



SLALOM COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 13 May 2021

Via videoconference

Attendees: Dave Spencer, Chair; Peter Curry; Deborah Catty; Karen Crowhurst; Dee Lindsay; Martyn Setchell; Andy Grudzinski (AGz); Mark Abbott; Les Ford; Mike Mitchell; Colin Woodgate; Fraser Glasgow

Apologies: Anna Gray (AG); Rich Ramsdale (RR)

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as correct

2. Matters arising

It was clarified that insurance is provided to cover club activities for England & Scotland clubs. MA believed this was also the case for Wales.

A statement confirming no demotions this season to be published. **Action: DC**

3. Increasing participation in lower divisions

There had been a large response to the participation questionnaire, with 184 people responding from Scotland. There had however been a poor response rate from some of the larger English clubs. Key findings from the questionnaire were that the quality of the div 2 water is crucial, with participants wanting better water. This led to significant discussion:

- Could div 1/2s be re-introduced? This in itself can lead to issues of who has priority entry. There was a view that PUs could be used instead. It was also recognised that part of the reason they stopped was because no one wanted to run them.
- Could div 2/3/4s be run or had there been a motion to prevent them. It was clarified that there was no issue in running them, rather the objection was to them all running on the same course.
- Div 2s do not get the same time to practice at races, as competitors do at div 3/4s.
- The re-introduction of team runs was felt to be a positive move, though recognising the limitations with certain sites
- There is a need to make races a fun, friendly experience, ideally with a café and camping. It was acknowledged that some of the sites had been lost. Specifically, Abbey Rapids, Howsham, Durham, Prudhoe amongst others
- There is a need to look at coaching availability at races
- Div 4 paddlers can feel intimidated on practice runs by higher division paddlers

DL reported that paddler numbers for the upcoming races were encouraging. MS added that at recent “come and try” sessions at HPP, 130 young people had a go, with 80 then signing up for a 4-week taster course. The lead coach had gone to 6 primary and secondary schools

to talk to the pupils. A by-product of the “come and try” sessions has been parent interest and a parent session is now also being run. Other clubs are looking at engaging with groups such as home education groups

Alternatives to div 4 races were discussed, with instead some kind of assessment following which paddlers would be able to race in div 3 competitions. This could be used as an either / or approach, ie not to replace the current format but an alternative to it. Another option discussed was a div 4 weekend, with one day coaching, one day competition.

Action: MM/ KC/ LF to set up a small group to progress. Jane Gibson was suggested as a potential participant.

3. Coaching update

Seventy five people have been funded for coach training through BC, with assessments starting to take place. The next step is to follow up with those individuals to identify what support they need. LF will lead on this

It was recognised that there needed to be an agreed approach to how to access funding. Broadly, clubs can invoice BC, whilst individuals will need to pay for the coaching and then be reimbursed. **Action: CW / DS / LF to develop and agree approach to payment**

4. Bib application system

Whilst the system is now functional, there are still a number of elements to be resolved:

- There is a need for flexibility as not all bibs get sent in the post
- The payment system still needs to be worked on
- How will refunds work

Matt and Duncan are continuing to work on it. DS and CW will work on the finance elements.

The plan is to go live next season with the system running in parallel with the current system if possible this year. Training will take place with bib officers.

5. Support for event organisers

The emphasis this season is for event organisers to be supported and encouraged to have everything in place. However, it is a requirement that a full risk assessment is in place as non-compliance means that there may not be insurance in place. PC has had good discussions with a number of organisers who have reported finding them helpful.

It was noted that safely accommodating spectators and parents was more difficult than athletes and officials. However, athletes need to be realistic, recognising that it will not be fully back to normal for some time.

- Langham Farm has not supplied a covid risk assessment. If it isn't submitted by Saturday, the race will become a non-ranking race. MM to contact race organiser
- HPP selection – a good plan has been submitted
- Alva - a covid risk assessment is still required, although the organisers have been in touch with PC. FG to contact race organiser
- Fairnilee – cancelled
- Shepperton - a covid risk assessment is still required. DL to contact race organiser
- Llandysul – a plan has submitted

- Interclubs – the possibility of this going ahead was raised but requires further discussion. However, it is not a committee issue.

Ongoing issues remain toilets, catering, camping and first aid such as resuscitation.

6. Future committee meetings

These will continue to be held monthly for at least the next two months.

7. AOB:

Organisers pack will have no tutti routing

Organisers are starting to request changes to dates. These will be posted on the website

CW to take scales to selection

Officials will need access to an indoor room at Lee Valley if racing takes place during the first weekend of March

8. Date and time of next meeting

17 June @ 7.45pm via zoom