

# **British Canoeing**

# **Slalom Committee**

# **Meeting Minutes**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019

# **Stronger Together**

Location: Lee Valley White Water Centre, Station Road, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, EN9 1AB





# 1 Present

# 1.1 In Person

Dave Spencer	[3/3] Chair		Andy Neave	[3/3]	Coaching	Jane Gibson	Scotland
Hazel Ridge	[2/3] Treasu	rer	Dee Lindesay	[3/3]	Digital Strategy / Data	Dave Spencer	[3/3] England
Martyn Setchell	Vice C	hair	Karen Crowhurs	t[3/3]	Participation	Mark Abbott	[3/3] Wales
	[3/3] Athlete	Rep	Peter Curry *	[3/3]	Safety / Comp Mgmt.		
Colin Woodgate	[3/3] Secreta	ry	Steve Linksted	[3/3]	Strategy		
			Andy Grudzinsk	i [3/3]	Technical / Timing		

#### \* Attending via Skype

# 1.2 Apologies

Kiran Dews	[0/3] CANI
Chris Baillie	[2/3] Scotland
Richard Ramsda	ale [1/3] 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.

# 3 Cancellation / Postponement of Races

We have had another bumpy start for the year with cancellation of Shepperton, Dulverton and Plas y Brenin due to low water levels and Symonds Yat falling foul of excessive water levels. There has been discussion regarding the rescheduling of lost races, but this is very difficult to achieve with such a full and varied Slalom calendar. As an outdoor sport we are at the mercy of the weather to some extent and there is little we can do in mitigation.

After some discussion it was agreed that under the rules can be cancelled, but not for lack of entries. A proposal will be put to the ACM so the current rule that allow additional competitions to be added to replace cancelled competitions for all divisions not just Premier and Division 1. This is subject to the identification of a suitable alternative that is acceptable to all including

- The competition organiser
- Organisers of other competitions and national events at the proposed time
- National timing and judging teams, where required

and provides satisfactory notice to competitors. This will be reviewed after two complete seasons. The effects of this will be trialled for the rest of this season.

# 4 Chair's Report

# 4.1 British Canoeing AGM

The Chair and the Secretary attended the British Canoeing AGM at Eastwood Hall near Nottingham. The addresses by both the President and Chair of the Board reflected on positive progress throughout the year across many activities. Competition results have been excellent with medals won in many disciplines as well as the excellent results enjoyed by Slalom athletes. Improving access to England's rivers have taken a positive step forward with increased engagement of MPs which will be necessary to amend legislation. These were a few of the points that were raised.

The afternoon was taken up by a Club Conference which was well attended with numerous sessions covering many aspects of club and competition activities. The day finished with an Awards Dinner to celebrate the outstanding achievement of volunteers. The final award was the John McGregor award to a woman who decided to paddleboard from Land's End to John O'Groats!





#### 4.2 2019 Selection

The first rounds of Junior and U23 selection have been completed and we will shortly know who has booked their places in these teams. The forthcoming Senior selection races will select the team from which the final Olympic team will emerge at the World Championships in September. I would like to take this opportunity to wish good luck to every competitor.

This will be a busy racing year with the extra excitement of a Word Cup race at Lee Valley and for which many of us have volunteered. The sport would not run without skilled and dedicated volunteers and on behalf of the Slalom community, thank you.

#### 4.3 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.

#### 4.4 Contingency Planning

#### 4.5 Review of other disciplines yearbooks

#### 4.6 Managed Calendar

#### 4.6.1 Online System

A new process is up and running with most core functionality in place. Applications are being processed and feedback has been positive (canoeslalomentries.co.uk) to provide visibility and 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** 

#### 4.6.2 *Lee Valley Division 1*

#### 4.6.3 *Division requirements*

An exercise is underway to attempt to provide information about the water and bankside facilities needed for each level of competition. This is a longer-term action and is targeted for possible presentation at the ACM.

#### 4.6.4 Symonds Yat Division 1 suitability

Unfortunately, the early season competition at Symonds Yat was cancelled, so a visit was not possible. There remain concerns over the ability to manage the technical aspects of the infrastructure required for a division 1 competition. Looking at the videos provided, the meeting also concluded that there was insufficient variety and standard of challenge to the water to warrant running a division one race at the site. This took into account the wealth of other sites available at that standard at the times there is sufficient water.

