



# British Canoeing

## Slalom Committee

### Meeting Minutes

**Saturday 27 February 2016**

**Location: British Canoe Union HQ, National Water Sports Centre  
Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, NG12 2LU**



## 1 Present

### 1.1 In Person

Dave Spencer [2/2] Chair	Nick Taylor [1/2] Lower Divisions	Dave Royle [2/2] England
Martyn Setchell [2/2] Vice Chair	Jacky Stokes [2/2] Marketing & Publicity	Chris Baillie [2/2] Scotland
Andy Koszary [2/2] Treasurer	Peter Curry [2/2] Safety/Comp Management	Mark Abbott [2/2] Wales
Colin Woodgate [2/2] Secretary	Andy Grudzinski [1/2] Timing/Technical	
	Hazel Ridge [2/2] Volunteer	

### 1.2 Apologies

Jacky Brookes [1/2] Competition	Craig Morris [0/2] British Canoeing
	Matthew McKnight [0/2] CANI

## 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

## 3 Chairman's Report

### 3.1 Meeting with David Joy, British Canoeing CEO

David is meeting all the discipline chairs, during the discussion, the following areas were covered:

#### 3.1.1 *British Canoeing Strategy*

David outlined his approach to developing strategy for 2017-2021. Details are in the English Council section below. Broad aims are to better align the volunteer, performance and head office organisation, grow membership and create additional revenue opportunities.

#### 3.1.2 *Branding and Publicity*

The use of the slalom logo as an example of a clear discipline identity and our wish to continue its use was discussed.

#### 3.1.3 *Marketing & Sponsorship*

Having an effective British Canoeing website is seen as key for membership engagement and in turn for engaging commercial partners. He agreed that there had been significant issues but these were now being addressed and further phases would be reviewed to ensure they could be introduced effectively.

#### 3.1.4 *British Canoeing Membership*

Discussed the need for a non-paddling volunteer membership. This is under consideration. We also discussed that fact that member benefits need to be relevant.

#### 3.1.5 *National and Discipline Identity*

Discussed the lack of an English identity. The structure of combining English and British into the same organisation takes place in other sports, however David recognised the issue, and this is something that will come out of the strategy consultations later this year.

### 3.2 Attended English Council Meeting

#### *Key points*

#### 3.2.1 *British Canoeing Strategic Plan – David Joy*

David shared his initial impression and outlined the following draft plan to develop a strategic plan for 2017-2021

##### a. Phase 1 - Soundings phase (February to end April 2016)

Shaping of purpose, vision, key goals, pillars of development, key actions, roles and responsibilities

- Electronic consultation questionnaire with clubs, coaches, members, regions, committees, national partners, delivery partners,
- Face to face with key groups
- Board consideration April



**b. Phase 2 - First draft consultation (May to end August 2016)**

Context presented, proposed purpose, vision, goals, pillars, key actions, roles and responsibilities, measuring progress and funding proposals;

- Electronic consultation questionnaire with clubs, regions, committees, national partners, delivery partners
- Face to face with partners in a series of regional meetings
- Board consideration

**c. Phase 3 - Second draft consultation (September to end November 2016)**

Draft plan presented for final comment

- Electronic consultation questionnaire with clubs, regions, committees, national partners, home countries and delivery partners
- Face to face invited groups
- Conference discussion with English Council
- Board consideration

**d. Phase 4 - Final plan and sign off (December 2016- Jan 2017)**

Board sign off

- Sport England core funding and UK Sport funding finalised
- Plan approved by Board
- Launch - Early 2017

**3.2.2 Integrated Working Party**

Further discussion will take place with the intention to finalise at the November meeting

**1 Competition Review – update from Steering Group**

Results and recommendations of the competition review to which many people contributed will be published shortly. The steering group will meet in March to review the report recommendations and plan next steps towards implementation.

**2 Database and Websites - update Patrick Doyle**

Issues with the British Canoeing website are being resolved. It is planned to conduct a review to see what lessons need to be learnt before starting on the next phase of development.

