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British Canoeing

Slalom Committee

Meeting Minutes

Saturday 18th May 2019

Stronger Together

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



1 Present

1.1 In Person

Dave Spencer [4/4] Chair	Karen Crowhurst [4/4] Participation	Dave Spencer [4/4] England
Hazel Ridge [3/4] Treasurer	Peter Curry [4/4] Safety / Comp Mgmt.	Mark Abbott [4/4] Wales
Martyn Setchell [4/4] Vice Chair Athlete Rep	Andy Grudzinski [4/4] Technical / Timing	
Colin Woodgate [4/4] Secretary		

To end of Item 3: Mallory Franklin as a Programme Athlete Group representative.

1.2 Apologies

Andy Neave [3/4] Coaching	Kiran Dews [0/4] CANI
Dee Lindsay [3/4] Digital Strategy / Data	Chris Baillie [2/4] Scotland
Steve Linksted [3/4] Strategy	Richard Ramsdale [1/4] British Canoeing

Anna Gray, British Canoeing Sports Development Manager

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

A minutes' silence was held in memory of Nigel Pennie. Nigel was a friend and stalwart of Scottish slalom canoeing as well as British Canoeing and always happy to volunteer and get on quietly with whatever job was required at events.

3 Priority Items

3.1 Involvement of Program Athletes Representatives

Mallory explained the groups purpose. Initially the group was set up to deal with welfare issues but has developed into a channel to feed information to and from the programme management. As all the athletes have a good relationship with their coaches there is little need for this. Mallory and Kimberley are also getting involved with the TID programme.

It became clear that there is a lack of knowledge of the work of the committee.

Communication and mutual working together are important in a number of areas, for example the drop of in the levels of competitors in division 2, 3 and now division 1 as well. Mallory stated that the athlete contracts require 5 volunteer appearances during a year. The potential to use these to provide visibility and continuity for those at the lower ends of the sport without impacting the training overly.

Mallory will be added to the Slalom Committee circulation list, and a representative will be invited to all future meetings, attending when possible.

3.2 Slalom Inspires

Those organising the Slalom Inspires initiative requested an increased grant for the 2019 season, with the expectation that the scheme will be self-funding for 2020 onwards. This grant was approved, the source of funding will be investigated. Ideally from the Committee (£500) and the England (£500), Wales (£250), Scotland (£250) in line with the distribution of funding.**Action DS/MA/CDW**

The expansion of this athlete scheme to include coaches and other groups. If any further grant aid is required for the extension, it must be requested before the ACM to enable it to be included in the budgets.

It was reiterated that any other slalom related targeted groups will be encouraged.

3.3 Division 2, 3 and 4 Strategy - AN Document (190330 7.5.3 MA)

Andy Neave had again supplied information; DS produced a document summarising the thoughts behind this. There was then a further discussion with some actions agreed.



Issues discussed included:

- Capacity: The people to run the slaloms. This is not in the control of the committee, with the exception of encouraging clubs to combine to run races.
- Locations: The availability of sites and at a reasonable cost. The slalom committee is still offering £500 for new division 2 events on good water. Again, not in the control of the committee as it is more regional.
- Understanding the demand and the regions should lead on this. The English Regions are strong in encouraging paddling but have little slalom experience. There seems to be a disconnect between clubs and English regions. The English Committee will be asked to investigate this.
- Calendar scheduling and clashes between competitions. There are an increasing number of Premier and Division 1 weekends. This supports the demand from premier and division 1 paddlers but is affecting the ability to run lower division competitions. Where to is possible to run multiple races at a site, the co-location of division competitions should be encouraged, for example running the division 4 at the same time as the premier at Cardiff, or Premier on the Olympic course at Lee Valley and a Division 2 on the Legacy course.
- Talent squads pulling athletes away from clubs with training most weekends, the same is happening with coaches, volunteer club coaches increasingly becoming paid coaches **Action DS**
- Entry fees: Is the current fee providing value for money and sustainability. Proposals will be brought to the next meeting.....**Action PC**

4 Chair’s Report

Tabled report

4.1 2019 Selection

The 2019 GB teams have been selected and congratulations to all that have booked their places. There was a high standard this year reflected in the depth of reserves who had achieved percentages and those missing out on a team should take comfort that they performed well in a very tough series of races. I would like this opportunity on behalf of the committee to thank the many volunteers, officials and race organisers for their dedication and hard work and without whom it would not be possible to support these races.