#### 4.6.5 *Division 1 / Prem Calendar*

A small group	from the	e Home I	Nations	will be	convened	to look	at the	number,	standard	and loc	ation of
races for 2020.										Act	ion MA





#### 4.7 Insurance at Entry Level Competitions (190202 11.2)

There are a number of issues surrounding insurance at entry level. There were discussions at the British Canoeing Club Conference, it was clarified that, regardless of the nationality of the paddler and the race, 1-day membership can be purchased

Further steps will be taken, to try to keep exploring options and mitigate costs to paddlers. ......Action DS

#### 4.8 Financial Support for the Ranking Database

It was agreed that some financial support will be provided towards the maintenance and running costs of the Ranking Database.

# 5 Secretary's Report

#### 5.1 Jim Croft Files

Decades of paper and electronic files (floppy disks and CDs), from all the work Jim did as Slalom Administrator. These are being processed and copies of the relevant files put onto the BC servers for the committee. As the information develops it will be shared with the committee. This will be a long job and is expected to last most of the year.

#### 5.2 Paddler Representative

The Paddler representative was initially set up as person appointed from the paddlers at selection. This has transformed over time to be someone to represent all paddlers. British Canoeing set up a BC paddler representative panel for podium and podium potential this year. This is made up of performance paddlers. It was agreed that the divergence in role sufficient to keep two separate representatives.

BC Paddler panel representatives will be invited to future meetings. ......Action CDW

#### 5.3 Automated Bib Application system

#### 5.4 Selection Policy in the Yearbook

The committee was split on the publishing of the selection policy in detail or summary. This will be discussed outside the meeting during the season, target the ACM......Action DS / CDW / MS

#### 5.5 Interclubs

Feedback has been given to the original complainant, the matter is now closed.

#### 5.6 Division 2/3 Veterans Prize

We currently have a trophy that is hard to give out. It refers to the time when veterans where in two distinct and separate divisions. A number of different options have been floated, some complicated, some very complicated.

#### 5.7 Social Media

Committee members were urged to make clear when they are posting as committee members and when in their private identities. Members of the committee will use different social media accounts to avoid confusion, and the signature will clarify this e.g. 'Secretary Man' and 'Canadian Paddler'

# 6 Finance

#### 6.1 Budget / Handover

There has been very little movement on the account since the published accounts of the ACM in November 2018 and last meeting in February 2019.





British Canoeing has now completed the treasurer handover payment detail, some outstanding items these past couple of weeks have been cleared. Expense claims have started to come in for the 2019 competition year which will be processed this coming week. Should there be any items that may have slipped through the net with the changeover I would ask for details to be forwarded to the slalom.treasurer@britishcanoeing.org.uk email address so that they may be dealt with by return

# 6.2 Expenses

With the change in Treasurer, it was felt that some clarity would be useful for all involved. A structure of permissible expenses was tabled and agreed. The guideline falls into three areas:

- Committee members, doing Committee business
- Section Judges
- Those travelling abroad as International Technical Officials.

The guidelines will be circulated to those affected.

# 6.3 Spreading Technical Costs Across Home Nations

Total timing and judging levies were  $\pounds 4,100$ , actual costs were of the order of  $\pounds 13,000$ . 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

Pinkston will run at a loss as the fees being charged by the centre have increased dramatically after the entry fee was set, and with insufficient time to apply for grants. The Slalom Committee agreed to fund the shortfall jointly with the SCA committee with the expectation that the race will be budgeted to stand alone for next season onwards.

# 7 Co-Ordinator Reports

#### 7.1 Coaching

#### 7.1.1 Coaching Courses

Slalom Coach Award training courses are attracting increasing interest. A course for 4 trainees from Yorkshire was completed in early March. Another course for 8 trainees from Yorkshire is planned for April-May.

Scotland have a course running in March and Llandysul CC have a course planned for May. There is demand for a course to run in Essex but currently no course tutors are available.

Applications for Funding support are being received and processed.

Les Ford has now been approved as an Aspirant Tutor and will be 2nd staffing the next Yorkshire course.

#### 7.1.2 Support for coaching courses

It was agreed that the committee would continue to offer up to 50% of the costs, with a review before the ACM.

It is understood that the Canoe Wales match funding is being phased. This is disappointing this year as it does not match what was agreed, but could be part of the end of year review.

#### 7.1.3 Slalom Coaching Technical Group

British Canoeing have advertised for new members of the group. The intention is to increase the group size to 8 (current members Mike Chandler, Steve Macdonald, Dan Goddard, Dave Royle and Andy Neave).

