



British Canoeing

Slalom Committee

Meeting Minutes

Saturday 9th July 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	[4/4] Chair	Nick Taylor	[3/4] Lower Divisions	Chris Baillie	[4/4] Scotland
Martyn Setchell	[4/4] Vice Chair	Jacky Stokes	[3/4] Marketing & Publicity		
Andy Koszary	[3/4] Treasurer	Peter Curry	[3/4] Safety/Comp Mgmt		
Colin Woodgate	[3/4] Secretary				

Andy Maddock of British Canoeing attended for part of the meeting.

1.2 Apologies

Andy Grudzinsk	i [1/4] Timing/Technical	Matthew McKnight [0/4] CANI		
Jacky Brookes	[2/4] Competition	Mark Abbott	[3/4] Wales	
Hazel Ridge	[3/4] Volunteer	Dave Royle	[2/4] England	

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

3 Chairman's Report

3.1 British Canoeing Strategy:

The English regional consultation meetings are well underway and, by all accounts, have been well attended. They have been an opportunity for individuals from different disciplines and sectors of the sport to share their views and, hopefully, this feedback will be a positive contribution in shaping the overall strategic plan. CEOs of all home nations are actively engaged in developing the strategy alongside the British Canoeing board and this should lead to a coordinated approach across the UK. The aim is to agree a Heads of Agreement to articulate the approach.

Considerable effort has been undertaken to clarify the roles and responsibility of the Board and the relationship with the CEO. In essence, British Canoeing members are shareholders of the company; the Board sets the strategic direction on behalf of the members and charge the CEO with the delivery of the strategy. A revised policy has been created to ensure that the governance of British Canoeing is robust and managed effectively.

Additional consultative meetings are taking place with the discipline committee chairs and this is an opportunity to work more closely across disciplines. We probably have a lot of the same challenges around enthusing volunteers and running competitions and meeting together should be of mutual benefit.

The proposed strategy will run in 4 year cycles starting in 2017 and this aligns with external funding timeframes. Slalom, alongside the other disciplines, will be asked to prepare a 4 year strategic plan and a detail annual action plan that will be reviewed and approved by the Board. This oversight is intended to ensued that the individual plans that feed the overall strategic plan are aligned.

There was a good slalom attendance at the meetings including Dave Bradshaw, Andy Neave, John Sturgess, Dave Spencer and Martyn Setchell (Nottingham) Nick Taylor and Colin Woodgate (Bedford).

3.2 Competition and Events Steering Group (CESG):

The group met on 1st June and reviewed the recommendations from the Competition review to see which ones were relevant. It was decided that there is no need to continue with a separate steering group and for disciplines to fold the recommendations into their individual plans as appropriate.













3.3 Staff Changes

Two new functions have been created; Sports Development Manager (full time) and International Affair Manager (part time).

The Sports Development Manager is tasked with being the interface between British Canoeing and the disciplines. Interviews are underway and I have been part of the interview panel and an appointment will be made by the end of July.

The International Affairs Manager will pick up the work that was carried out by Andy and will be tasked with the promotion of bringing international events to the UK across all disciplines.

AM provided some information on governance/compliance officer post also being introduced, an appointment has been made.

A Head of Marketing and communications has also been appointed.

3.4 Board Appointments

There have been two new independent directors appointed to the board, both with connections to canoeing. One has extensive legal expertise and the other has a career in IT and digital media.

3.5 International Events

The board has asked the committee to outline future UK run International events (Worlds, World Cups & ranking races) that we would want to support and to outline these by 5th September.

The committee would consider all levels of race from world ranking races, through ECA junior cups, ECA Championships, and World Cups. The committee does not have funds to finance such events so they must be self-funded, underwritten by BC centrally.

In order to raise the profile of the sport in the country, the committee would be willing to support more than one event in a year, although only a single 'Championship' event. The approach taken in other countries of a Championship followed a week later by a teen cup, or ranking race.

3.6 Slalom Coaching Review

Notes regarding the coaching conference were circulated soon after the previous meeting.

3.7 Discipline Safeguarding Representatives

Martyn Setchell was identified at the previous meeting as the committee nominee for this role. BC have indicated that Martyn's dual role as Athlete rep and Safeguarding rep would create a conflict, one of the absent members will be approached.

3.8 Production of Promotion Certificates

Peter Curry will review the form to make it easier to apply for the certificate.

4 Secretary's Report/Actions

4.1 Perpetual Prizes / Keepsakes

Ongoing in slow research for keepsakes that are memorable, reproducible year on year and around £10 each, including engraving.

