

Coaching Coordinator Report 2020

The Slalom Coach Award, launched in January 2018, attracted a good number of slalom trainees in the first two years. Although formal training courses have been curtailed in 2020, hopefully some good experience has been gained in clubs when paddling has been permitted which will contribute towards future assessments. In Scotland several trainees did proceed to successful assessments in the summer – congratulations to them all.

The slalom committee has continued to make funds available to support slalom coach training and assessment. Several of the above-mentioned Scots made successful applications.

Discussions and consideration are under way towards the creation of a Slalom Coach Award that is suited to more sheltered environments which would be suitable especially for those coaches that only operate on Div 4, Div 3 and lower level Div 2 waters.

In June, the new Performance Coach awards were launched which include a Slalom Performance Coach option. Although this award replaces the previous UKCC Level 3, the new emphasis is very much on quality of coaching delivery (at whatever level) rather than delivery to a syllabus predominantly at the higher levels of the sport. Thus, for example, performance coaching could be delivered at club level, on sheltered water with lower division paddlers.

I have continued to represent the Slalom Committee on the BC Slalom Coaching Technical Group in 2020. The group is currently being reformed to ensure all members are actively involved. Thanks to previous members who have recently stood down from their positions. The group's role is to help shape qualifications and awards, advise on discipline developments and support the BC Head of Coaching and Qualifications.

Concerns about participation levels in the lower divisions have been expressed over the past few years. Some progress towards understanding the situation has been made this year with involvement from some of the England talent squad coaches. A significant question is, "What should entry level competition look like in the 2020's?" This work is ongoing and of vital importance to the sport's future. My personal view is that the prime drivers towards change should be the national associations with support from the slalom committee. The need for a stronger group representing England is evident.

I will not be seeking re-election to the committee at the ACM but remain available to support anyone who wishes to take on a coaching coordinator role.

Andy Neave