4.2 Domestic Competition

The 2019 season is well underway with competitions in full flow across all divisions. Hopefully we will have some warmer weather alongside the lighter evenings to encourage a good turnout at races throughout the season.

4.3 2020 Calendar

It always feels a little strange when the season has just got underway to be thinking about next years’ races! The 2020 calendar has moved online which should help organisers to see an up-to-date view of race application and should help in finding the best time for their competitions. The deadline for applications for Prem/1 has passed and Div2/3 organisers have until 1st July to submit their applications

4.4 Lee Valley World Cup

The upcoming World Cup race at Lee Valley will be a great advert for our sport and many in the Slalom family have volunteered to help make the event a success. The sport would not run without skilled and dedicated volunteers and on behalf of the Slalom community, thank you.

4.5 British Canoeing Future Leaders Scheme modules (180804 / 4.6)

Suitable projects need to be reasonably well defined, rather than open ended. Some projects have been identified and is being progresses within the Scheme.

Matt Crowhurst will be invited to discuss the modules and their applicability at the next meeting.
.....**Action CDW**



4.6 Contingency Planning

Several structural risks have been identified by the British Canoeing Board. Including systems and data run by, and for, discipline committees by volunteers. A list of the affected systems, individuals and the status will be produced. These risks will be reviewed and approaches to manage the risks will be jointly developed.
On going **Action DS**

4.7 Review of other disciplines yearbooks

Other discipline's yearbooks will be reviewed to understand the detail and information included.
 **On going Action DS**

4.8 Managed Calendar

4.8.1 Online System

A new process is up and running with most core functionality in place. Applications are being processed online (canoeslalomentries.co.uk) to provide improved visibility and aid the management of the calendar. This is an entry system only, the task of managing the calendar and conflicts continues in the background. A separate activity is underway to encourage competitions to run together better taking into account clashes between competitions, paddler pathways and geographic spread..... **Action DS / SL**

4.8.2 Lee Valley Division 1

A division 1 is being planned for the end of February, organised by the slalom committee or consortium of clubs. Likely entry fee will be £27.50 per day.

4.8.3 Division 2, 3, 4 competitions

Competitions are being entered now. Where there are competitions that the organisers feel in conflict, they are encouraged to talk to one another to try to resolve the clashes.

4.9 Insurance at Entry Level Competitions (190202 11.2)

British Canoeing (England) are pulling together all the various insurance requirements, risks and insurers for members and clubs. 'Day membership', is not actually membership, but is day liability cover. This review is to prepare for a meeting with the insurers, after which the covers and costs should be clearer.....
 **Action DS**

4.10 Succession Planning

4.10.1 Perpetual Trophies

There was a discussion about the process of managing the perpetual trophies. There are some challenges, including the collection, repair of the actual trophies and arranging a suitable occasion for their presentation each year. A volunteer is sought for this responsibility.

This year the prize giving will be at a set time at the ACM.

4.10.2 Secretary and Statutes Responsibilities

In order to keep the committee fresh, it is time the secretary role changed. A replacement is sought.

4.10.3 Rules management

There is a requirement to manage the UK rules, and the impacts of ACM decisions and ICF rule changes.

4.10.4 Other roles

This year the Vice Chair, Secretary, Digital Strategy / Data, Technical and Safety Co-ordinators are due for election. Anyone interested in taking on these roles should contact the secretary for more information.

5 Secretary's Report

5.1 Automated Bib Application system

Progress has been made, but involves storing personal information. BC will be contacted to understand what provision can be given to allow storage of central information and/or taking bib deposits through online payments. **Ongoing, progress to be reported at the next meeting** **Action MA**



5.2 Division 2/3 Veterans Prize

A motion will be put to the slalom ACM that the two veteran's prizes will be awarded as:

- Alan Harwood trophy: the veteran with the most points in the season
- Rasdeck trophy: the veteran with the most points from division 1/Premier races in a season.

