



# British Canoeing

## Slalom Committee

### Meeting Minutes

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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



## 1 Present

### 1.1 In Person

Dave Spencer	[5/5]	Chair	Nick Taylor	[4/5]	Lower Divisions	Chris Baillie	[5/5]	Scotland
Martyn Setchell	[5/5]	Vice Chair	Jacky Stokes	[4/5]	Marketing & Publicity	Mark Abbott	[4/5]	Wales
Andy Koszary	[4/5]	Treasurer	Peter Curry	[4/5]	Safety/Comp Mgmt	Dave Royle	[3/5]	England
Colin Woodgate	[4/5]	Secretary	Andy Grudzinski	[2/5]	Timing/Technical	Craig Morris		British Canoeing

### 1.2 Apologies

Jacky Brookes	[2/5]	Competition	Matthew McKnight	[0/5]	CANI
Hazel Ridge	[3/5]	Volunteer			

## 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

## 3 ACM Preparation

The provisional Agenda for the ACM was reviewed.

It was with regret that the meeting noted that Jacky Brooks will not be offering herself for re-election and the meeting passed a motion of thanks to Jacky for all the work she has put in for the committee over the years. Jacky will continue to attend and judge at slaloms, but will no longer be a co-ordinator.

All other co-ordinators agreed to stand for re-election, and would be proposed by the committee.

Committee Motions were all confirmed, the Committee position on all motions was agreed. Also agreed was who (if anyone) will speak to the motions on behalf of the committee.

Co-ordinators / home nation representatives were reminded that they must produce a report for submission to the ACM. These to be received by 12<sup>th</sup> November.

It was agreed to trial club and proxy registration using web based forms for this year.

A standard buffet lunch will be provided, Clubs will be asked to commit numbers attending to ensure provision.

## 4 Chairman's Report

### 4.1 Introduction

Congratulations to our Olympic Slalom team; for everyone to get through to the finals and then come away with a silver medal and the first individual gold medal was a brilliant achievement. The strength in depth of slalom canoeing in this country is also reflected in the excellent performances at Junior and U23 level with more boats getting to finals and coming away with medals. Although this is where the spotlight shines it is the individual efforts of coaches, parents and the strength of canoe clubs that underpins such sporting success. That we have a strong and vibrant competition structure is due to the dedication and tireless efforts of the many volunteers committed to the sport. We should all feel ownership of a tiny bit of those medals!

Other events and activities in the last few months:

### 4.2 British Open:

The weekend was trialled as a multi-discipline event with Canoe Polo, BoaterX and Rafting being run alongside Slalom. Generally it worked well although the format of the Slalom competition was not to everyone's liking and the feedback will be useful when planning the event next year. The aim was to raise the profile of the event and get greater assistance from Lee Valley by concentrating more events into a single weekend.

### 4.3 Meeting of Discipline Committee Chairs:

The discipline committee chairs met as a group for the second time and it is likely to be established as a forum that meets 2-3 times per year. The following agenda topics were discussed.

- Strategic and Discipline Plans for British Canoeing 2017-2021
- Selection Policies and athlete agreements



- Review of committee structure and Terms of Reference
- Finance and committee budgets & Sport England funding submission
- Digital strategy and web site developments
- International and domestic events & British Canoeing Calendar
- Updates on Membership, Coaching & November English Council Conference event
- Team kit update

#### **4.4 International:**

Outline planning for future UK events has commenced. First draft will look at the feasibility of bids for:

- 2019 World Cup/2020 Senior Europeans at Lee Valley.
- 2022 World Cup/2023 World Championships at Lee Valley.

We would like to be able to stage Junior & U23 Europeans and World Championships in the future, however, funding for these will be more challenging as they won't attract the levels of UK Sport funding enjoyed by the senior events. Combination with other disciplines at the same venue may be a strategy that ensures financial viability, e.g. Sprint Worlds at HPP with Junior & U23 event following.

#### **4.5 British Canoeing News:**

##### **4.5.1 Board:**

The Board has announced the appointment of Professor John Coyne as the new Chair.

In addition there are 12 other members:

- elected directors from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- five independent directors and the Chief Executive Officer David Joy.

