

Slalom Committee Athlete Report ACM 2018

The season started after a winters training with a couple of races and winter wonderland at Tully. Even some of the hardened athletes questioned what they were doing. Any delay or mistimed journey across the river to the start line was costly as the far side was the most exposed. Credit to all those who took part and a big thanks to all the volunteers who made the event possible.

March was a busy time with 10 ranking events scheduled to take place, ranging from div 4 to senior selection. Organisers needing to get up to speed quickly, encouraging every club member to help.

The selection process for training groups and GB teams can be a tense time for all involved and can require a great deal of empathy from surrounding parties. There are always winners and losers and it's great to see that even those who experience some disappointed through the process make the most of every opportunity and bounce back stronger.

Some of the successes can test any policy and matrix to the maximum. Especially when international events are outside our control and have an impact on our athletes. The International Panel of which I attend as a non-voting member, continue to improve the policy. It was very encouraging to have so many positive comments on the draft policy. I would like to thank everyone for the comments and suggestions. These have been discussed at great length at the meeting, running various scenarios to ensure a robust policy.

Most of the events I have attended this year have been following Nikita around the country and include the Junior and U/23 World and European Championships as a spectator and parent. It has been a long time since I attended an International as a spectator and of course a very proud dad.

This year has been a fantastic year for International results, well done to all those athletes.

I hope to continue to provide information for athletes or just provide a sounding board. If you have questions or do not know where to look for information/advice please ask. If I do not know I will do my best to find out or point you in the right direction.

The slalom community remains a great place for all ages to develop different skills and enjoy the company of likeminded people. If you are new to the sport it's a great place to make some lifelong friends.

Best of luck to you all next year

Martyn