**3 Membership – progress / update Patrick Doyle**

Issues have been experienced with renewal of individual membership and these have Senior Management attention and should be resolved by the end of February/early March

British Canoeing have a reward scheme of £5 for signing each new member, which is available to clubs. Details have been requested and will be circulated and included in the organiser pack.

Clarification of day membership scheme for England is being sought. ....DS

**4 Development Plan and targets 2013-17 – update on progress – Sue Hornby**

Overall canoeing participation growth (as measured by the Active People Survey) is flat. Growth is important as this affects funding awards and will be a major consideration in forming the 2017-2021 strategic plan.

**3.3 Slalom Coaching Review**

An individual has been identified and will be asked to review the issues surrounding slalom coaching and coaching qualification. This could include attendance at the coaching conference.....DS

**3.4 Organisers Pack**

The Organisers Pack has been revised for 2016 with the aim of consolidating documents and for ease of maintenance moving forwards. It will be made available to organisers on request and supplied to Nick Penfold for posting on his web site.



## 4 Secretary's Report/Actions

### 4.1 Perpetual Prizes / Keepsakes

It was agreed that a keepsake should be provided for national champions. After some discussion it was agreed, that these will be presented with the perpetual prize was returned rather than at initial presentation.....**CDW**

### 4.2 Ian Drummond Trophy

The Ian Drummond Trophy has been found. MS will investigate the background of the trophy, and the initial presentation. Proposals for the future use of the trophy will be brought to the next meeting.....**MS**

### 4.3 Interclub's rules

It was agreed that the rules for the Interclub's competition need review. At present, they perpetuate the format as clubs competing the previous year have a priority. After some discussion, it was agreed that AG will bring proposals for change to the next meeting. ....**AG**

### 4.4 Year Book

#### 4.4.1 Publishing

The committee recorded thanks to Ken Trollope for the work he has, once again, put in to the preparing the yearbook for printing.

#### 4.4.2 Packing

Yearbooks will be packed for distribution on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Thanks are recorded in advance to the volunteers undertaking the packing exercise.

#### 4.4.3 Advertisers

Responsibility for co-ordinating potential advertisers was agreed to rest with the Marketing and Publicity Co-Ordinator. Details of current advertisers (and rates) will be passed on.

CDW, noted an approach from Newcastle university to advertise in the 2016/17 yearbook.

### 4.5 2016 ACM Motions

As in previous years, thoughts are being recorded on motions that may be put to the 2016 ACM. Proposals and actions are recorded so that they are not forgotten. Clubs are reminded that motions can be submitted at any time before the closing date in October.

#### 4.5.1 Section A of yearbook

This first section of the yearbook uses different terms to describe the various competitions, and describes competitions in different levels of detail. A proposed rewrite was circulated to the committee and agreed. This will be circulated to the organisers of the competitions described, and will be put as a motion to the ACM.....**CDW**

It was decided not to extend this section to list the memorial slaloms that are being run during the year.

#### 4.5.2 Inquorate events

The approach to inquorate events will be reviewed, as there are some views that the current system is not equitable. DS will produce proposals .....**DS**

## 5 Finance

### 5.1 Report

British Canoeing are considering reducing / cutting the grant to the committee. One proposal is to withhold the part of the grant for development of slalom in England. The monies paid away last year were less than in previous years as there were fewer un-funded English paddlers on the team in 2015.

Some initiatives are being developed this year that will reduce the balances being held by both the UK committee and the England committee.



## 5.2 Dulverton 2015

Taunton Canoe Club ran a division 4 event in 2015, which made a considerable loss. They understood that an application was made to the Canoe England Slalom Committee for regional support for infrastructure.

It was agreed that the loss made on the competition will be covered by Canoe England development grant and UK Committee funds.

## 6 Co-ordinators' Actions

### 6.1 Athlete Representative

#### 6.1.1 *Water time at artificial courses*

Water time available to paddlers at artificial sites when the paddler is not part of organised training groups is an issue. Public sessions are not always available. Individual paddlers are encouraged to group together and arrange sessions.