This brings a broad range of professional experience including legal, IT, financial and HR knowledge, as well as active involvement in canoeing within both the home nation representatives and independent board members.

##### **4.5.2 Strategy:**

A British Canoeing Conference will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and will be attended by Dave Spencer, Colin Woodgate and Martyn Setchell. This will provide an update on the final shape of the British Canoeing strategic plan and provide a number of discussion workshops:

- Developing Discipline Development 4 year plans
- Developing Regional Development 4 year plans
- Establishing Good Governance - Discipline Committees
- Membership and Affiliation

##### **4.5.3 Staff Changes:**

Anna Gray has been appointed as Sports Development Manager. She will be the interface between British Canoeing and the disciplines and assist with creation of development plans.

Gemma Wiggs has been appointed as International Affairs Manager on a part time basis (3 days per week) and will assist all disciplines in plans to host international events in the UK and liaison with the ICF.

#### **4.6 International Events**

British Canoeing has developed a strategy for international events, including application for a Slalom World Cup in 2019, a Senior European Championships in 2020 and further World Cups from then on.



#### 4.7 Production of Promotion Certificates

DS has taken over the work on providing promotion certificates. A backlog of 430 certificates has been reduced to 9.

For 2017 onwards a pdf will be generated for promotion to Divisions Premier, 1, and 2, on demand, from the database.

The revised Division 4 Promotion information will include a link to a webpage to request a promotion certificate and to register details for inclusion on the database. The Division 4 requests will be sent on to Jackie Stokes to produce and send a hard copy certificate. CDW was reminded that he had agreed to review the promotion form.....CDW

### 5 Secretary’s Report/Actions

#### 5.1 Committee Constitution

The committee discussed the way forward for co-ordinators in the 2017 season. The following changes will be made:

- A single co-ordinator will report to the committee regarding all technical Officials and technical equipment. There will still be separate people at each race to manage the timing and the judging personnel / issues / allocation. This has been discussed with many of the volunteers involved on the river bank through the year. AG proposed a possible structure for the volunteers.
- Strategy and planning roles have been taken back into the Chair’s role this year. This will continue
- The emphasis on lower division development merits a co-ordinator to give this the priority it deserves.
- Equally the sports reliance on volunteers requires separate co-ordination
- The Marketing of the sport has not, historically, been successful. Having a Committee member with responsibility for this aspect is deemed essential
- Safety is being given increasing priority within the Federation, in order to react to this a designated safety officer is needed.
- Additional co-ordination role will be considered to look at areas requiring focus. This will be considered at the next meeting, possible options include organisers, facility availability, and coaching.

#### 5.2 Perpetual Prizes / Keepsakes

Not all the prizes have been returned, CDW will continue to chase these. Where the prizes have been returned, they will be engraved before presentation.

#### 5.3 Interclub’s Rules

Amended Interclub’s rules have been produced. The principals were discussed at the 2016 event and agreed. The 2017 yearbook will be updated.

#### 5.4 Slalom Cross

Slalom Cross events have been run at all ICF World Cups this year, and will be part of the World Cups next year. This committee will keep a watching brief during the next season.

#### 5.5 Athlete Federation Membership and Insurance

Clarification of the insurance position relating to competitors who are members of other National Federations should be sought. This is needed for those organising events, competing at races, and competing at races organised by a club needs clarification. The current information is not clear. Part of this review will include a review of the provision of third party cover for people at division 4 level, and for officials when competing. The insurance cover for internationals competing (or training) will also be investigated.....PC / DS



## 6 Finance

### 6.1 Report

The accounts to 29<sup>th</sup> October were circulated. Major points identified included:

- No BC Competition Grant received so far.
- Currently showing a surplus of £9K, as the budgeted expense of £53.9K has been managed to be around £30K. Income (excluding the grant) has exceeded budget (£39K against £37K). These figures are all subject to:
  - Timing of TUTII replacement.
  - Annual Trophy costs
  - Review of Marketing & Publicity spend for the year
  - Other outstanding volunteer expenses.

If the committee moved to funding all the home nations in the same way, rather than passing a proportion of the British Canoeing Competition grant to ECSC, it is anticipated that ECSC funding would remain at the current level.