#### 7.1.4 *Coaching Conference 23/24 November 2019*

Lee Pooley, Head of Coaching and Qualifications, is seeking ideas for topics to cover in the slalom discipline specific element of the conference.





### 7.2 Digital Strategy / Data

#### 7.2.1 Slalom Software Systems Documentation

A very high-level document (separate file) has been produced and is being updated to reflect the links between the various central software systems

#### 7.2.2 Slalom Entries

#### ii. <u>Promoted Division 4s</u>

There was some discussion last year, that newly promoted div 4s were keen to enter online but were unable to do so because of the turn-around time on BC membership and bib applications.

This season bib numbers are automatically allocated to all promotees. They can enter online once results have been uploaded to ranking database.

#### iii. <u>Disputes/Charge Backs</u>

There has been another, on this occasion it would appear that fraudulent activity on the account led to the bank marking a slalom payment as fraud. The paddler concerned was very helpful and we have had the case resolved.

#### *iv. <u>Place Availability as at 18 January</u>*

Availability of places for host paddlers remains good, with the exception of Prem races at Holme Pierrepont which are over their limit

#### v. <u>Online Competitions</u>

Most competitions have indicated that they will be taking online entries this year and are shown as such on www.canoeslalom.co.uk However, there are a very small number that have not yet provided the information needed to set them up. New entries to the sport therefore get confused as to how they can enter these competitions. Currently missing details are: Orton Mere 3/4 (both competitions), Ironbridge 2, the second Marple 3/4 and Lee Valley 2. The individual Organisers will be contacted to explain the issues. The link on the Slalom Web site will be removed until the information is all available and the competition is on line.

#### vi. <u>Automated Emails</u>

As requested, copies of the automated emails from canoeslalomentries.co.uk were circulated to the committee on 4th Feb.

#### 7.3 Participation

#### 7.3.1 Promotion Certificates

Promotion certificates are now being automatically produced from the database by email and will continue to be sent out by email for promotions above division 3 and will include the option for a physical certificate if required. Promotees from division 4 to 3 will get a physical certificate when the paddler register for a division 3 bib.

The committee will fund that for 2019 to assess the demand. Collecting an additional fee adds complication to the process, however if cost become high then it will be reviewed.

#### 7.3.2 Suspension of points.

Rule 1.1.1.b talks of disqualification of points for those not applying for bibs and proving membership. It was agreed that there will be a clarification of the rules to support the current practice:

- Points will be suspended if a paddler has not applied for their bib. The points will be suspended after:
  - o Premier Immediate
  - o Division 1 Immediate
  - o Division 2 2 weeks
  - o Division 3 4 weeks





Action All

#### 7.4 Safety / Competition Management

#### 7.4.1 Safety Plans

A safety plan has been received from the Interclubs organisers, with a section relating to antisocial behaviour. The Committee discussed this and agreed to the actions, including possible sanctions from the British Canoeing/National Association. However, these sanctions only extend to BC members, and experience has shown that it is not possible to apply these sanctions to non-BC members.

#### 7.4.1 *Helmets*

7.5.1

A guidance note has been produced and will be circulated. Other notes are being developed.

#### 7.5 Strategy Coordination

#### Rule v Organisers Handbook

#### 7.5.2 Committee Induction

A committee induction pack will be investigated.

#### 7.5.3 Division 3 & 4 Development Strategy

#### 7.6 Technical / Timing

#### 7.6.1 Equipment

Gathering and maintaining equipment is on target. New timing kit is being labelled ready for use in the new season.

#### 7.6.2 Judging

Section Judging forms have been sent out and replies are awaited. Gate Judges exams will be scheduled for the season.

# 7.6.3 Software / asset register

The software will be stored on a central server and an asset register will be developed.

#### 7.6.4 *Slalom e-learning*

# 8 Other Reports

#### 8.1 England

#### 8.1.1 Pan Celtic

Alison Setchell, England Team Manager, has published the team for the forthcoming Pan Celtic race series. For many young paddlers the Pan Celtic is the first taste of paddling for their nation and I hope we can all support Alison in ensuring that it is an enjoyable, exciting and successful experience.

#### 8.1.2 Coaching Support

England Canoe Slalom Committee (ECSC) 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.





#### 8.1.3 Governance

Discussions have commenced with 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

#### 8.2.1 New head of Performance and Pathways for the SCA

Jon Schofield, one of Britain's most successful Canoe Sprint paddlers, will be joining the SCA staff team as the new Head of Performance & Pathways.

