be approached to agree that some other qualifications are acceptable.....**DS**

Safety plans will shortly be solicited for next year.

11.2 West Tanfield 2018 and Beyond.

There is a particular problem at West Tanfield where the Landowner has given notice that they do not want to allow further competition after this year. It is not clear what the problem is but it does not seem to be financial. There has been a change in management as ownership of the site has moved down the family.



11.3 Continuing Issues with Water Releases

There continue to be issues with adequate time and confirmation of water releases where racing is dependent on this and the situation at Washburn is getting more difficult. Extending releases may not be an option e.g. if there are delays during racing. This needs to result in careful management of numbers racing and particularly impacts on Division 1's where time for practice runs needs to be provided.

11.4 Entry Fees

The cost of pumped courses continues to have challenges particularly at the lower divisions e.g. Division 2 at Pinkston. There needs to be an emphasis on the requirement to plan to meet expected costs in setting the correct entry fee, applying for assistance with water costs, and bearing in mind other competitions being run on the same weekend.

There perhaps need to be a review of the entry fees and levies to help clubs manage costs better. There is still an assumption by some that they should work within the set fees. Race formats and oversubscribed races continue to attract discussion and comment, this particularly affecting Division 1 and Premier.

12 Timing/Technical

12.1 Thank you

Thank you to all officials and the many volunteers who have assisted and supported the races so far this season.

12.2 Officials

The 2017 season has seen a reduction in available volunteers at all levels. A number of people have volunteered to either start judging or develop their judging skills; this is very welcome and anyone interested in learning more are encouraged to make contact. It is hoped that more gate judge exams will be arranged throughout the season and these will be advertised in advance wherever possible. Paddlers and supporters are encouraged to take the opportunity to sit the exam.

12.3 Judging

A review of the current judging systems is to be undertaken, with the intention of 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. Input is to be sought and encouraged from officials and potential officials at all levels of the sport to identify and disseminate best practice.

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

12.4 Equipment

Quotations are being sought from potential suppliers in relation to replacement communications equipment.

13 Volunteer

13.1 Welfare:

Safeguarding and welfare issues have been raised as agreed, and circulated with assistance from British Canoeing. There was some overlap with British Canoeing put also raised awareness of the resources available.

The opportunity to shadow some section judges has been arranged to help introduce people to the role and reduce the step into officiating. Gate judge exams are being arranged.

The committee was reminded that they should complete the online safeguarding course **All**



14 Home Nations / British Canoeing

14.1 England (Report tabled in advance)

English Junior and Under 23 athletes have been performing well at the Championships and International races that they have attended. A significant number of athletes from the English talent programmes have attended various teen cup races, producing some excellent results and gaining valuable exposure to international competition at an early age.

England dominated the Pan Celtic leg held at Washburn, largely due to low numbers of paddlers from the other home nations. With hindsight, this may not be the best time to hold a leg of the competition, so we will review this for next year.

Plans are being put in place for winter training slots at Lee Valley to support English Athletes preparing for 2018 selection races.

14.2 Scotland (Report tabled in advance)

14.2.1 *European Training camps*

There have been several training camps organised in Europe for Scottish paddlers over the summer. The majority have been organised and run by volunteer club coaches and the club DCI coaches. Each camp has involved many paddlers from more than one club and they have taken place in St Pierre de Boeuf, France, Augsburg, Prague and Ceske. There is also a performance trip of 4 paddlers and a coach after the Junior and U23 world champs with training in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Germany.

14.3 Northern Ireland

No report

14.4 Wales (Report tabled in advance)

14.4.1 *Canoe Wales Central Governance*

Jen Browning has been appointed as general manager with Canoe Wales. Jen previously worked with Motivation, a company designing low budget performance wheelchairs and sports participation and performance programmes for developing countries, and was a US Paralympic gold medallist in wheelchair basketball and coach with the GB team.

The current Canoe Wales strategy is under review, while there will be a new round of funding submissions in April 2019, where sports will be asked to provide new plans and budgets, taking, what is known as a zero-budgeting approach (i.e. plans will be reviewed afresh, with a focus on community development alongside medal potential).

14.4.2 *Welsh Events*

A large number of division 2 / 3 / 4 events have been run in Wales this year. This has had a positive effect on the numbers participating and the number of Canoe Wales boats on the ranking list now stands at 217. Many thanks to all the organisers / volunteers who have been involved in this comprehensive programme, which allows such opportunities.