Possible additions to the national prizes were discussed. The following will be sourced:

British Open: K1W U23, C1W Junior

National Ranking Prizes: C1W Under 23, C1M J16, C1W J16, Div 1 C1 W













4.2 National Junior / Vets prizes

In a report of the 2016 championships CB raised the possibility of purchasing some additional prizes, in particular C1M J12, J13 and C1W Vet. There weas only one athlete in the categories proposedIt was agreed not to purchase additional prizes at this time. This will be reviewed if the field increases.

The small salvers presented to those collecting perpetual trophies at the championships at Pinkston and those in 2nd and 3rd positions, where the number of paddlers warranted it, were greatly appreciated by many paddlers and have been commented on in social media and e mails. CB proposed the committee agree to continue funding these salvers which cost about £125 this year. This was agreed, and will include the categories mentioned above. and Llandysul will be asked to make similar arrangements next year

4.3 Interclubs Rules

This will be carried forward as Andy Grudzinski was not present.

4.4 Slalom Cross

4.5 Linton Locks Development

The committee have become aware of the new developments around Linton Locks, and expressed their thanks to all involved for what seems like an excellent scheme.

4.6 Athlete Federation Membership

An entry has been received from a French paddler who would like to attend the event at Grandtully in August. The organisers propose to determine the ability of the paddler by checking at what level he paddles in his own country, and by observing practice on the water.

The SCA Board have been considering the issue of insurance of paddlers from other than the UK paddling in Scotland since the Scottish Champs last October. It is understood that anyone residing outside of the UK is not covered by BC insurance policy and therefore BC/SCA day membership does not cover overseas paddlers. They will therefore need to have their own third party / civil liability insurance cover to be allowed to race.

It is possible that their NGB will provide such cover, but BC/SCA will need to be assured that this is the case and that the paddler is a current member.

Clarification of the insurance position for those organising events, competing at races, and competing at races organised by a club needs clarification. The current information is not clear. Part of this review will include a review of the provision of third party cover for people at division 4 level, and for officials when competing. The insurance cover for internationals competing (or training) will also be investigated.PC

4.7 ACM Motions

4.7.1 Ranking of new C2 crews

Rule B2.3 page 45 and Rule B2.4.2 page 46 differ on the ranking for a new C2 Crew that contains two paddlers who are ranked in division 3. In order to resolve this, Rule B2.4.2 will be deleted.

4.7.2 Entry Opening Dates

Many organisers are finding it somewhat frustrating how early entries are arriving for races, and the concomitant high level of withdrawals. It is noted that for the HPP Premier event in September the organiser has stated that they will not accept entries before April.

A suggestion to introduce a date before which entries will not be accepted was discussed. There were concerns over the issues surrounding the introduction of on line entries and with the randomness introduced by varying postal speeds. There will be no change proposed by the committee this year.

5 Finance

5.1 Report

The accounts to 30 June were circulated. Major points identified included:













- No BC Competition Grant received so far.
- Currently showing a small deficit of f3.6k for the 8 months to June.
- Forecast on Page 3 indicates a full year surplus of £0.9k, but is subject to:
 - o Timing of TUTTI replacement.
 - o Review of costs of SJ / TT at International Events.
 - Review of Marketing & Publicity spend for the year.

British Canoeing will be approached with a request to fund the support for international events.

5.2 Support for ICF Exams

It was agreed to support a candidate to go to Krakow to take their ICF Judging exam, and to the individual helping to run the event.

6 Co-ordinators' Actions

6.1 Athlete Representative

6.1.1 Pinkston

Attended Pinkston div 1. We had agreed the course could be shortened prior to the event to provide a better paddler experience. It did, quite a tight start which opened out and no slog at the finish. In the end the times were about the same as a top premier time at LV. Well done to the team.

6.1.2 Consultation meeting at HPP

Attended the consultation meeting at HPP with David Joy and his Team. From Slalom Dave Bradshaw, Andy Neave, John Sturgess & Dave Spencer were also in attendance. We spread out to different tables during the workshops to cover the various topics. There was an opportunity express the positives of your sport and items which need addressing due to the evolution of the athletes and volunteers.

I joined the pathway group and a common theme across disciplines was access to enjoy the sport and volunteers getting older and the worry of replacements. The actual pathway for young athletes to enjoy, sustain & progress ability took on a wider diversification, as discussions continued and developed beyond young athletes to more mature athletes improving their ability and the satisfaction of gaining the enhanced skills.

I was inspired by the enthusiasm around the table and hope the feedback to the team was useful and will assist the understanding of our needs as athletes and volunteers.

6.1.3 International Panel

Continue to liaise with the panel to support all athletes in the UK.