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

Strathallan are hoping to start work on the new slalom site at Bridge of Earn in April and have secured a small grant to help with running costs.

#### 8.2.3 Coaching

5 young coaches are undertaking the slalom specific coaching course currently led by Steve MacDonald , of Beyond Adventure.

#### 8.2.4 *SCOTS*

A recent S.C.O.T.S. AGM will support a regional training squad at a level below the SCA Training Squad.

#### 8.3 Wales

Following a severe weather forecast and rapidly changing water levels the decision was taken to cancel the Division 3/4 race at Plas y Brenin. Following initial indications and discussions with the venue earlier in the week it was believed the event could run, but sadly the decision had to be made to postpone the event for safety reasons. This proved to be the correct course of action as gale force winds and excessive rainfall would have made the event impossible to run.

The Division 1 race at Llandysul had very good water level on both days. Evidence is still present for everyone to see following the damage after the floods in 2018. Many thanks go to everyone who has helped to get the venue operational again and assisted in the running of the race.

A series of roadshows have been held by Canoe Wales where members were able to ask a variety of questions.

Plans are being finalised for the Discipline specific training courses to take place at Llandysul and in North Wales. Costs are being finalised which will be part funded by Canoe Wales Slalom and GB Slalom Committee. It has been decided to make the Canoe Wales contribution in two stages – Part after course completion and the remainder after proof of coaching participation.

Christina Rayner has stepped down as team manager Jason Humphries has been appointed.

#### 8.4 British Canoeing Programme

#### 8.4.1 Programme

As preparation for year three of the Tokyo Olympic cycle, both tiers of the UK programme undertook warm weather training camps. Podium Potential travelled to Al Ain, UAE, for a two week camp whilst the Podium programme focussed on providing support to a three week block in Penrith, Australia. Both camps were a success, building strongly on the foundations of early winter hard work in the UK.

A number of our senior group closed out their trip to Australia by racing the Australian Open. There were some excellent performances from GB boats with Eilidh Gibson marking her return from injury with a final in the C1W class and David Florence and Joe Clarke winning Gold Medals in C1M and K1M respectively.

As the racing season is now upon us British Canoeing would like to take the opportunity in advance to thank all the athletes, parents/guardians, coaches and support staff that have worked tirelessly over the winter months to prepare for 2019. Many of the individuals who support athlete development do so in an entirely voluntary role and to those and the scores of volunteers who enable our sport to continue to support athlete's dreams all over the country we reserve a special thank you. We wish all those involved in Canoe Slalom a very productive and successful 2019.





For our performance programmes 2019 is a year to focus in around the key milestone target of qualifying maximum quota places for Tokyo 2020 and selecting the strongest possible team for the Olympics in a fair and transparent manner.

#### 8.4.2 *People Development*

A number of staff are currently enrolled in UK Sport courses at present. Mark Ratcliffe is nearing the close of his Elite Coach journey whilst Mark Proctor has recently begun his journey on the Athlete to Coach programme. Richard Hounslow is part of the Collaboration for Performance course and Craig Morris has recently enrolled on the Coach Leader programme. We would like to acknowledge the hard work and success of the above coaches in achieving nominations and wish them all the very best as they look to further develop their coaching and leadership skills.

#### 8.4.3 *Performance Wellbeing updates*

There are plans in place to create a video to help athletes understand the selection policy better.

The performance team are working with the communications team as well as athletes and coaches to put together a useful video that will be linked to the selection policies.

The athlete transition document has also been agreed, learning from previous seasons have fed into how this process has been shaped to fulfil the needs of athletes.

There has been praise of our work relating to culture and wellbeing in recent months from a variety of external organisations, including UK Sport, the British Athlete Commission (BAC), as well as other NGBs. This recognition indicates our positive direction of travel and that our messages are being communicated effectively.

The PWG were influential in the development of our British Canoeing Pregnancy Guidelines for WCP athletes. The purpose was to provide guidance to athletes and staff on the procedure for disclosing, managing, and returning to the WCP from pregnancy, and to ensure a responsible and coordinated approach is taken to support the individual during and after the pregnancy. The project has prompted UK Sport to develop system-wide advice for managing pregnancy cases and our guidance and procedural framework have been highly influential in their work.

#### 8.4.4 Strategy

UK Sport are in the process of finalising the Paris 2024 strategy and a soft launch is planned to take place in July of this year.

#### 8.5 Athlete Representative

A number of individual athletes have been supported and representation in the season to date. The confidential nature of the email traffic, and visibility within BC will be clarified before the BritishCanoeing email address is used.

