



# British Canoeing

## Slalom Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

**Stronger Together**

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	Andy Neave [2 / 2] Coaching	Chris Baillie [2 / 2] Scotland
	Dee Lindesay [2 / 2] Digital Strategy / Data	Dave Spencer [2 / 2] England
Martyn Setchell [2 / 2]	Vice Chair	Karen Crowhurst [2 / 2] Participation
	Athlete Rep	Peter Curry [2 / 2] Safety / Comp Mgmt.
Colin Woodgate [2 / 2] Secretary	Steve Linksted [2 / 2] Strategy	Mark Abbott [2 / 2] Wales
	Andy Grudzinski [2 / 2] Technical / Timing	Richard Ramsdale [1 / 2] British Canoeing

Also Present:

### 1.2 Apologies

Hazel Ridge [1 / 2] Treasurer
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Kiran Dews [0 / 2] CANI
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Anna Gray, British Canoeing Sports Development Manager

## 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Declaration of Interest forms have been circulated. These must be returned before the next meeting  
 ..... **Action All**

## 3 Yearbooks

### 3.1 Packing

Yearbooks have been packed and posted on Wednesday the previous week. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers who gave up time to do the packing.

Just over 120 division 4 paddlers have not applied for a bib, and we have no address for them. Addresses will be collected when applying for a promotion certificate as well as when applying for a bib to reduce this number for the next season.

Rule 19.7.7 asks for the cards for promoted division 4 entries to be sent to ranking officers. It was agreed that as there are so few cards with addresses this will be discontinued for the rest of this season.

### 3.2 Usage of yearbook sections (180127 / 5.10.2, DL / DS)

**Important dates:** Remove Bold.

**Slalom Committee Officials.** An opt in for address / phone / email address will be circulated before the next yearbook is produced.

**Slalom Coach Award:** Add dates if available, expand to an education section including coaching, judging, officiating etc. The possibility of associated e-learning will be taken up with Lee Pooley ..... **Action AG**

**Slalom Safety:** There are divergences on child protection between SCA and British Canoeing, in the same way that there are differences in the laws.

**Winners:** Only list current winners, with a reference to previous winners online.

**Judge Qualification and List of Judges:** to be removed and put on line.

Edge marking is helpful in finding the relevant sections, so the order of sections is not currently planned to change.

The committee was split on the publishing of the selection policy in detail or summary. This will be discussed outside the meeting.....**Action DS / CDW / MS**

Other discipline's yearbooks will be reviewed to understand the detail and information included.  
 .....**Action DS**



### 3.3 Rule v Organisers Handbook

There is overlap and differences between the handbook and the rule book. These will be reviewed to reduce duplication and make the handbook more usable. .... **Action SL**

A survey of the use of the Organisers handbook will be undertaken during the season. The intention is to review the results and make the handbook more usable and provide some training / support. To be discussed at the August meeting..... **Action SL**

Where the contents of the organisers pack have changed this will be highlighted in a summary document.

*Martyn Setchell left the meeting at this point)*

### 3.4 Chief Judge Role

The responsibilities of the Chief Judge, particularly at lower levels was discussed. The requirement to appoint the Chief Judge in advance of the competition will be stressed in the automated emails from the online system, and in separate emails for those not online..... **Action DL / AG**

The standard emails will be sent to the committee for information ..... **Action DL**

### 3.5 ICF Rule Fine Tuning

The ICF have almost finalised the wording for the ICF rules, CDW will review the final ICF rules against the copy that were incorporated in the UK rules. Changes will be included in the 2020 rules.

..... **Action CDW**

## 4 Chair's Report

### 4.1 British Canoeing Future Leaders Scheme modules (180804 / 4.6)

Suitable projects need to be reasonably well defined, rather than open ended. Some projects have been identified and is being progressed within the Scheme.

The use / presentation of some of the modules to the slalom community will be progressed..... **Action SL**

### 4.2 Contingency Planning

Several structural risks have been identified by the British Canoeing Board. Including systems and data run by, and for, discipline committees by volunteers. A list of the affected systems, individuals and the status will be produced. These risks will be reviewed and approaches to manage the risks will be jointly developed.

..... **Action DS**

### 4.3 Managed Calendar

After much deliberation, Dee has now started work on the managed calendar:

- All applications will be made online, this should apply even for those not using online entries.
- During the initial application process, competitions already applied for will be visible to everyone as provisional competitions on the calendar. The intent is that this will make it easier for clubs to co-ordinate and avoid clashing.
- Blocking out dates / divisions in the calendar to prevent applications where needed
- Applications after the divisional closing date will be permitted but highlighted in red.
- At time of application the aim is to collect as much of the details as possible, hopefully reducing the stress of collecting it after the ACM.
- Clubs will still have the opportunity to update “the detail” online after the ACM up until an agreed date after which everything becomes fixed.
- Appropriate output will be provided: pdf for ACM, yearbook output, and feed for the database that supports canoeslalom.co.uk, canoeslalomentries.co.uk where online entries are being used.

Not everything is going to be there from day 1, the intention is to get the basic set-up out there in time to start taking the applications and then add in the rest when available.

Division 1 / Premier applications will be taken on paper and uploaded when available. Selection dates are hoped to be finalised at the next IP meeting.