### 6.2 Payment Process

The bank payment processes are changing. Changes to the procedures will be developed before the next meeting to ensure adequate and appropriate governance with the bank changes in payment approval.

## 6 Co-ordinators' Actions

### 6.1 Athlete Representative

#### 6.1.1 *Paddling standard*

Our section judges who sit in the same location for best part of half an event, made an observation at the end of season races. Some of the new paddlers recently promoted are coming into division 1, and performing moves which 2 years ago would only have been performed by the top of the division. A compliment to all those paddlers and coaches.

#### 6.1.2 *International Panel*

MS attended a panel meeting in October to discuss the next Olympic cycle and selection policy.

#### 6.1.3 *Water access at centres*

This was mentioned this in the previous report and dialogue with centres continues. Everyone is urged to liaise with coaches at the various locations as they are working with Andy Maddock to make improvements.

#### 6.1.4 *ECA Junior Cups*

During the summer period MS and his family attended 3 junior cups in Europe. These are run to a different format, 1 heat with 2/3rds going through to a final which then repeats the following day. Points are then taken from both heats (sat & sun) plus the enhanced points should you go through to finals to decide the podium positions. The paddlers certainly go through a learning curve having to make the final or don't get another run until the next day/event. The organiser at Bratislava had 400 plus entries and ran on time. If you are thinking of entering these events next year, it is important to enter these events through your coach and the International Entries Officer.

#### 6.1.5 *Premier Race Formats*

At the premier race at Tees a survey was undertaken by hanging a large table in the results area, which could be filled in by paddlers. This was not attended and relied on paddlers filling it of their own free will. 43% of the paddlers on the start list took the time to take part and add their bib number in the relevant boxes.

The standard format was the most popular with ICF format being second favourite, with a preference not to have a format where there is uncertainty of a paddle on the second day which in turn does not help with accommodation. With most people preferring a mixture of race formats over the year.



## 6.2 Competition

### 6.2.1 *Tabled Report*

In a brief report, Jacky noted that this season we have been fortunate to have the help of new section judges, which has made life slightly easier.

She recorded her thanks as always to the team who have excelled again in their commitment to the sport. In particular, thanks to Kathleen and John Woods who have indicated that they will retire from judging at the end of this season

Jacky fully intends to carry on judging at events but feel that it is time someone younger took up the responsibility of Competition Co-ordinator.

### 6.2.2 *ICF Cards (CDW)*

ICF cards have still not been received. CDW has followed up with Gemma Wiggs (BC) and Sue Natoli (ICF Slalom Committee). This will continue to be tracked. ....CDW

### 6.2.3 *Judging Allocation*

A paper, from Andy Neave, discussing a way of allocating judging positions to clubs, depending on the number of competitors attending the race was discussed. After a wide-ranging discussion, it was agreed to raise this as a discussion topic at the ACM.

### 6.2.4 *Tees Premier*

The race had a limit of 150 paddlers, on the day over 250 athletes went down the course. The limit will be reviewed for the 2017 year. CDW will contact the organiser thank them for running the event, we are aware that under the numbers cap this was exceeded and ask their reflections on this and any learning for the running of any future events.

The 'Yorkshire model' of running competitions through a consortium of clubs works for those events and could be considered for other competitions where there is a potential shortage of Volunteers

When race organisers are setting the limit for a race they must consider

- Paddler experience
- Volunteer hours, these must not be excessive.
- Swinging poles – exacerbated as a problem if race intervals need to be shortened
- Anticipated conditions (length of day etc).
- Contingency for reruns, course adjustment and so on.

## 6.3 Competition Management

It has been a challenging year with the introduction of a requirement for all races to produce and return a Risk Management and Safety plan.

Many have required some modification but it is acknowledged that the vast majority of race organisers have engaged with this constructively and positively. There have been a notable few that have expressed opposition and a very small number of events where an appropriate plan has not been provided prior to the race.

The SCA continues to operate a completely separate and different system for events in Scotland and Craig Douglas who has now become involved with this on behalf of the sport in Scotland for the SCA and we are working constructively together to ensure that race organisers are not needing to return different documentation for the SCA and BC requirements. This may be further challenged as we move to requiring documentation prior to inclusion in the calendar as the SCA system is final documentation before an event.