6 Finance

6.1 Current Position

The current financial position was reported. Levies are starting to come in, but these are balanced through spending in new bibs, coach course expenses, international expenses and yearbook production.

Production of the yearbook is costing a significant amount as the number of adverts has dropped off. The costs, and suppliers will be reviewed again this year.

6.2 Spreading Technical Costs Across Home Nations

Total timing and judging levies were £4,100, actual costs were of the order of £13,000. This comes out of the British Canoeing portion of the levies. Possible scenarios will be modelled for spreading the cost across National Associations..... c / fwd **Action HR**

7 Co-Ordinator Reports

7.1 Coaching

Report in Andy's absence

7.1.1 Coaching Courses

Three more Slalom Coach Award training courses held in recent weeks have brought the total number of trainees to 50 of which more than 40 have applied for/received funding through the Slalom Committee.

The course syllabus is currently under review with the intention to reduce the course length from three to two days with implementation hopefully quite soon. This will have the advantage of making it easier to plan and for the courses to run at a reduced cost.

7.1.2 Slalom Coaching Technical Group

Following British Canoeing advertising for new members of the group with the intention of increasing the group size to 8, only one application was received. David Bain has been selected to join the existing members Mike Chandler, Steve Macdonald, Dan Goddard, Dave Royle and Andy Neave. If anyone else might be interested they should contact Mike Chandler or Andy Neave.

7.1.3 Support for coaching courses

It was agreed that the English committee will provide coaching course support for a CANI paddler at university (and coaching) in Nottingham.

The course organisers have been contacted and the contents (and costs) are more in line now.

7.2 Digital Strategy / Data

Report in Dee's absence

7.2.1 Calendar Application System

The new online application system seems to be encouraging organisers to get applications in on time and is showing a fairly full calendar for Prems/Division 1s. Other divisional competitions are being added.

Various tweeks (and inevitably a couple of bug fixes!) have been made to the system, but no significant developments since my last report.

7.2.2 Paddler Emails

E-mails continue to be received from paddlers at all divisional levels requesting cancellations/changes to entries etc, often prompted by the payment receipt arriving in the inbox. Please help spread the word: *The first port of call is the organiser.*



7.2.3 *Place Availability as at 10th May*

Availability of places for host paddlers remains good, with the exception of races at Holme Pierrepont

- The March HPP Prem races were full with Prem paddlers and did not accept any paddle ups
- The McConkey Saturday Prem in May is full, having accepted 20 paddle-ups; there are no host paddlers on the waiting list. The Sunday Division 1 has accepted some Division 2 paddle-ups but still has a few places available (exam time?)
- The September HPP Saturday Prem still has spaces, but lots of paddle-ups on the waiting list. The Sunday Division 1 is already full and is showing as 11 paddlers over the limit; this reflects those entered in the J16 Champs. All host paddlers to date have been offered a place.

All other races have places available for host paddlers and in most cases for paddle-ups as well

7.2.4 *Online Competitions*

Of the 'missing' competitions from my last report Orton Mere and Ironbridge have now been added and are taking applications and Lee Valley Division 2 is open for entries.

Discussion in the meeting

7.2.5 *Automated Emails*

The responsibilities of the Chief Judge, particularly at lower levels was discussed. The requirement to appoint the Chief Judge in advance of the competition will be stressed in the automated emails from the online system, and in separate emails for those not online. **C/fwd.....Action DL / AG**

7.3 Participation

7.3.1 *Suspension of points.*

The bib system will now identify where English paddlers British Canoeing cards have expired and not been renewed. The fact of renewal is not available for Scottish or Welsh paddlers. **C/fwd Action All**

7.3.2 *Lee Valley Division 1 Survey*

Division 1 Paddlers at Tully Division 1 were encouraged to answer a survey about a possible Division 1 on the Olympic course. This was done via a Google form.

