

Firstly a very big **THANK YOU** to all involved in officiating and the technical side of delivering Canoe Slalom in the UK, including:

- clubs, event organisers, paddlers and volunteers who have organised, helped set up, judged and provided timing / scoring at slalom competitions – from opens and division 4s through to Premier races and overseas at international races – for the paddlers throughout 2018;
- Chief Judges and jury members for keeping the events running and in check with the rules;
- Sections Judges and gate judges who continue to demonstrate the highest standard of judging at events in the UK and overseas, and run the gate judging courses at various events;
- members of the Timing Teams for their continued support in providing professional standard timing at the Premier, Division 1 events, and other events such as the Interclubs and the British Open;
- all the clubs and individuals who have assisted – either directly or by reporting issues as they arise with Tutti - with the maintenance over the season;
- Nick Penfold, Duncan Berriman, and the ranking team for keeping the ranking system in order; and
- everybody else who has helped throughout the season!

It has been another busy and successful year, as evidenced by the extensive participation and in the jury report forms, which would not be possible without all of the above and their dedication and professionalism. We could not run the events without each and every one of you

On the judging side... It is always good to see a growing number of people coming forward to try to the gate judges exam and growing interest in section judging. A team is currently looking at revamping and relaunching the gate, senior and section judge training and exams for the 2019 season and onwards, with the intention to roll out more and better publicised opportunities for people who are interested in (and /or can be coaxed into) developing their officiating and progressing through the system. It is also the intention to look for dates/times in which update sessions can be provided for existing judges (and any other interested persons!) On the admin side, some amendments to the admin system and team are in place to make lives a bit easier too!

On the timing side... The 2018 season generally past well with only the usual expected wear'n'tear being experienced with the old timing and communications systems as the year progressed. The new communications side of Tutti has been tested by the Yorkshire region over the 2019 season, with some great feedback (and no damage). This new kit has now been procured to replace all four sets and will be placed in to circulation at the beginning of the 2019 season, together with the new timing system. Updated briefings on the new system (including user manual) will be published and sent to clubs and organisers in the new year. Following conversations this season, new guidance notes will also be issued and included in the Organiser's pack to provide advice and good practice suggestions to organisers and their volunteers in relation to roles such as starter / finisher. If you can think of any other guidance notes that would be of interest / use, please let me know and we will look to produce these to.



Thank you also to all the new volunteers who have come forward, whether it be to get involved in gate judging, section judging, timing, volunteered at events, many of whom are now regular faces. If you are interested in joining or finding out more, please get in touch (details below and in the yearbook) and/or drop by the scoring office at a Prem / Div 1 race and say hello.

2019 sees the start of the next set of international races at Lee Valley, and it is great to hear about the number of volunteers wanting to get involved, not only generally, but specifically with interests in the technical and officiating side, including from people currently outside of the sport.

One request for the next season would be that organisers ensure that the Competition Report . Jury Report Form is returned to me as soon as possible after the event – in a number of cases this has not been received. This not only means we don't have the Jury's feedback on certain events / venues, it limits our ability to spot patterns of behaviour and respond to any concerns that may be raised.

If you should have any thoughts / ideas or concerns with regards any technical / competition aspect of canoe slalom in the UK and/or would like to be involved in any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me as below, or alternatively, catch me on the river bank or in the scoring office.

Andy Grudzinski
M 07912 850595

E andrew.grudzinski@googlemail.com