6.1.4 Water access at centres

Access at centres continues to be a topic of conversation with each site having different challenges. There are various parties looking at how access for slalom can be made available and for certain one glove does not fit all.

6.1.5 Gates & Poles

David Dickson has made gates for various sites and has currently making a type 2 with coloured sleeves which look very durable and float. The cost is very reasonable, if you are interested for your site please contact him.

6.2 Competition

No Report

6.2.1 *2017 ITO nominations*

British Canoeing has requested that all 2017 nominations are made by 1st August, so that they can be reviewed by the board before submission to the ICF Slalom Committee. The BC Board require the Slalom Committee to approve the nominations before submission.













Those qualified officials, that have (or are expected to) have been sufficiently active in 2016 have been asked which events they wish to be nominated for. MS and CW will review the proposals and send a covering note for the information of the ICF slalom committee. This committee approved the process and the nomination of all such individuals.

Nomination for ICF technical committee was also approved unanimously.

6.2.2 ICF Cards (CDW)

6.3 Competition Management

6.3.1 Competition Issues

There continue to be issues with oversubscription of races particularly at Division 1. It was noted that this is only certain races and is not such that athletes are getting excluded from opportunities to progress with a significant number of races not getting to this point.

There are organisers who are continuing to adopt non 'standard' practices re cashing cheques, verifying identity, association membership etc. which while are sometimes within the rules continue to cause angst and upset. The committee needs to review whether it wishes to take advice to organisers further and make more definitive its expectation of good practice. No action was agreed on this point and the situation will continue to be monitored as it only involves a small number of races

6.3.2 Risk Management

The vast majority of race organisers are engaging with the requirement to produce Risk Management / Safety plans and are doing so. We have now had races where no such plan has been provided to the committee. There are some who continue to actively complain and others that are simply recycling plans from other races or organisations sometimes without even bothering to change the details.

On the positive side the majority have engaged with the process and have had appropriate and reasonable plans considered and in place. This often has involved more than one iteration. We have even had one thanks from an organiser who had been asked as part of their plan to include consideration of cancellation and who then needed to use it!!!

Hopefully next year will be a lot less stressful with a better foundation. PC noted that he is available to assist if there are problems in developing assessments. It was confirmed that clubs not supplying a safety plan for 2017 will not appear in the year book. This will be published on the chat line, and web site.

PC noted his great thanks to Mark Abbott who stood in for him in his absence.

Scotland continues to operate a separate parallel system, requiring Scottish organisers to get approval from two locations.

6.4 Managed Calendar

6.4.1 *2016 British Open*

There will be polo, rafting, freestyle, boat a cross, the British Open and a division 2 race on the Sunday are all planned to be held over the weekend. There will be challenges relating to parking fro the weekend that are being addressed.

Discussions over the availability of training slots are underway.

Volunteers for sports presentation should contact Andy Maddock.

6.4.2 *2017 British Open*

It was confirmed that the 2017 British Open will be held on the weekend of 16th and 17th September. The format of the weekend will be reviewed depending on the success of 2016, but will again be a multi discipline weekend.













6.4.3 Llandysul Premier

6.4.4 Calendar application dates

6.5 Lower Divisions Feed Back

Feedback is continued to be gathered, some feedback has been:

- Div 4 membership insurance etc can BC cover from above?
- Too easy to get promoted to 3
- 3 is then too expensive
- The terms Event safety & event organiser are being confused
- TID etc schemes are opaque & intimidating
- Judging- restriction on paddler in ranking event not being permitted to compete in judges event is reducing our judges pool. Maybe relax for 3&4
- Chief judge etc heavy for 3&4

6.6 Marketing & Publicity

Emailed a load of small clubs in the south to understand where the marketing help can be targeted. The responses will be tracked for reporting

A welcome pack will be developed.

6.7 Strategy & Planning

6.7.1 Paddle Up Proposals

The Working Party have produced a set of draft proposals. These were discussed, at length.

Clarification of terms:

Double Event: A double event is a weekend where there are two separate races, one on each day of the over weekend.

Single Event: A competition where a single race is held for a division on a single day event.

Double division event: A double division race is a where there are two divisions racing on the same day.

6.7.2 Online Entry System

Most of the online entry systems that have been investigated are not suitable for slalom. There are also some volunteer systems being developed. Any such system raises a number of co-ordination, resilience and governance issues that need to be addressed before global adoption. Any such system would need to deal with all levels of event from Premier to a division 4 event with no Wi-Fi.

We have been approached by a commercial supplier who is interested in exploring the options relating to provision on line entry system for all events across all divisions. Issues relating to ownership of the system and the data. A free study has been offered in order to understand the requirement if a brief can be produced for this exercise. This would be applicable to any system regardless of the source.