Looking to next season notice has gone out requesting plans be filed prior to ACM approval of races or the calendar and these are now rolling in. There are a number still requiring to be reviewed and checked so a definitive list is not currently available. It does seem apparent however that the content has improved from previous initial submissions for the 2016 season and lessons are getting learnt.

There have been no significant incidents reported to me of any concern that require consideration in respect of safety or risk management.

A first draft of a requirements document for an on-line entry system has been produced and can now be shared for comment.



## 6.4 Managed Calendar

### 6.4.1 2017 British Open

#### a) World Ranking

It was confirmed that the 2017 British Open will be held on the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September. An application will be made for this to be a World Ranking Points race. the following conditions must be met:

- Run to ICF rules, not British, minimal change
- IJCSL Qualified Chief Judge, most of our Chief Judges are qualified.
- Judged by IJCSLs – not thought to be an issue, as we have many such judges
- Format must be Heats, Semi-final, Final
- ICF progressions must be followed
- At least six federations must take part.
- A maximum of six athletes per event can be nominated in advance to qualify for ranking points.
- Entries from other countries can be capped per event per Federation to ensure there are sufficient places for UK paddlers in the Premier race.

#### b) Competition

The availability of a division two competition alongside the race was seen as a benefit. Lee Valley (Shaun Pearce) has expressed an interest in running this competition, with some assistance.

If the British Open is confirmed as a World ranking race there will be a need to cater for significant numbers of International competitors. Consequently, the race would not be available for paddle up and would only be open to Premier ranked paddlers.

### 6.4.2 Llandysul Competitions

Llandysul have applied to run a premier race on the new lower site in 2017. The committee fully supports the work that Gareth and Llandysul Paddlers have put in to developing the site.

As this is a new site, there is a resistance to running a Premier event as the first race. Llandysul club will be encouraged to run the Division 1 race using the new site to provide feedback.

An Open race could be run on the Saturday before the Cardiff Premier race.

## 6.5 Lower Divisions Feed Back

### 6.5.1 Organiser Feedback

1. Among many comments from organisers during the year three words came up over & over again:
  - a. Communication – it's hard to know who to ask what
  - b. Information – hard to find info even when available (published)
  - c. Complexity – everything is complex: entries, levy forms, safety...
2. Several organisers felt disengaged. They only hear from HQ (us) when they owe money or have done something wrong.
3. Expecting Div 4 organisers to police membership of appropriate club is optimistic. Could BC cover insurance for Div 4?
4. Many experienced problems with TUTTI cables & headsets.

### 6.5.2 General Feedback from Parents on the Bank

1. How do the RTAs, TIDs etc work? (How do I get my child involved?)
2. 4 to 3 progression is awkward. Some get promoted very quickly & then need to be BC members. Increase in cost is cited as a barrier. My instinct is that it's complexity & information is a barrier as much as cost
3. Too easy to get promoted in C2.
4. C2 pairs compete but never get their bib. Then they are not ranked so lose interest. Could we make this easier?

### 6.5.3 Proposals

1. Create an online site providing clarification & explanation of rules for organisers & competitors alike. Pilot site has been set-up for review/test/comment by committee
2. Explore extending Div 4 rule for juniors (U18) to Div 3.



3. Explore running div 3 like div 4 – no personal bibs
4. Publish some worked examples of event finances to give prospective clubs/organisers an idea of what the money side of things looks like.

**6.5.4 Observations**

1. There is no clear single problem that needs fixing.
2. More solutions have been suggested than real problems observed or described.
3. There are plenty of opinions about lack of numbers but few hard facts. NT to seek data from John Sturgess et al.

**6.6 Marketing & Publicity**

Year book advertisers have been contacted, and generally are happy to advertise again. The rate will be retained without increase. Additional advertisers will be sought.

Contact with British Canoeing Marketing (Robert Knox) is being sought to ensure that the efforts complement one another.

Local clubs have been consulted regarding the issues relating to development and obstacles to those joining the sport.