MS will investigate the possibility of organising slots, on behalf of the committee, for non-program athletes to be able to book. ....MS

#### 6.1.2 *Cardington Artificial Slalom Course*

Experience using rapid blocks is continuing to be developed. There are discussions surrounding the need to remove the rapid blocks after each use are ongoing.

### 6.2 Competition

There are some ICF cards that have not been renewed yet. CDW will approach Andy Goodsell for a progress report. ....CDW

### 6.3 Competition Management

#### 6.3.1 *Risk Assessments*

There are still Risk Assessments outstanding. Competitions will have ranking status removed if the assessment has not been received and approved before the competition.

Events will not be accepted for the 2017 Calendar unless a Risk Assessment has been provided before the ACM.

These requirements will be published on the web site .....PC

The updated risk assessment must still be supplied to the Chief Official on the day of the event.

There are circumstances where an organiser has to supply risk assessments to the local site, Slalom Committee, and National federation. It is understood that discussions are under way within the paid staff to agree if this can be simplified. ....DS

It was agreed that once the risk assessment has been created, the author does not have to be present at the competition, but that there must be an individual at the competition with responsibility for safety at all times.

#### 6.3.2 *Grandtully August*

The SCA has circulated procedure to ensure that all participants in events in Scotland are members of the governing body. This process is at odds with the current process at Canoe Slalom events in that it requires submission of participant details to the SCA in advance for checking, and a visual check of the membership cards of all other participants.

It was unanimously confirmed that unless you publicly accept that you will run the event to published rules, accepting bibs as proof of membership, the event will be de-ranked.

#### 6.3.3 *Shepperton Parking (Div 1 and others)*

There are alternate arrangements in place with many possible parking areas half a mile to a mile from the site. The situation will be reviewed after the race at the start of March.



## 6.4 Lower Divisions

A discussion thread has been started on the unofficial UK Slalom Bulletin board (<http://s397900707.websitehome.co.uk/phpBB3/>) also accessible through canoe slalom.co.uk.

That generated an interesting discussion between about 7 or 8 people, some familiar names, some new. A small number of emails were also received from who preferred not to think aloud on the bulletin board.

In amongst the angst about the sport in general there were a couple of recurrent themes:

### Complexity

- Competitions are complex to run
- As a newbie everything is complex

### Communication

- Hard to know what's what

Some people offered solutions, without necessarily understanding or communicating the problems.

There were no obvious problems / solutions from the work so far.

### Next steps

- Keep asking the same question to get more opinion
- Take a look at some statistics of entries, retention etc.

## 6.5 Marketing & Publicity

Entry cards cannot be used to post yearbooks until and unless specific permission is given. This will be considered when re designing the cards for reprinting at the end of the year. A sign up slip will be developed to request yearbook and / or information. This will be included in the organisers pack.

In the light of the above, Dave Spencer will confirm what is done with the division 4 cards after being sent to James Hastings, and to the division 4 compilers.

The lower level handouts (Go Fast Go Clean) is being reviewed with British Canoeing, with a view to getting some printed.

## 6.6 Strategy & Planning

### 6.6.1 Paddle Up Proposals

Applications for competitions next year will need to include applications both if portable points are not introduced and if they are. If paddle up is accepted, divisions will be stand-alone Premier, stand-alone 1, stand-alone 2, stand-alone 3, stand-alone 4, combined 2/3, combined 3/4.....**DS/AG**

Current proposals include consideration of:

- Where an event is double division, there will be no paddle up capability.
- Paddle up competitors are not counted in calculating the points for host division.
- Paddle up points will be retained when promoted; points earned in the lower division will be lost on promotion.
- Paddle up points will also count in the paddlers host division.

The proposals will continue to be developed.

## 6.7 Technical Support

### 6.7.1 TUTTI

TUTTI has been serviced over the winter, thanks to Andy Hounslow for the work over the winter servicing the kit.

### 6.7.2 TUTTI Replacement

Sample test kit is being made sought to try run in parallel with the existing kit before purchase. ....**AG**

### 6.7.3 Portable Score Board

The availability of portable scoreboard, compatible with the replacement TUTTI system and the Premier timing will be investigated. This will not be progressed until after the TUTTI replacement is finalised..**AG**



#### 6.7.4 *Online Entry System*

Some discussions are underway to understand the current offerings, their issues, the scope and the risks involved. Linkage of the systems to other available resources will also be considered.