A brief will be developed with paddlers and parents who have industry / procurement experience........DS

There are initiatives within British Canoeing to move to a single UK wide database, rather than the current separate systems per Federation, this will take priority over any central BC Online entry system.













6.8 Technical Support

6.8.1 TUTTI Replacement

Andy Grudzinski recorded thanks to Andy Hounslow and the organisers who have been assisting with the maintenance during the season. The committee wholeheartedly endorsed the thanks.

6.8.2 *Canoe123*

6.8.3 Missing TUTTI Kit

A part of the TUTTI communications equipment was missing after an event in 2015. The club involved searched their club house, then took some time to complete a search of the other possible locations, including an on-site store, and a caravan stored in a remote, secure location. The time involved in checking all these locations took time, giving the impression of lack of communication, whereas the club felt it was being thorough.

Clubs are reminded that the cost of replacing parts of TUTTI – where even possible – and its future replacement are not insignificant. By way of example, a headset box will cost in excess of £100. Please can all organisers and users of the TUTTI equipment (i) check the kit on receipt and report any issues as soon as possible, (ii) check all equipment is packed away at the end of each event, and (iii) report any issues noted in the use of the equipment as soon as possible to allow for alternative / replacements to be provided for the next club. Thank you to all clubs, organisers and users for their assistance with this.

6.9 Volunteers

Nick published a little piece on the canoe slalom page re volunteering with a link to the British Canoeing awards and is to repeat.

And prior to Lynne's departure from British Canoeing also included a piece on the British Canoeing Facebook main page and volunteers link thanking current and previous volunteers for their contributions and inviting more to get in touch (and similarly including the awards link).

I am continuing to contact clubs to make them aware of volunteer awards to get nominations forwarded and forwarding link to British Canoeing awards and recognition page.

Similarly, a link to the details has been set up on the canoe wales website and have been similarly linking in through Facebook & Twitter.

Have also been in touch with various county councils to find volunteer recognition schemes and am trying to tie in available awards to clubs for them to be able to gain recognition for volunteers on a more local level.

Chris Baillie kindly forwarded details of the SCA volunteer page, if anyone else has any similar links that can be used contact or forward to clubs Please supply them to Hazel.

7 Home Nations

7.1 Pan Celtic

Rules for running Pan Celtic will be carried forward.

CB will draft a note regarding entries to the Tees Premier and Pan Celtic race. Paddle up must not take priority over ranking or Pan Celtic teams members.













7.2 CANI

7.2.1 Performance Pathway

Over the past 6 months CANI have been reviewing and updating all documents relating to our performance pathway.

7.2.2 Performance Squads

The CANI Slalom Programme is preparing to head to Augsburg for a week long training camp in July. This together with weekly and monthly training sessions has dramatically increased the contact time with coaches.

7.3 England

Nothing much to report except payments now agreed for Junior athletes

Looking to do another grant cycle shortly.

England Team will have the opportunity of bulk purchase discount on Team kit from Peak.

7.4 Scotland

7.4.1 Grandtully Slalom Site

Calum McDiarmid, with technical help from Gary Gibson, is in discussion with the Hydro Electric construction company re the installation of stanchions to facilitate the hanging of gates over the section of water at the outflow from the hydro scheme.

BBC 2 Scotland programme the Adventure Show featuring the Grandtully Premier race in March was broadcast in June and was well received, positive feedback from slalom paddlers and non canoeists.

Wi-Fi is being extended in the campsite, with a more powerful router installed to provide better coverage.

7.4.2 European training camps.

More than 40 paddlers, from all over Scotland, are heading for volunteer run training camps in France. Lead by Jane and Gary Gibson, assisted by other volunteer coaches. The first week will be spent in St Pierre de Boeuf and the second week, for a smaller group in Bourg. Transport is being provided by parents.

On the Performance side three U23 paddlers have been in Slovakia and Poland to train and race in Bratislava and Kraków. Five J18 paddlers will be racing in the ECA junior cups in Kraków and Bratislava.

7.4.3 Seaton Park div 3/4 slalom

Seaton park Slalom will be held on 11/12 September, following agreement from other events that weekend. Aberdeen City Council who own the park have agreed, and discussions continue about the hung tree. GB veteran and Junior16 Championship trophies.

7.4.4 SCA Consultation

There have been consultation meetings regarding the 4 year plan (2017-2021).

7.5 Wales

Paddlesport within Wales is developing well with a considerable amount of effort still taking place with the development of Sprint and Slalom within schools.

Recently the GEMI Cymru Schools event has taken place at Cardiff White Water Centre with schools from across Wales participating in various events.