65 Paddlers responded, with just over 70% saying they would enter.

Would this be viable? As of now 184 paddlers have raced in Division 1 (excluding promotions to Premier). If the 70% is realistic then it would suggest 128 paddlers would enter the race.

Dave Spencer has calculated we need 120 paddlers to break even so this survey would indicate it is viable.

The survey also asked paddlers what other venues they would like to see on the calendar. The most popular venue requested was Graveyard or Ski Slope, J Davies has said he will look into the feasibility of this happening, with N Wales Slalom being the organisers.

7.3.3 *Promotions to Division 3 in K1*

K1 Women: 15 promotions 11 have applied for their bibs.

K1 Men: 30 promotions 15 have applied for bib. The number of promotions for K1M is similar to last year.

7.4 Safety / Competition Management

7.4.1 *Tabled Report*

I have attended some races and reviewed safety arrangements against plans. Where appropriate I have suggested modification but by and large provision seems to be in line with the plan submitted and both appropriate and reasonable.

There is however one thing which may be worthy of general consideration. The provision of safety cover during practice sessions. There are often more paddlers on the course at these times and less actually observing what is going on than during the race when judges will be out. Groups more likely to need rescue are not concentrated during practice in the way they are during a race with most accepting a flexible approach to when practice runs are taken. The rule in respect of two boats on the water at the bottom is also often not enforced as there is no finish judge in place.



Other matters which may need attention are:-

1. The ongoing issues with respect to food allergies and the responsibilities and requirements that may become enforced in respect of those providing food. It may result in a situation where clubs can no longer raise money this way. There are some suggestions as to how things may be managed going forward e.g. pre-purchase of food as part of a race package with the opportunity to indicate allergens which would then need to be catered for. There is nothing needing to be done at the moment however things may change rapidly.
2. There is considerable consternation amongst the medical profession in respect of the IAAF requirements in respect of testosterone levels in female athletes. The World Federation at its recent meeting seems to be heading towards a position of complete opposition. Likewise, it is a subject of discussion in the UK with possible opposition to any participation here.

7.4.2 *Helmets*

Video was shown of a helmet that had fractured in a capsized. All athletes should be aware of the dangers of putting stickers onto helmets or attaching fittings to helmets. Either of these could restrict the ability of a helmet to slide when capsized. Helmets used in slalom should not have any stickers, or attachments for safety reasons.

7.5 Strategy Coordination

No report

7.5.1 *Rule v Organisers Handbook*

A survey of the use of the Organisers handbook will be undertaken during the season. The intention is to review the results and make the handbook more usable and provide some training / support. To be discussed at the August meeting **C/fwd in SLs absence..... Action SL**

7.6 Technical / Timing

7.6.1 *Slalom e-learning*

Slalom Coach Award: The possibility of associated e-learning has been taken up with Lee Pooley. Video is being gathered for production training materials featuring non British athletes..... **Action AG**

7.6.2 *Volunteers*

There are a number of people volunteering for timing team, and a group of people volunteering for, and starting the process of qualifying as section judges.

The list of qualified section judges will be put on-line during the year.

7.6.3 *On the bank behaviour*

There has been a report of bad behaviour at a recent slalom. As a general rule all are reminded that it is unacceptable to verbally abuse officials and approaching judges about a run during the race can result in the disqualification of the paddler.

8 Other Reports

8.1 England

Tabled Report

8.1.1 *Selection*

Congratulation to all the English paddlers that have booked their places on 2019 GB teams across Junior, U23 and Senior squads. I wish everyone great success in the summer races and hope that for all of you it will be a fruitful and enjoyable experience.

8.1.2 *Pan Celtic*

The Scottish leg of the Pan Celtic has been completed and was won by England. Alison Setchell, England Team Manager, is now in possession of the Scottish Pan Celtic trophy and well done to all English paddlers for their performance in securing the trophy!



8.1.3 *Coaching Support*

England continues to support the slalom specific coaching module with grants matched by the Slalom Committee. It is hoped to see many more prospective coaches work towards becoming qualified Slalom coaches and to help develop the next generation of Slalom paddlers.