#### 6.7.5 *Lee Valley Cameras*

The cameras have changed so that the resolution is improved, these will be used the first Lee Valley premier race.

### 6.8 **Volunteers**

Approaches to publicise the volunteer nature of competitions and encourage people to volunteer will be considered. Lyn Barker of British Canoeing will be approached for advice and assistance..... **HR**

Lyn Barker has a list of non-slalomists that have volunteered at other events (e.g. 2012 games makers, World Cup / World Championship). These are available for higher-level races.

Volunteers are still an issue at lower level competitions. Information will be published on the Canoe Slalom Web site to encourage volunteers and offering advice on how to get involved,..... **HR**

## 7 **Home Nations**

### 7.1 **Pan Celtic**

Richard Lee has circulated some proposals amongst the Home Nations committees. It is understood that some questions have been raised. It is hoped that these issues can be resolved outside the UK Committee and consolidated proposals submitted for approval.

### 7.2 **CANI**

#### 7.2.1 *Performance Squads*

CANI has now set an annual plan in place for its Slalom Squad from Talent ID Level to Talent Squad. With regular weeknight coaching and monthly squad weekends, there has been an increase in contact time between coaches and athletes.

CANI have agreed informally with British Canoeing that the first Northern Irish Boats contesting Jnr/U23 Selection will occur in 2017

#### 7.2.2 *CANI Consultation*

CANI is currently in the process of consulting with its members to begin formulating its Strategy from 2017-2021.

#### 7.2.3 *CANI Event Approval Process*

At the beginning of February CANI ran its first domestic slalom race using the new British Canoeing/CANI Event Approval Process. Although it came down to the wire to get all the necessary paperwork in place before the event, the event was ran and widely attended.

#### 7.2.4 *Slalom Course flood damage*

There was some damage to Shaw's Bridge Slalom Course and to Gilford but these have mostly be dealt with and it is hoped when water levels drop that both venues will be back at 100%

### 7.3 **England**

#### 7.3.1 *Treasurer*

Alison Setchell has been appointed as Treasurer for the committee

#### 7.3.2 *English Regional Championship prizes*

Suitable prizes have been sourced, and are being distributed.

#### 7.3.3 *Balances*

Regional slalom representatives will be tasked with making proposals to develop the sport in their region. Monies from the reserves will be available to assist in the initiatives.



## 7.4 Scotland

### 7.4.1 *Club coaches funded by the SportsScotland Direct Club Investment (DCI)*

Stuart Gerrie has been appointed as DCI coach funded by SportsScotland at Strathallan joining those working at Breadalbane, Forth Canoe Club and CRCATS.

### 7.4.2 *Pinkston Panthers*

A sponsor gave £1,700 to the club and Sportsmatch matched that.

Pool sessions have been running through January and February and they intend to move outside for club nights in March. The club are looking for a coach to run summer sessions.

The club hopes to have 3 or 4 young paddlers going to the early div 4 races and then build up during the year.

Work is in progress to develop a gate system on canal adjacent to the basin but dealing with Scottish Canals and Historic Monuments means it all takes longer than expected.

### 7.4.3 *Performance squads*

Performance meetings are due to take place in March. One will be the normal 6 monthly meeting. The other will be a meeting of a working party charged with building a 4 year plan about Pathway to performance. As well as Remi, sprint coaches, and the 4 DCI coaches Gary Gibson and Paul Kelly have been invited representing the large group of paddlers and coaches currently working outside the SCA performance structure.

### 7.4.4 *Slalom Course flood damage*

All the Scottish slalom courses suffered some flood damage. Some such as Fairnilee, Aberfeldy and Alva the damage was not too severe and easily dealt with, the damage at Grandtully and Seaton Park was quite severe. The tabled report explained the damage at Seaton Park, Grandtully and the actions being taken.