The welcome pack for new promotees will be developed for the 2017 season .....**JS**

**6.7 Strategy & Planning**

**6.7.1 British Canoeing Strategy:**

A draft of the BC plan is understood to be published in August for consultation. This will be circulated and consideration of a four-year plan under ‘Strategy’ at the next meeting. Initial thoughts will be co-ordinated and presented by Dave Spencer. ....**ALL**

DS, MS and CDW will attend the British Canoeing Conference 2016 on 19 November

DS and CDW will attend the English Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**6.7.2 Online Entry System**

There are several options being considered

- An industry solution, with up-front development costs, and fixed monthly fee for the payment and processing costs
- An industry solution with up-front development costs and individual transaction fees to cover payment and processing costs.
- A system developed by a volunteer, with individual transaction fees to cover payment and processing costs.

There are issues still to be considered regarding security of data, back up facilities, hosting of the system and financial management and controls.

The proposals will be circulated amongst the committee with the recommendation on the way forward being made at the next meeting. ....**DS**

**6.8 Technical Support**

**6.8.1 TUTTI Kit**

There has been a continuation of the issue of clubs not reporting broken and missing equipment during the course of the past season, which has resulted in organisers receiving faulty kit and not being able to run subsequent events efficiently. This has taken the form of (i) equipment being misplaced, (ii) kit being clearly identified as damaged but not reported / returned for repair, and (iii) damaged kit simply being replaced unlabelled amongst working kit before being passed on (and hence not being reported / returned for repair), and (iv) a club not promptly responding to queries following up on the above.

The committee reinforce that is not acceptable as it affects all persons who rely on and maintain the kit, and is despite the responsibilities for the kit and process for reporting damage being set out in the Year book, TUTTI Manual and on the TUTTI routing letters. This has been raised with the relevant clubs.



Clubs are reminded that

- They are fully responsible for all the kit they have hired
- If any kit is damaged (accidentally or otherwise) in the club's care, they must clearly identify it as such, report it to the TUTTI Maintenance Officer and arrange for the damaged item(s) to be returned for maintenance, as soon as possible after the event – it may be required for another race in under a week's time
- When they receive / collect the kit from the previous club, they must ensure that all pieces are present and working – if anything is missing or damaged, please check that this has been reported to the TUTTI Maintenance Officer
- If they are asked for information with regards any kit they have borrowed, they must assist with and respond to all queries as soon as possible – the kit may be required for the following week but also the longer issues remain outstanding, the harder they become to resolve with the passage of time

The committee discussed additional procedures to assist monitor this going forward

- Where a club fails to adhere with the procedures, the future use of the kit by such club shall be reviewed and discussed with the club.
- A new section will be added to the Jury Form in which the organiser is to (i) confirm that the kit was received in full from the previous club, and (ii) record any damage sustained /issues that occurred with the kit during the event
- The list of costs of replacement parts will be added to the routing letters and included within the kit boxes, identifying the cost that will be charged to the relevant club if equipment is found to have been lost or negligently damaged.
- Tape to clearly identify damaged kit and pre-labelled 'jiffy' bags to return such kit will be sourced and included within the kit for clubs use to speed up returns

Thank you to Andy Hounslow (TUTTI Maintenance Officer) and the clubs /organisers who maintain, report and have had to deal with the consequences of the above.

It is also noted that one club has used kit for an event that it was not booked for. Clubs are reminded that if they require the use of TUTTI for any events this is to be requested on the Managed Calendar return form or, where new events are added during the season, by contacting the Technical Co-ordinator and the TUTTI Maintenance Officer before the event. Where possible this will be allowed for, but it is essential that the kits use and location can be identified at all times.

### **6.8.2 TUTTI Replacement**

Testing is ongoing and it is hoped to have a display of the proposal at the ACM.

### **6.8.3 Canoe123**

An update to the Siwidata software used for Premier and Division 1 events has been purchased and successfully tested / run at the last 3 races of the season.

## **6.9 Volunteers**

Nick Penfold has been asked to publish a short thank you to all of those who have organized and helped at events across the competitive year and inviting clubs to comments upon what they would like to see done to encourage more people to 'get involved.'