8.1.4 *Governance*

Discussions are ongoing the current England Reps and Officials to determine the constitution and work of ECSC going forward. The aim will be to agree Terms of Reference that will shape specific plans and projects to develop Slalom in England.

8.2 **Scotland**

Report Tabled in Chris' Absence

8.2.1 *SCA Timing Kit*

During March, the SCA purchased much of the remaining timing kit required to time division 1 and Prem races in Scotland. The Sunday of the Grandtully division 1 was run with two BC computers but everything else SCA kit without any problems. Many thanks to Andy Grudinski, who along with Ken Baillie put in the extra effort to get the kit up and running for that event,

8.2.2 *New slalom site at Bridge of Earn, Perthshire*

Stanchions have been delivered and work on the new slalom site starts shortly.

8.2.3 *Scottish Summer trips to Europe.*

The Performance Squad are heading for Krakow, post junior worlds and Prague.

8.2.4 *SCOTS family trips:*

30/6 - 5/7/19 Saint Pierre de Boeuf - this camp is mainly aimed at families with Division 2/3/4 paddlers. There are currently 34 paddlers aged 7-17 on this camp along with paddling parents and 9 coaches..

7/7 - 12/7/19 Sault Brenaz - this camp is mainly aimed at families with Division 2/3/4 paddlers. There are 22 paddlers aged 9-17 on this camp along with paddling parents and 8 coaches.

8.2.5 *Scottish Regional Training Squad:*

1/7 - 5/7/19 Grandtully Divisions P/1

7/7 - 12/7/19 HPP Divisions P/1

29/7 - 3/8/19 Krakow Division P/1/some Division 2 paddlers. There are 16 paddlers on this trip with 3 coaches and 3 paddler/coaches

4/8 - 9/8/19 Prague Divisions P/1/some Division 2 paddlers. There are 14 paddlers on this trip with 3 coaches and 3 paddler/coaches

8.2.6 *Nigel Pennie*

It is with much sadness that I report the death of Nigel Pennie. Nigel was a friend and stalwart of Scottish slalom canoeing as well as British Canoeing and always happy to volunteer and get on quietly with whatever job was required at events.

8.3 **Wales**

Report tabled after the meeting

Congratulations to the Welsh paddlers who competed at the Junior, U23 and Senior selection race series. Several Welsh paddlers have gained team places at various level and will be representing GB in Europe during 2019.

Plans have been finalised for the Slalom discipline-specific training courses due to take place shortly. Venues to be used are Llandysul, Bala and Nottingham.

Summer training camps are planned in Europe. Paddlers are being selected for attendance at the camps based on performance criteria.

Plans are progressing well for the races being run in Wales with the latest being at Llandysul and the next being the Division 1 in Bala on the NRA.



The Junior (to J14), Veteran and Masters' leg of the Welsh Pan Celtic races is due to take place at Bala Mill in June. Entries can be done online for the event

8.4 British Canoeing Programme

8.4.1 *Tabled Report*

The months of March and April played host to hotly contested selection series across all age groups with paddlers bidding to represent their country across a myriad of events in 2019.

Congratulations to all paddlers for the part they played in the quality events that took place and a big well done to those who secured places on the Great Britain teams. A particular well done to Sophie Ogilvie who will make her debut on the British Senior Team in the C1W class. In a new initiative for 2019 the ECA are offering the nation of reigning European Champions and extra entry in that class. With Ryan Westley taking Gold in Prague last year we are delighted to welcome Will Smith into the European Championship Team to race in Pau. Published teams can be found on the British Canoeing website along with press releases from each selection event.

A special mention and thanks too to parents/guardians, coaches, performance staff and volunteers for all your hard work and passion in providing the paddlers an opportunity to do what they enjoy and develop both as people and as paddlers.

The focus now shifts to the hosting of World Cup One at Lee Valley in one months' time. It has been four years since the World Championship on the same venue and the organising committee have been working hard to showcase an event that lives in the memory like 2015. This event also constitutes part of the Olympic selection process and thus promises to play host to some fantastic racing.