14.4.3 *Performance*

There will be a review of the current performance programme (sprint / slalom) this winter, while it is hoped to appoint new positions, in the short term.

The Performance pathway and talent pathway squads have been selected with 30 named paddlers. 8 paddlers did not achieve the required performance standards and 6 attended a signposting day in May, to outline future options, including requirements to return to the programme. 12 Premier division paddlers have been included on the performance pathway programme (under 23 / Under 18), while 4 have been invited into a limited number of weekends. 14 paddlers (under 14 / 16) are included on the Talent pathway programme focussing on div 1 / top end of div 2.

Talent pathway officers – Jon Davies and Gareth Bryant continue to support regional development and club sessions alongside the Talent pathway squad. There will be training camps / weekends at Bala, HPP, Grandtully and Llandysul this Autumn.



A number of paddlers have attended the junior ECA cup races at Flattach and Augsburg, while also racing at the Mezzana International, where Emily Davies placed 1st and Lili Bryant 2nd in the C1W class. Lili Bryant also placed 4th overall in the K1W class. Rhys Davies and Will Coney placed in the top 8 in the C1M class. Fin Yates Jones and Jess Rayner raced well and also made finals in their first senior International races. Canoe Wales paddlers will also attend the junior ECA races at Krakow and Ceske Budejovice, before returning to UK for training camps at HPP, Lee Valley and Bala this Autumn.

Megan Hamer Evans, Tom Abbott and Etienne Chappell attended the Bratislava World ranking race, qualifying for the semi-finals, while Gabi Ridge placed 7th in the final, in preparation for the Junior / Under 23 World championships (currently in progress)

Canoe Wales slalom squads will be selected for the winter programme during the Autumn races.

14.5 British Canoeing Performance

Andrzej Wojs has been appointed as Lead LV Coach and has been tasked with developing the LV environment and southern region as a whole.

Nine England Programme members raced at the Bratislava Junior/U23 World Championship over the weekend. Some excellent racing delivered by all, lots of learning to carry forward to the Europeans next month. Notable mention to Ellis Miller coming so close to a final-finishing 11th C1W and Sam Maingay on dealing so professionally and maturely with a racing upset that was beyond his control.

England coaches continue to support the ECA Junior cup events, as we speak Andrzej and Aaron are in Poland supporting the group of paddlers that have travelled to race in Krakow. This is one events of a series of 5 races that the team are supporting. Overall, we will have facilitated approx. 65 paddlers racing in Europe this summer by the end of August.

Coach partnership programme is nearing launch, 3 strands of support will be included, resource to help guide best practice, grant support to facilitate activity and coach development. More detail to follow hopefully in September.

Work is continuing with the creation of a Development Curriculum. This work is being done in conjunction with the English Institute of Sport's Pathway team.

15 Other Business

15.1 Pinkston Slalom Financial Situation

After a period of financial support from a member and sponsorship from a supplier, these arrangements have ceased. The recent Pinkston event made a loss of over £500. Accounts for the event have been received and were reviewed. There is an error in the SCA form in calculation of levies and it is understood that the accounts have not been finalised.

Subject to receipt of correct and final accounts and that the club will budget for a viable event next year, the committee agreed as a one-off payment, to cover up to 45% of the actual loss, in the expectation that the SCA committee will cover the remaining 55% (in line with the proportions of the levy that each receives).

15.2 The future of C2

The committee welcomed the discussion on the bulletin board regarding the future of the C2 event. If those behind the discussion can reach agreement before the next meeting, the committee will consider backing any motions.

15.3 British Canoeing Consultation

Part of the consultation includes membership options. The consultations raised a number of questions and options. Input to the process will be fed back direct to British Canoeing at the Discipline Chairs' meeting.
.....DS

15.4 ACM Appointments

Due for election at the ACM:

Vice Chair, Secretary, co-ordinators:

Co-opted during the year: Steve Linksted (Divisional Development)



Term Expiring 2017, Co-ordinators: Jacky Stokes (Marketing & Publicity), Peter Curry (Safety / Competition Management), Andy Grudzinski (Technical / Timing).

All are asked to confirm if they are willing to stand for re-election. Jackie Stokes has expressed a wish not to stand for re-election.

16 2016/2017 Meetings

- Saturday 28th October, evening at BC Headquarters, 1 hour after the last run for the day
- Saturday 25th November Annual Consultative Meeting
- Sunday 26th November post ACM Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 14:45 p.m.