



## 1 Attendance

### 1.1 Present

Sally Atkinson	[4/5]	Vice Chair	Karen Crowhurst	[5/5]	Alison Longhurst	[3/5]	England
Dave Spencer	[5/5]	Treasurer	Dee Lindesay	[5/5]	Mark Abbott	[4/5]	Wales
Les Ford	[5/5]	Secretary	Mike Mitchell	[3/5]	Gareth Wilson	[4/5]	Paddle UK

Also present: Matt Crowhurst.

### 1.2 Apologies

Andy Grudzinski	[4/5]	Chair	Peter Curry	[4/5]	Vacant	[3/4]	Scotland
			Mark Haylett	[4/5]	Zac Allin	[3/5]	Athlete Rep
			Donna Hawkins	[4/5]			

## 2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

### 2.1 Kayak Cross

The proposed group hasn't been able to meet yet, we may look to engage different people to be able to move this forward. **Action: SA to follow up with MH**

Several athletes selected for Kayak Cross have approached Home Nations for support to attend international events. This raised the issue that these are additional funding requests, but there is no income stream from domestic Kayak Cross races to support these requests.

### 2.2 Participation Research Update

Phase 2 has now been completed. This means the survey has now officially closed.

Phase 3 - the researcher is compiling the data into a report. We can expect to have a draft report in time for committee members to digest ahead of the July meeting. It was agreed that large part of the July agenda is given over to this topic so we can think and operate strategically for the future of the sport.

Phase 4 will be sharing the final document with our community for them to read the themes and feedback.

### 2.3 ITO Expenses

Paddle UK is continuing to look to coordinate these across disciplines. In the interim the existing guidance on ITO expenses will be updated and circulated to relevant ITO's. **Action: DS**

It has been confirmed that Paddle UK continue to cover travel insurance to volunteers attending events as ITO's. Details to be circulated to relevant ITO's. **Action MC.**

World Masters – officials have not been supported to attend this previously, so will not be supported this year.

### 2.4 BUCS Support Offer

The rescheduled BUCS event went really well in May, thanks to all those volunteers that supported it.

From 2025, we are proposing making changes to the level of support for BUCS Slalom. It is appreciated and understood that a level of support for the race is needed as bursary money is at stake for a number of paddlers. With this in mind, we are seeking to reduce our overall involvement in BUCS Slalom back to the level it was previously and only providing the following roles for the event days:

- An experienced Chief Judge.
- 5 or 6 experienced judges to advise on judging at selected times.

Additional to this, CW was asked separately to support and advise the event organisers, and has indicated that he would be happy to do so in the future. **Action: SA to speak to CW.**



## 2.5 Awards Evening Update

The venue (Waltham abbey town hall) has been secured for the Saturday of the British Open (26th October) which will allow the event to proceed at a reasonable cost. A delivery group has been formed (currently 4 individuals). Since assembling they have:

- Put out a 'save the date' asking this to be added to the slalom website.
- A number of caterers have been identified and quotes being sought.
- 'Oscar's' trophies have been identified and a quote being sought.
- An old script is being updated and modified.
- A WhatsApp group exists for organisers - GW will act as an advisor/coordinator but the delivery group are now developing this vision of the evening. In the long term it is hoped that the group bring in new people each year to sustain the organising group.
- A WhatsApp group exists for updates on the event.

In discussion -

- Tickets will be sold through PUK website (same as used for kayak cross selection entries).
- WCP have floated the venue cost.
- Ticket prices to be between £25 & £30, to be finalise based on catering quotes (the 2014 Oscar event we charged £25 per head).
- List of extras required identified to be borrowed or bought.
- British Open organisers have been contacted to discuss race timings so we can run symbiotically.

## 3 Actions / Priority Items

### 3.1 2024 Calendar Updates

North Wales Slalom has requested an additional Div 4 on 22 June – agreed subject to the approval of events that weekend. **Action: DL**

Ironbridge have asked to move their Div 2 race due to a potential shortage of volunteers. After discussion it was not felt that this does not meet the threshold moving an event. It was noted that the rules only allow postponement and replacements events after the ACM in limited circumstances outside the organisers control.

