



# British Canoeing

## Slalom Committee

### Meeting Minutes

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

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



## 1 Present

### 1.1 In Person

Dave Spencer	[5/6] Chair	Steve Linksted	[3/6] Divisional Development	Richard Ramsdale	[3/6] British Canoeing
Andy Koszary	[5/6] Treasurer	Nick Taylor	[4/6] Lower Divisions	Les Ford	[3/6] England
Martyn Setchell	[4/6] Vice Chair / Athlete Rep	Peter Curry	[6/6] Safety/Comp Mgmt	Chris Baillie	[4/6] Scotland
		Andy Grudzinski	[5/6] Technical / Timing	Mark Abbott	[6/6] Wales
Colin Woodgate	[5/6] Secretary				

**Also Present:**

### 1.2 Apologies

Jacky Stokes	[1/6] Marketing & Publicity	Vacant	CANI
Hazel Ridge	[4/6] Volunteer		

**Also offering Apologies**

Anna Gray - British Canoeing Sport Development Manager

### 1.3 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all participants, thanking them for attending after the long day on the riverbank at the event, and noted the apologies.

A minute silence was held in memory of Jim Croft, who passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Jim put a lot of time and effort into canoe slalom over very many years.

Thanks were expressed to Mandy Delaney for her help in the meeting arrangements.

## 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

## 3 ACM Preparation

The Draft Agenda for the ACM was circulated. The order of business was agreed, and committee motions discussed and finalised.

Reports must be provided to the Secretary by 11<sup>th</sup> November..... **All**

## 4 Chair's Report (tabled in advance)

### 4.1 Digital Strategy

British Canoeing have appointed a new Head of Digital, Barry Wade. Barry has held a similar position with British Swimming and he joins in early November. British Canoeing have selected a replacement membership and database system, 'Go Membership' from 'Azolve' which is the same system that is used by the SCA. It is hoped that we can now move quickly to have accesses to live membership data across all Home Nations which will be helpful to both Bib Officers and Organisers to ensure that paddler's membership is current when they compete.

### 4.2 British Canoeing Committees

It has been agreed that alongside the English Council the Discipline Chairs Group and Regional Chairs Groups will become official British Canoeing Committees and this will be presented to the Board for ratification. The two new committees differ in the sense that the Regional Chairs Group represent the English Regions whilst the Discipline Chairs Group have a UK wide responsibility that involves all Home Nations and by inference should derive its mandate through the Federal Agreement. The Federal Agreement is currently being reviewed to bring it up-to-date and all disciplines should input into this process.



### 4.3 English Council

The English Council met on 21st October and discussed the following topics:

- Board and Executive Update
- Membership and Digital Strategy
- Coaching Update
- UK Agreement update on discussions
- The purpose and future structure of English Council, RDT Chairs Group and Disciplines Chairs Group and developing Terms of Reference for each
- Interworking between Disciplines, Regions and Coaching
- AGM and Conference weekend

The minutes will be posted on the committee pages when they have been published.

### 4.4 British Open

The British Open was well attended with 230 paddlers as well as around 100 paddlers attending the Div2/Open on Sunday. Additionally Rafting, Freestyle and BoaterX events also took place as well as GoCanoeing sessions on the Lake. It was good to see both the Chief Exec and Chairman of the Board attending over the weekend and thank you to John Coyne for presenting the prizes to both British Open and Div2 winners at a joint ceremony.

CDW reported that the rules surrounding World Ranking events had been simplified at an ICF committee meeting and ICF board meeting during the World Championships in Pau. Subject to ratification at the next ICF congress, all entries to a World Ranking points event are eligible to earn ranking points, and there is no requirement for nominated paddlers to be artificially promoted to later phases.

Under this regime it was agreed that the 2018 British Open will also be a World Ranking points event.

There was a discussion (initiated by a question from ICF) as to whether an Extreme Canoe Slalom should be run alongside the British Open next year. Whilst this would give some expertise in running these events before the 2019 World Cup, it was decided that the current proposals for 'Boater Cross' will be retained, but run to ICF rules.

### 4.5 Four Year Plan

DS attended the Interclubs on Saturday and took the opportunity to talk to attendees individually to ask their opinion of the current state of Slalom and areas that should be considered moving forward. This was a very useful exercise and will help inform an initial draft of the plan which, it is hoped, will be published for comment and review in the next few months. .... **AG / DS**

### 4.6 Safety Strategy

Ongoing. The Slalom organiser pack has been shared with British Canoeing and there is a desire to establish a common approach across all disciplines. Part of that exercise will be to clarify the overall strategy with respect to safety management.