In recent weeks Lee Valley also hosted the selection event for the Great Britain Extreme Slalom Team. The time trial and head to head events culminated in Senior Team nominations for the Welsh duo Gabrielle Ridge and Etienne Chappell. A big well done to both as they prepare for the Senior World Championships in Prague later in the year.

British Canoeing wish to pay tribute to a longstanding member of our team that will be leaving to pursue a new opportunity. Helen Bowen has been a stalwart of our finance team for a number of years showing great diligence in her support to the performance programmes across many disciplines. Helen will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best for her next chapter.

8.5 Athlete Representative

Tabled Report

8.5.1 *Volunteers*

A list of people willing to volunteer for various roles was shared with the committee. The number is encouraging, and efforts will be made to further develop these individuals interests and to encourage more volunteers to come forward.

8.5.2 *International Panel*

Attended a panel meeting to discuss the next Olympic cycle and selection policy.

Big thanks to Dave Spencer for creating the selection results programme. This enabled the panel and coaches to have reliable information in a very short period after the last paddler had finished.

8.5.3 *Water Access at Centres*

I mentioned this in my last report, and we continue to talk to centres. I can see an appreciation developing. I would urge everyone to liaise with coaches at the various locations as they are working with Andy Maddock to make improvements.

9 2019 World Cup / 2020 European Championships

The opportunity to see how the race control will be offered to programme athletes (as well as it is offered to other competing athletes and coaches).

The race is now only a few weeks away and preparations are under way. Entries have been received from twenty nations so far, and some of the large nations are still to enter.



10 Possible ACM 2019 Motions

- **Entry Card Retention:** Remove any rules that require retention of cards beyond a race.
- **Short Season Status:** Treat those promoted and reranked paddlers the same for granting of short season status.
- **Move rules to Handbook:** where appropriate
- **Opening dates for races:** Should there be a standard opening date for race entries, either a period before the race, or a series of dates through the year (e.g. 1st of a month).
- **C2 Discount with enhanced fee:** The C2 discount to be set up as 50% of the standard fee, regardless of the level of entry fee.
- **ICF Rule Fine Tuning:** The final ICF rules will be reviewed against the copy that were incorporated in the UK rules.
- **Organiser discretion on accepting paddle ups:** allowing organisers to specify that they do not want to accept paddle up entries for safety reasons, or capacity, such as selection races. The default will be to accept paddle ups at all races.
- **Open entry fees:** to be the same as the highest-ranking division racing.
- **Veterans trophies:** Clarifying the purpose of the two trophies

11 Correspondence / Other Business

11.1 Extreme Slalom Selection

The extreme Slalom selection race was held over the weekend of 11/12 May. The committee congratulated the following athletes selected to represent (or be a reserve) Great Britain this year:

K1M	K1W
Etienne Chappell	Gabrielle Ridge
Aaron White	Emily Davies
Gareth Farrow	Emily Buchanan
Jiri Tykalm	
Matt McDiarmid	
Arek Bialek*	

11.2 Order of Events at Premier Races

There was a discussion regarding the scheduling of events at races, particularly Premier races.

The recommendation is, wherever possible to have Men's Kayak between the two women's events. Where possible a slight adjustment of the ICF order should be considered, e.g. MC1, WK1, MK1, WC1 (or the reverse. Separating into am and pm sessions is also a good option (MC1/WK1 and WC1/MK1).

11.3 Pan Celtic

There have been various suggestions relating to the running of the Pan Celtic Slaloms. This will be reviewed and discussed with those keeping the competition going at the moment. It will be an item at the next meeting. **Action MA/MS**

11.4 Four Year Planning

During the rest of this year and the start of the next, the current strategic plan will be reviewed and the 2021 to 2024 plan will need to be developed.

12 Future Meeting Dates

All meetings at 9:30, at British Canoeing HQ in Nottingham, unless otherwise noted.

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Sunday 4 th August | • Saturday 30 th November (ACM) |
| • Sunday 3 rd November | • Sunday 1 st December (New Committee) |

The Chair thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 16:10