The entry list for the Premier race at HPP was full 7 weeks before the race. This resulted in people eligible for selection being on the waiting list. In the end all home nation paddlers got an entry, but in future some mechanisms and processes to ensure that all entering for selection can get an entry in a reasonable time.

# 9 2019 World Cup / 2020 European Championships

- We are delighted to welcome Jaffa on board as a principal partner of our home World Cup at Lee Valley in June and would like to thank them immensely for their support.
- A bid to host the 2023 World Championships was accepted by the ICF Board meeting in China. As part of the bid GB will run an ICF Ranking race in 2022. This will not be the Traditional British Open as there may need to be a restriction on numbers as it precedes the World Championships. This is not appropriate for a premier race, so another race will need to be scheduled. Possible dates are being discussed.
- Volunteer competition specific training will start at Junior/Under 23 Selection and continue through on-line seminars and at Senior selection.
- Camping is being organised for volunteers with a contribution from the organising committee.
- There will be a retro slalom taking place on the Legacy Loop on the same weekend. Paddlers from many eras will be present, including many previous British Team members





# 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

# 11 Correspondence / Other Business

#### 11.1 Rule 3.3.5 - Fins and Rails

An email discussion had been held with a parent asking about the interpretation and enforcement of this rule. The ICF interpretation is that any fin / rail / thing protruding from the hull must be part of the hull mould. ICF has a list of boats that are manufactured with wings / rails. These are the only valid ones.

A pedantic, strict interpretation then gives problems with tape on the hill, repairs to a broken tail, and even the loop on the front (6mm min diameter vs 8mm minimum width and not in the mould).

Advice given is that in the UK if the Chief Judge is aware of anything being added to the hull, should not be thicker than a layer of tape. Any fins or rails that are affixed to the hull after the boat is made will result in disqualification as soon as the Chief Judge becomes aware of them.

#### 11.2 Extreme Slalom Selection

For 2019 British Canoeing will prioritise selection for 3 key ICF events as follows. Selected athletes will be integrated into the British Canoeing Slalom and Extreme Slalom team.

World Cup 1	Lee Valley, GBR	14-16 June 2019
Senior World Championships*	Prague, CZE	6-8 September 2019
U23 World Championships	Krakow, POL	21 July 2019

One athlete will be selected for each event at the Senior World Championships and Junior & U23 World Championships. Up to three athletes will be selected for the World Cup 1, Lee Valley. The ICF only permit one athlete per nation from the Time Trial stage of the event (unless less than 32 nations compete). By selecting only one athlete per event this will ensure the selected athletes have maximum opportunity to compete in knock out stages, and not have a British athlete travelling and competing in the Time Trial with little opportunity to qualify. Selection of one athlete per event will also to maximise the ability to integrate the selected Extreme Slalom athletes into the wider team.

#### Competitions

#### Senior Team 2019

World Cup 1Lee Valley, GBR14-16 June 2019Senior World Championships\*Prague, CZE6-8 September 2019\*The ICF Extreme Slalom Senior World Championships are held in conjunction with the ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup

Final.

Those selected to compete in World Cup 1 and the Senior World Championships will be offered selection for the following World Cup events. Participation in these events will be solely the responsibility of individual athletes. British Canoeing will administer entries, but athletes will be solely responsible for flight, accommodation and insurance and will not receive any support at the events.



# British Canoe Slalom Committee Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Lee Valley White Water Centre



U23 World

	lee valley white	water Sentre	
World Cup 2	Bratislava, SVK	21-23 June 2019	
World Cup 3	Tacen, SLO	28-30 June 2019	
World Cup 4	Markkleeberg, GER	30 August - 1 Septemb	per 2019
U23 Team 2019			
U23 World Championship	s Krakow, POL	21 July 2019	
Should Senior athletes not Championship selected ath	I I	d Cup 2, 3 and 4, these v	will be offered to
Junior Team 2019			
Junior World Championsh	ips Krakow, POL	21 July 2019	
2019 Selection Race Deta	ail		
Race Detail - Senior, U23	& Junior Selection 2019		
Race 1 – Time Trial	Lee Valley	Saturday 11 May 2019	
Race 2 – Boater X Race	Lee Valley	Saturday 11 May 2019	
12 Future Meetin	g Dates		

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

- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May
  Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November (ACM)
  - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August
    Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December (New Committee)
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

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The Chair thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 17:05

AN offered his apologies for the next two meetings, DL offered her apologies for the next meeting.