In that vein, HR has also been approaching clubs/ event organisers and development officers to thank them for their volunteers help and have been investigating award schemes run by local county councils and their boroughs, with a view to encouraging clubs to nominate their helpers in the 'volunteer/unsung hero' categories. It is appreciated that some clubs will be more pro-active and knowledgeable of opportunities like this than others (ongoing). A spreadsheet of awards schemes across the country and nominations/ awards dates is being developed

I have also spoken to British Canoeing re volunteer twitter feeds and Facebook links as the Facebook page set up by Lynn Barker had a closed member status and so not readily available to 'new prospective volunteers' – Nicks slalom page probably best link? As paddlers and their 'associated' do go to this to search for 'slalom' answers...



Comments: We have a few new section judges this year and am trying to encourage more gate judge participation. A regular reason – ‘why not to help’ is “ I don’t know how to judge so would rather not.” Scotland are very pro-active at training up parents as gate judges as they enter the sport...we could try to emulate this in England and Wales? As such have spoken to Jacky about incorporating more gate judge examinations. Am more than happy to organize. Mark Abbot and myself able to organise in Wales and have approached Richard Lee about incorporating into ‘parent and squad paddler training weekends, so that both parents and paddlers have an opportunity to undertake the gate judge exam (captive audience!). Hopefully it will also have the knock-on effect of clarifying some of the rules, and also result in less protests? (We can hope!)

## 7 Home Nations

### 7.1 Pan Celtic

Implementation of the rules for running Pan Celtic have been agreed.

### 7.2 CANI

#### 7.2.1 *Performance Documents*

CANI have invested significant time and resources into the updating and creation of all documents relating to the Performance Pathway. These are all online now on the CANI Website and a period of information sessions will begin at the start of November to educate parents on the documents and planned changes to the Performance Programmes.

#### 7.2.2 *Funding Submission*

At the end of August CANI submitted a funding submission to SportNI for 2017-2021. We are currently awaiting the decision of this funding decision

#### 7.2.3 *Performance Squads*

The summer was a busy period for the CANI Slalom Programme with a group of 9 athletes taking part in a weeklong camp at Augsburg. CANI would like to thank Adam Johnstone and Huw Swetnam for coaching and all the parents for their help in making this trip happen.

CANI also helped support athletes at the British Open and Teesside Pan Celtic Races.

During Halloween CANI plan to deliver a camp in Bala.

#### 7.2.4 *Talent ID*

CANI are currently in the early stages of working with several Primary Schools in the Greater Belfast Area to deliver a Talent Academy style programme aimed at getting 11 years old into our Canoe Slalom Performance Programme.

### 7.3 England

The following Athletes competed Internationally this year with England Canoe Slalom Committee support. Paul Sunderland, Will Smith, Piers Oliphant, Bethan Forrow, Oliver Gilbert, Jade Hollick, Ben Haylett and Finn Reilly McQueen

At the Junior and U23 World Championships at Krakow Paul, Will, Piers and Oliver all qualified through the heats into Semis Finals and Will Smith went on into the finals where he achieved a very creditable 5th place

At the Junior and U23 European Championships at Solkan Oliver, Will, Bethan, Jade and the C2M crew of Ben and Finn passed through the heats process with Bethan winning her Heat 2 race. Unfortunately, none of the athletes managed to qualify into finals.

A grant has been agreed to support Holme Pierrepont Canoe Club purchase bank rescue equipment for use at races at HPP. They are happy to lend it to other clubs running races at the venue.

To support unfunded English athletes to access Lee Valley in preparation for Selection, Alison Setchell has organised sessions on behalf of England Canoe Slalom Committee. There have been difficulties with this allocation and a policy has had to be developed to provide equitable allocation for those who are eligible to compete in the Selection Trials. There are still issues with interpretation which are being resolved.



## 7.4 Scotland

### 7.4.1 *Grandtully Double Premier*

The Adventure Show are hoping to come along to film again. Breadalbane CC are proposing to run 'Heats plus Final' on the Saturday with the top 10 boats from C1M, C1W, K1M and K1W taking a third run at the end of the race with two minute intervals to support TV filming and commentary..

### 7.4.2 *Seaton Park div 3/4 slalom*

Unfortunately, despite strenuous efforts from AKC the event had to be cancelled but we are hoping to return to normal next year.