### 3.2 Grandtully Events

The lease for Grandtully has yet to be signed. It was agreed that a final decision on whether these events will be happening is needed imminently. **Action: SA to pursue urgently with the organisers.**

### 3.3 2025 Calendar

There are currently more proposed Div 1 and Prem events than are allowed by the rules, so we need to find a way to reduce the number of events. MC & KC proposed that a separate working group meeting is arranged (22 June) to look at the principles for making decisions about events and develop calendar options. **Actions: SA to coordinate. GW to book a room at Paddle UK.**

## 4 Review of Ranking Slalom Safety

A draft of the Paddle UK Competition Safety report (cross discipline) was circulated to the committee by PC. It is likely that some changes will be required to our process and for organisers as recommendations are developed and implemented.

## 5 Minimum Standards of Deployment Update

These have now been announced by Paddle UK / Home Nations (<https://paddleuk.org.uk/paddle-uk-issues-standards-for-deployment-policy/>) or your home nation website. There was a Webinars have been run to help clubs and volunteers understand the requirements that are being introduced. These will be a focus of attention for some time with implementation ongoing through to 2026, and as a committee we will have some work to do to help the implementation across slalom.

The immediate priority is that Safeguarding elements of the standards need to be in place by December 2024.



This requires ALL committee members and organisers to have completed basic Safeguarding training (and updated this every three years). Some will already have completed this for other roles they hold.

For the next 3 months Paddle UK have made available the [Introduction to Safeguarding](#) elearning course free of charge to discipline committee and club volunteers (details to be recirculated). **Action: All committee to complete safeguarding training.**

LF has confirmed that if the Paddle UK course is completed this will be recorded on the Paddle UK system. Also, a 'committee dashboard' is to be created to enable discipline committees to monitor minimum standards compliance in the future.

## 6 Working Group Updates

### 6.1 Athlete Rep

There has been some feedback from athletes at the Cardiff race, including comments on the cost of protests and issues around protests. **Action: MC to liaise with Chief Judges**

### 6.2 Marketing

LF is still working the ideas presented at the last meeting into a fully formed plan, but provided a few brief updates:

- David Rogers and James Ibbotson visited Wagon Lane Div 3/4 to do some videoing for a slalom promotion video, feedback is welcome.
- Events and slalom information on Paddle UK website - there are several conversations going on, but a meeting has been planned to pull things together and try to avoid duplication.

**Action: LF to finish pulling together an action plan.**

## 7 Home Nations Updates

### 7.1 Scotland

No further update.

### 7.2 Wales

A couple of applications received for funding for international paddlers that have been supported.

### 7.3 England

The recent meeting looked at funding. This included support for selected paddlers, and a more structured process is to be put in place for future years. Funding is also being put in to boost the Paddle UK Club Support Programme for clubs to apply for support with slalom projects.

The committee is still looking at running regional development days.

Pan Celtic – arrangements are being put in place for both events that will make up this year's competition at HPP P/1 in June and Kilnhurst. Div 2 in September.

## 8 Any Other Business

### 8.1 Interclubs Update

Information on this year event has been published and clubs invited to confirm that they will be entering teams as soon as possible.

### 8.2 Scratch C2 Crews at Div 1/2 Events

A query arose for the Pinkston Div 1/2 where a scratch C2 crew wanted to enter. At multi-division events C2's race as the higher division, but the rules only allow ranked C2 crews to enter Prem & Div 1 races. After discussion it was agreed that the rules should remain as they are, and crews would have to apply for ranking and a bib to enter Prem and Div 1 races, including any Div 1/2 races.



### 8.3 Age Categories

A motion at 2023 ACM changed 'Junior' & 'J' to 'Under' & 'U' with the intention of clarifying the allocation of prizes. However, it seems this has created more confusion rather than bring clarity. It also hasn't been fully implemented in the systems that support events and rankings. After discussion it was agreed that we should revert to using 'Junior' & 'J' and provide clarification on how junior prizes are allocated. **Action: LF to draft an ACM motion to enable this.**

### 8.4 Displaying Race Entries on the Website

IT has been suggested that people are delaying entering events or not entering events until they see that a race is going to be quorate. It would be possible to only show the list of entries to those that have entered an event to encourage people to enter. After discussion it was agreed to leave the entries website as it is.

### 8.5 Future Meeting Dates

- Saturday 20th July, 10am - BC HQ
- Wednesday 18th September, 7:30pm - virtual
- Saturday 9th November, 10am - BC HQ
- **Saturday 30th November ACM**
- *Sunday 1st Dec – Slalom Coaching Conference (tbc)*
- Post ACM meeting tbc - Sunday 1st December or Wednesday 4th December