### 4.7 Technical Coaching Awards

The rollout of the new awards has been delayed due to staff changes; Scott Simon has been appointed Paralympic Head Coach and Richard Lee has left Canoe Wales. Richard held the chair of Technical Coaching Group Chairs and Mike Chandler will cover the meeting on November 13th pending the appointment of a new chair. Course providers have been identified and over the next couple of months each will have an individual action plan ready for 2018

There is a proposal to run 1 day or an evening, bespoke course for existing coaches. Possibly the day after the ACM, as people may be in the Nottingham area. There is little appetite for a meeting the day after the ACM, however, the inclusion of a discussion topic at the ACM would be useful to update clubs on the current position. Andy will ask Mike Chandler if he would be attend if a slot at the ACM is made available. Course providers have been identified and each will have an individual action plan.....**AN**



## 5 Secretary's Report

### 5.1 Historic Winners

A list of historic international (and national) winners is being developed. Work in progress was shown at the meeting.....CDW

### 5.2 ICF and ECA Rule changes.

British Canoe Slalom does not wish to propose any changes for the ICF and ECA congresses, but asks British Canoeing to support the ratification of the change above.

### 5.3 Mementos for Veterans Championships

It was agreed that the committee would contribute towards permanent mementos provided to the junior / Veterans' championship winners.

## 6 Finance

### 6.1 Accounts

The accounts cover the eleven months ended 30 September 2017 and show a surplus of income over expenditure of £2,864. The accounts are unaudited. The following notes should be read in conjunction with the accounts.

#### 6.1.1 *British Canoeing Competition Grant*

The Accounts assumes that no grant from British Canoeing will be received for the current year.

#### 6.1.2 *Slalom Levies*

The gross levies of £38,122 for the period to September, compares with £38,343 for the same period last year. The forecast for the full year is £45,000, which is £3,000 below budget.

#### 6.1.3 *CESC*

The cash balance held in our accounts, due to the Canoe England Slalom Committee (CESC) was £16,609.

#### 6.1.4 *British Open*

The accounts for the September race are currently showing a surplus of £1,160. This is after allowing some support towards the water costs for Div. 2 race on the Legacy course, held on the same weekend.

#### 6.1.5 *Debtors*

Progress has been made in recovering the small number of items of unpaid levies and advertising invoices remaining from 2016 & 2017.

#### 6.1.6 *2017/18 Forecast and 2018/19 Budget*

Based on the actuals to September, the forecast result for the full year is currently a surplus of around £4,000, compared with the budgeted deficit of £3,000. A draft budget for the year ending 31 October 2018 has been prepared. This shows a small deficit of £1,400.

## 7 Co Ordinator Reports

Due to the reduced time for the meeting, and the ACM in less than a month, only actions / urgent items were discussed. Each Co Ordinator will produce a report for the ACM which will contain the information usually presented and discussed here.

## 8 Athlete Representative

No Urgent Items

## 9 Divisional Development

No Urgent Items



## 10 Lower Divisions

No Urgent Items

## 11 Marketing & Publicity

No Urgent Items

## 12 Safety/Competition Management

### 12.1 Equipment Safety Standards

Safety Standards will continue to be randomly, visually spot checked with extension to helmets and buoyancy aids.

The bib application form will be extended to include confirmation of, and acceptance of, the safety requirements. ....**DS**

The costs and logistical difficulties on purchasing a BA test cage were too high to be a sensible purchase, especially with the UK rules requiring a BA suitable for the body weight so a single cage would not be correct.

### 12.2 Safety Plans.

Some events have safety professionals as part of the organisation but who have not been to a British Canoeing seminar. BC will be approached to agree that some other qualifications are acceptable. ....**DS**

## 13 Timing/Technical

Ongoing discussions with British Canoeing regarding various issues from recent events.

## 14 Volunteer

As the 2017 competition year draws to a close I would like to take the opportunity once again to say THANK YOU to those of you who have given up your time to assist in ANY way to organize, run, clear up or ‘all of the above’ at any of our Canoe Slalom events this past year. These events simply could not happen without you. So, “THANK YOU” most sincerely. It has been wonderful to see new faces in 2017 joining the very capable team that we already have in the UK organising training events and races for the good of all.

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A VOLUNTEER run sport in the main, so paddlers please do remember to say thank you and show your appreciation to those that have given up their time to allow you to do what you love.

If you know anyone who would like to get involved, or if you would like to do more yourself next year, please do get in touch. Many hands make light work! You will get to know your fellow paddlers and supporters and if you’re unsure of anything... there are plenty of people around to support you and build up your confidence! We plan to organize more judging examinations, potentially through the winter period, and are always glad of helpers in timing too, when the season restarts in the spring. I look forward to hearing from you.