### 7.4.3 *Fairmile 2/3 August Slalom*

Selkirk have decided not to run this event in future and currently we have a non-slalom club prepared to run the event and have a skeleton group of slalom people prepared to go down to support with course design and erection and judging etc. so hopefully the event will go ahead.

### 7.4.4 *Pan Celtic 2017*

The proposal from Wales, that the Pan Celtic should be split over a Premier and a division 1 race in each home nation appears to be going ahead. Wales have nominated their two races. Breadalbane have agreed to use the premier race on Sunday April 2nd for the J16, J18 U23 and senior Pan Celtic and the division 1 on Saturday 8th April will be used for the J12, J14 and Vet Pan Celtic.

### 7.4.5 *Changes to SCA performance staff*

Wojciech Sekula ceases employment with the SCA performance programme on 15th December. Lukas will move back from Liptovsky to Pinkston at Christmas.

### 7.4.6 *SCA Slalom ACM*

At the meeting on 22nd October Chris Baillie stood down as SCA Slalom Chair. She will continue to represent Scotland on the BC slalom committee until such time as an alternative volunteer can take on the role.

## 7.5 Wales

Paddlesport within Wales is developing well with a considerable amount of effort still taking place with the development of Sprint and slalom within schools and clubs across Wales.

Welsh paddlers were out attending training camps and competitions at venues across Europe during the Summer. Events attended include Bratislava, Solkan, Flattach and Augsburg.

Several paddlers made podiums and PBs were also achieved by many athletes.

Welsh paddlers have also competed on the GB team during the summer.

Winter training groups are being finalised with Premier and Division 1 groups. Division 2 and 3 paddlers will be invited to training camps on a quarterly basis funded by the Slalom Committee.

Recently the Wales Canoe Slalom AGM was held after the Llandysul race. The committee has remained unchanged with new slalom clubs being approached to have a member on the committee.

Statistics relating to the number of Wales paddlers in the ranking system and numbers promoted during the year were displayed during the meeting. The statistics gave a good indication of how the training camps and training / development taking place in the clubs is having a noted impact in the divisional structures.

For 2017 we are planning on running regular divisional races throughout the summer with the aim of running at least a division 3 / 4 event every month. Options are also being considered about having some short course races during the winter.

Upgrades are being discussed for the Welsh Race Timing system for 2017 with additional equipment being purchased. A software package for use at lower division races has been developed and is being tested and validated prior to being demonstrated.



## 7.6 British Canoeing

### 7.6.1 Competition

The previous report was written on the eve of the Jnr/U23 World Championships in Krakow. Since then British Teams have attended a myriad of competitions attaining much success and development along the way.

Our Junior & U23 team achieved 6 finals across Tokyo Olympic categories at the World Championships in July. Kimberley Woods (Rugby CC) continued her strong form in 2016 winning a Silver Medal in the U23 C1W event.

The same team then travelled to Solkan, Slovenia for the European Championships where they produced an excellent team effort for Great Britain. Building on their experience from the Worlds 10 finals were achieved, 3 from Juniors and 7 from U23's. Those finals led to 4 individual medals including two European Championship titles. Ryan Westley (Lower Wharfe CC) took Gold in U23 C1M, Jasmine Royle (Stafford & Stone CC) Silver in U23 C1W and Kimberley Woods Silver in U23 K1W and Gold in U23 C1W. These medals ensured GBR finished top of the U23 Medal Table.

At World Cups 4 and 5 our Senior Team was composed of a blend of youth and experience and delivered very strongly as a collective across the two races. At WC 4 in Prague both Mallory Franklin (Windsor & District CC) and Ryan Westley delivered medal winning performances taking home Bronze and Silver respectively in the Canoe Singles events. The World Cup Final was held in Tacen, Slovenia. As the series came to a climax the British team saved their strongest race till last achieving an amazing 10 finals from 13 starts. Bradley Forbes-Cryans (CR Cats) graced his first International Podium with a superb performance to take home a Silver Medal and subsequently a Bronze Medal for the overall World Cup Series. Kimberley Woods closed her season out in style with Gold in the C1W event and securing overall Silver as a result of her consistency this season. Her teammate Mallory Franklin joined her on the Podium with a Bronze Medal and then made her way to the top step crowning a fantastic year by winning the World Cup overall title for C1W. As a reward for a very strong season Adam Burgess (Stafford & Stone) took home Bronze in the overall World Cup Series, valid recognition for making 4 out of 5 finals across the season.