Welsh paddlers have been out attending training camps and competitions at venues in Europe since June.

Events attended include Bratislava, Solkan, Flattach and Augsberg. Several paddlers have made podiums in their age groups during the competitions attended. The summer is ending with a training camp in Bourg St Maurice at the end of July which is open to all division 1 and Premier paddlers.

Throughout the year regular training camps have been continuing with the division 2 paddlers receiving regular coaching at a variety of venues.

Regular divisional races are running throughout the summer with the aim of running a division 3 / 4 event every month. Sadly, the event at Bala Mill had to be postponed, but we are still looking to have the event re-scheduled.













Discussions are already taking place regarding the prizes at Welsh competitions next year including the GB Junior and veteran championships.

7.6 British Canoeing

7.6.1 Competition

The Senior Team have now completed the first half of the International season following the Europeans and World Cups 1-3.

The Europeans witnessed success for Mallory Franklin as she won Bronze in the C1W event and then alongside Eilidh Gibson and Kimberley Woods claimed Gold in the C1W Team. Britain claimed both Women's team titles with Fiona Pennie, Lizzie Neave and Kimberley Woods producing a fine performance early on to take Gold.

Across the first three World Cups there was further success for Great Britain's C1W. With Jasmine Royle joining the Europeans Team due to GB's four boat quota the girls made history with all four making the final in Ivrea. This feat was followed up with a Silver and Bronze medal for Mallory Franklin and Kimberley Woods respectively in a fierce battle with Jess Fox for medals with just 0.9sec separating the Podium.

Franklin and Woods continued the series in consistent form and Mallory produced a fine display at World Cup 3 to take Gold and lead the World Cup standings from her team mate Kimberley Woods with two races remaining. Jasmine Royle is also currently ranked in the top 10 in 8th place.

In the Men's K1 class our Olympic boat Joe Clarke showed strong early season form to final at the Europeans, his third final in as many years at this event. His teammate Bradley Forbes-Cryans secured his first Senior Final with an excellent 8th place at World Cup 1.

Following a tough battle with injury Lizzie Neave started the season in great shape with a 5th place at World Cup 1 reinforced by an excellent 4th at World Cup 3 in Pau. Lizzie is currently ranked 6th in the overall World Cup Standings.

Adam Burgess demonstrated his continued progress with a very strong World Cup series with back to back finals in Seu and Pau outlining his consistency. Adam is currently ranked 5th in the World Cup standings. David Florence chose the Seu World Cup as preparation for his Olympic Games lead in and performed very strongly winning the Semi Final and going on to finish in 6th a 2 second penalty away from the podium. In C2 Florence/Hounslow showed strong speed delivering the second fastest time in finals with one penalty pushing them narrowly off the podium in 4th.

The Olympic Team are currently in the final stages of their last training camp prior to competition. Great care and attention has been put on planning to ensure the athletes experience the best possible environment for training and preparations for the Olympics are coming together well.

Our Junior and U23 Worlds Team have recently completed a successful preparation camp to Krakow and are currently there for the World Championships starting Tuesday 12th July.

There has been a wealth of overseas activity in competition and training across the Home Nation programmes as the legacy from London 2012 continues to help our sport and programmes thrive.

7.6.2 *Programme*

Talent Programmes

British Canoeing have launched Talent Top Club framework via Canoe Focus online after 2 successful pilot assessments. Work continues to develop all aspects of the programme, alongside the provision of a website based resource that will host relevant club information and development material.

Athlete profiling continues to be an integral part of Talent programme provision, providing evidence based reports for all athletes on RTA, SRS and ENTS squads, helping to inform training programmes moving forward into the summer. Alongside the RTA athlete profiling day a club coach development workshop was run supporting attending coaches/parents and providing a bespoke content for each individual. It is hoped to continue this and expand at subsequent profiling events.

7.6.3 Lee Valley

Water usage agreement now agreed, this secures access on current terms for a further 4 years. Some changes have been negotiated including access to the training rate for events subject to achieving agreed KPI's and looking to offer other canoeing disciplines space on weekend water.













7.6.4 Holme Pierrepont

Negotiations regarding water use have started and are generally heading in a positive direction.

7.6.5 **Recognition**

British Canoeing would like to acknowledge and thank all the British Judges and officials who have attended Internationals so far this season. Their hard work, passion for the sport and quality if service is greatly appreciated.

8 AOB / Correspondence

8.1 Entry Cards

8.2 Encouraging Division 2 events

The will be extended deadline for division 2 grants will be extended along with the extended deadline for application.

9 Future Meeting Dates

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

- 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 18:00 p.m.