The committee was reminded that they should complete the online safeguarding course ..... **All**

## 15 Home Nations / British Canoeing

### 15.1 England (Report tabled in advance)

Plans are in place for winter training slots at Lee Valley to support English Athletes preparing for 2018 selection races. Nick Maingay is managing these and currently taking applications from English paddlers qualifying for selection and interested in attending session

England was successful at the last three events in the Pan Celtic Cup, thus winning the overall competition. We are looking at the options for which events could host the English legs of the event in 2018. After many email and even denials of their existence we have now tracked down both the English leg trophy and the Pan Celtic Cup itself (both with Ken Trollope). Unfortunately this was too late to get them to the final leg at Tees, but at least we know where they are and will have then for next year!



England Committee – I am working on arranging an England ACM probably around the Slalom ACM to appoint officers for the coming year and encourage greater engagement from English clubs and regions. Unfortunately, as I suspected when I took on the role of Chair, I am struggling to find time to do anything for the England Committee. So I am intending to stand down from the role when we have our ACM.

## 15.2 Scotland (Report tabled in advance)

### 15.2.1 *SCA Slalom committee*

A new process for committee nomination forms was introduced by SCA this year. The nomination forms were to be completed and returned to SCA for approval by the SCA Board before the closing date in September. Four nominations were received and are currently with the directors' appointments committee for approval. Elaine Forbes has stood down and there are now no chairperson or secretary.

The ACM was well attended, and Tony Leaver appealed for others to volunteer for the committee but no one came forward.

The proposed 2017 slalom committee will comprise of the following: Bill Gerrie, Tony Leaver, Gary Gibson and Craig Douglas.

### 15.2.2 *SCA Performance Squad*

The SCA squad for 2017-2018 has been announced.

There are 2 part time technical coaches, Stuart Gerrie and Ben MacDonald. Additional expertise from a senior coach will be deployed on training camps and key races such as selection.

Apart from David Florence and Fiona Pennie on GB Podium, and Eilidh Gibson, Bradley Forbes Cryans, Angus Gibson and Sophie Ogilvie on GB Podium Potential, there are 10 paddlers in the SCA Performance group.

## 15.3 Northern Ireland

No Urgent Items

## 15.4 Wales (Report tabled in advance)

### 15.4.1 *Current Position*

Following the Division 1 race at Llandysul the ACM for the Canoe Wales Slalom Committee took place. All members of the committee for re-election were re-elected. Work is taking place to recruit new members from newly formed clubs.

Richard Lee is standing down as Performance Manager later this year. Advertisements have been placed to find replacements as the role has been split into two part-time positions.

Paddlesport within Wales is developing well with the Talent Pathway program. At present 14+ paddlers are on the program

Within the ranking divisions Welsh paddlers account for 27 Premier Paddlers (10% of UK), 29 Division 1 (10% of UK), 57 Division 2 (15% of UK) and 38 Division 3 (13% of UK).

During the year a number of Welsh paddlers have been promoted with Division 1 to Premier: 3; Division 2 to 1: 10; Division 3 to 2: 25; Division 4 to 3: 50

### 15.4.2 *Performance pathway*

19 paddlers have recorded performances at Premier / Selection races that meet UK performance %.

27 paddlers are ranked in Premier division, from 230 in UK (10%)

Ciaran Lee Edwards, Gabi Ridge, Tom Abbott, Megan Hamer Evans selected for GB senior World cup team.

Gabi Ridge, Megan Hamer Evans and Tom Abbott selected for the GB under 23 championship teams. James Cooper selected as reserve.

Megan Hamer Evans and Etienne Chappell selected for GB junior championship teams.

Gabi Ridge and Tom Abbott – silver medallists at the World under 23 slalom team championships.

Megan Hamer Evans and Tom Abbott – finalists at the European and World under 23 / 18 championships.



Etienne Chappell – finalist at the European under 18 championships.

During the summer the Wales team also attended ECA cup races at Flattach (1 podium), Augsburg (1 podium), Krakow (1 podium, 4 x 4th places), Ceske Budejovice (5 podiums) and Bratislava (1 podium). Attended Mezzana International (6 finals, 2 podiums)

The Welsh Championships this year were split across two venues - Bala Mill and Llandysul. Work is taking place to identify missing trophies and to add new trophies.

Winter training plans are being developed and squads selected. Names will be finalised shortly, and paddlers invited to attend training camps during November and throughout the winter.

Investment is required with the timing system over the Winter due to failures of headset boxes and headsets. Tests have taken place with the new proposed system for use at lower division races. Feedback has been provided.

### **15.5 British Canoeing Performance**

No Urgent Items, report for ACM already received

### **16 2016/2017 Meetings**

- Saturday 25th November Annual Consultative Meeting
- Sunday 26th November post ACM Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 22:02.