Calum McDiarmid of the SCA slalom committee is in touch with the Hydro Scheme developers. They had hoped to have all major works complete before our events this year. They are aware the events are happening and will liaise with us to allow access to the far bank. It may be that officials for the event are escorted in and out as a group. Certainly coaching and training midweek will all have to be organised from the near bank.

### 7.4.5 *Grandtully Campsite*

There is a lot of work going on at the campsite. Three large oak trees that have become unsafe are being felled. There is also renovation work going on in the toilet block. All this work should be complete before the Easter competitions.

### 7.4.6 *SCA Slalom Committee Minutes*

The SCA Board withheld the SCA slalom committee minutes starting with those for the May 2014 meeting. The Board have agreed in writing that they agreed to these minutes being withheld but as yet have failed to explain why or who initially authorised this to take place.

The minutes have now been put on the website and the only change requested was to withdraw a couple of paddlers names as being in receipt of financial help to be part of the GB teams.

## 7.5 Wales

Winter training is progressing well

Tommy Power has been appointed as a coach and is assisting Richard Lee.



## 7.6 British Canoeing

Report received after the meeting.

### 7.6.1 Programme

The Rio Olympic Team travelled to Brazil in November to embark upon the first of a number of training camps in preparation for the Games. The training camp provided a great opportunity to map out the requirements of the course in Rio and help more accurately inform training cycles and content in the approach to future camps. Logistically an early trip was crucial in providing on the ground reality to planned operations and an insight to overcome challenges for future visits to maintain a conducive performance environment for the athletes.

Whilst in Rio, the team competed in the Olympic Test event. All athletes progressed through to the Final and both David (Gold) and David and Richard (Silver) achieved Podium finishes.

The team plus reserve boats will embark upon their second training camp in March.

In January, Senior Programme athletes attended a two week warm weather camp in Al Ain, UAE. The camp was a strong success with athletes engaging in an intense two weeks of white water technical work.

In light of its proposed removal from the Tokyo Olympic programme the UK Senior programme are currently supporting two C2 crews through this Olympic year. Strategy and resource moving forward will be aligned to the proposed Tokyo 2020 programme of: Canoe Singles – Men/Women, Kayak Singles – Men/Women.

Domestically in February the Home Nations collaborated at Lee Valley on the British Canoeing Development Camp. The camp focused upon competitive athlete integration and the dissemination and sharing of BC projects and what they mean for training within the development pathway across athletes, coaches and practitioners.

Senior Leadership Team

The SLT have been focused upon delivery of the Tokyo 2020 draft plan to UK Sport throughout the winter months. An initial feedback session with UK Sport is planned for late February prior to a final submission.

### 7.6.2 Recognition

British Canoeing would like to acknowledge the retirement of the following two athletes from the sport in 2016:

- Greg Pitt
- Matthew Lister

Both athletes have been very successful through Junior, U23 and Senior ranks both in single and crew boats with their respective partners Adam Burgess and Rhys Davies. On behalf of all at British Canoeing we would like to recognise their contribution to the sport both domestically and on the International scene. We wish them all the very best in their next steps and to their C2 partners who continue to compete in single boats.

## 8 AOB / Correspondence

### 8.1 Slalom Cross

The ICF Slalom Committee circulated proposed rules for a 'slalom cross' event to be run alongside World Cup races in place of team events. The proposals were discussed. The committee awaits developments.

### 8.2 Events for 2017

In response to the perceived demand for Division 2 races on "better" water, the Committee is offering a one-off grant of £500 for clubs to run new Division 2 races on Lee Valley Legacy, Holme Pierrepont, Tees, Tryweryn, Cardiff and similar sites. This will be available for up to 5 competitions in 2017. A final decision on the events to receive the grants will be made at the July Slalom Committee meeting. New competitions that have been applied for by 1st July will be considered at that meeting

This will be published on the Canoe Slalom Web site.



## **9 Future Meeting Dates**

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

- Saturday 23rd April. (Colin and Peter offered apologies. Martyn will take minutes)
- Saturday 9th July
- Saturday 29th October
- Saturday 26th November Annual Consultative Meeting
- Sunday 27th November post ACM.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 15:37 p.m.