### 7.6.2 Olympic Games

As July turned to August then all eyes headed west for the highlight of the 2016 season, the Olympic Games in Rio De Janeiro. Following an intensive and meticulously planned preparation period our Olympic Team presented to the start line in optimum condition and excited for the opportunity ahead. On our sports biggest stage our athletes performed very strongly throughout the entire competition. The team delivered finals in all categories with David Florence finishing 10<sup>th</sup> following a significant mistake in his final run. Fiona Pennie (CR Cats) made light work of Qualification and her Semi Final showing excellent form. Two penalties in the final prevented Fiona from making the Podium as she went on to finish in an impressive 6<sup>th</sup> place. Following the disappointment of his individual final, David Florence showed immense resilience and refocus skills to return to the water in style with his C2 partner Richard Hounslow. The boys produced a scintillating run in the final to win Olympic Silver being narrowly pipped to Gold by a floorless run from the Skantar cousins from Slovakia. As a stand-alone performance this was one of huge pedigree but when we consider this is David and Richard's successive Olympic Silver Medals in this category and David's third Olympic Medal it really is an amazing feat. The Kayak Men's category saw Joe Clarke making his Olympic debut for Team GB. The youngster appeared to thrive in the environment showing great composure and a strong ability to refocus following being awarded a 50 second penalty in his first run of Qualification. A composed Semi Final saw Joe march into the final where he produced the run of his life to guarantee himself an Olympic Medal as he crossed the finish line with 2 boats remaining. Following a wait fuelled with nervous energy and excitement neither paddler could better Joe's time and the 24 year old from Stafford and Stone Canoe Club became the Olympic Champion.

As the curtain came down on the Canoe Slalom programme in Rio the success of the Great Britain Team had left them top of the Olympic Medal table. Congratulations to all the athletes on their performances and the way they conducted themselves throughout the year. Their efforts in Rio have most certainly inspired the next generation of aspiring Olympians.



On behalf of all at British Canoeing we would like to acknowledge the massive commitment of those involved with the preparation of the Olympic Team and recognise their roles in contributing to the success of the athletes out in Rio. Furthermore, British Canoeing would like to convey a huge thank you to friends and family who made the huge commitment to travel to Rio and gave such fantastic support to the team throughout the Games.

### **7.6.3 Programme**

Working in collaboration with the BOA, British Canoeing nominated four athletes to join the Ambition Programme running in parallel to the Rio Games. The Ambition Programme works with national governing bodies to offer athletes and coaches, who aspire to compete at Tokyo 2020, a unique opportunity to have an inside experience of an Olympic Games. Ryan Westley, Eilidh Gibson, Bradley Forbes-Cryans and Kimberley Woods were accompanied by coach Gareth Wilson and returned riding on a wave of inspiration toward their journey to Tokyo 2020.

As the Rio Olympic cycle draws to a close we would like to express our upmost gratitude to the continued support of the volunteer community and the fundamental role they play in the development and performance of athletes at all levels. In particular we would like to give special thanks for the support throughout the Olympic qualification process and those who supported the 2015 Worlds and the October Selection series. You all made a huge contribution in allowing our athletes to deliver in Rio.

As one Olympic cycle is completed then so another is born. The successes both in Rio and across all teams and Home Nations this year have provided strong foundations and great inspiration upon which to build toward Tokyo 2020.

## **8 AOB / Correspondence**

### **8.1 International Panel Representation**

Dave Spencer as Chair will take on the role of representative on the International Panel.

### **8.2 World Paddler Awards**

Johnny Brown and Paul Owen have been nominated lifetime achieved awards. They were congratulated on their nominations.

## **9 Future Meeting Dates**

The next meetings will be the ACM on 26<sup>th</sup> November, with a committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November to review the ACM, and to set end of season promotion / demotion levels.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 17:10 p.m.