A separate activity is underway to encourage competitions to run together better taking into account clashes between competitions, paddler pathways and geographic spread.....**Action DS / SL**

## 5 Secretary's Report

### 5.1 Paddler Representative Election

There were no nominations received. The nominations for the post will be reopened and spread more widely. Including:

- British Canoeing Web site
- Canoeslalom.co.uk
- Facebook
- Discussion board
- With the minutes of the meeting.

Nominations will be open until 17<sup>th</sup> February. ....**Action CDW**

### 5.2 Automated Bib Application system

A volunteer has come forward to review the opportunity to automate the process of applying for bibs. This will start with documenting the current process, and the requirements from each user group (athletes, ranking officers, ranking status officers)..... **Action MA**

### 5.3 Ed Ecclestone Award

The award will be presented privately in the next few weeks.

### 5.4 Email Addresses

There are two options for committee email addresses: A full British Canoeing Google identity with central storage, calendar and email, or a forwarding email address. The former currently costs £4.40 a month, the later is free. It was agreed that it is sensible to have central storage for Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Coaching.

A full British Canoeing email account will be set up for the Paddler Rep, and Safety.....**Action CDW**.

### 5.5 ACM

Peter Curry will take the minutes for the meeting. Karen will manage registration and vote issue. CDW will do the preparation work.

Arrangements for the awarding of the 2019 National Prize need to be confirmed. This year the Tees is not relevant, there is no annual diner, and the British Open is not at the end of the season.

### 5.6 Interclubs

Stafford & Stone reported that they had not had feedback from the Slalom Committee on this issue since the first 'holding' email. Further feedback will be sent to the club .....**Action CDW**

The Interclubs safety plan will need to include these risks before the competition is allowed to progress. ....**Action PC**

## 6 Finance

### 6.1 Budget / Handover

There has been very little movement on the account since the published accounts of the ACM in November 2018.

Andy Koszary and I met in Abergavenny to hand over the slalom accounts on January 5th following which the treasurers email has now been transferred to me and bank pin arrived in week also. Andy has kindly dealt with outstanding payment / accounting matters in the interim.

I understand that Susan just needs to set up my payment limits so that I can issue payments and get up to speed so to speak. I have picked up a few items to pay that had come through to the treasurer email, such as year book invoice, so will have a chat to you tomorrow to sort those.



Andy has been unable to locate the accounting disk but I have managed to upload from the link he forwarded, so hope all will be OK. Will update after

## 6.2 Levy Distribution

Total timing and judging levies were £4,100, actual costs were of the order of £13,000. This comes out of the British Canoeing portion of the levies. Possible scenarios will be modelled for spreading the cost across National Associations..... c / fwd **Action HR**

Consideration will be given, at a future meeting, to reviewing the judging and timing levies for the 2020 season..... **Action HR**

## 7 Co-Ordinator Reports

### 7.1 Coaching Courses

The British Canoeing organised Slalom Discipline Specific Training courses held in early December attracted 10 trainees. The courses were delivered by Keith Hampton and Andy Neave with support provided by Gordon Walling and Russ Smith. Following completion of the course Andy was signed off as a full course tutor. Applications to Slalom Committee for funding support were received and approved for 8 trainees, with 6 of these also receiving funding support through England Slalom Committee.

Future courses are planned for 2019 and actions to address the shortage of Slalom tutors are being taken.

### 7.2 Slalom Coaching Technical Group

The Performance Coach award (formerly Level 3) is being reviewed in 2019.

No decision has been made yet about filling the vacancy created on the Technical Coaching group following the departure of Remi Gaspard.

### 7.3 Coaching Course Review

The costs for courses are reviewed by Andy Neave on the behalf of the committee. Where Andy is involved in providing the course the approval will be given by Dave Spencer.

The 2019 costs will be reviewed before making decisions about the 2020 budget. Staging the payments will also be considered.

### 7.4 Digital Strategy / Data

#### 7.4.1 Online Entry Charge Backs

Following on from the charge reported last year, the dispute has now been reversed.

#### 7.4.2 Mug Shots

Committee mug shots have been updated with new member and new roles and Nick has updated the website.

#### 7.4.3 Panic Entries

In-spite of waiting list rule changes there still seems to be an element of 'panic buying' with a surge at midnight when the system came on line (15<sup>th</sup> January).

#### 7.4.4 Control vs Autonomy

It was agreed that the following functionality should be managed centrally, not by organisers. Where changes are required, the organisers can contact the administrator.

- remove / add divisions / races / eligibilities / race days
- change competition start date
- change override paddle up dates – i.e. the date paddle ups can enter
- change whether divisions (e.g. officials) are included in entry limits
- amending C2 discounts



## 7.5 Participation

### 7.5.1 *New Division 3 Bib Officers*

We have two new Bib officers for the 2019 season, Donna Hawkins (Division 2 & 3 WK1) and Nigel Evans (Division 2 & 3 C1M). Both are waiting for a Paying in book to arrive.

Nigel is very happy with how the takeover went and Carole has been very supportive.

Donna was unable to get the bibs etc. from Tanya until first week in January. Donna is doing a good job, in getting on top of the bibs, but is unable to chase any outstanding bibs due to lack of paperwork. KC spent some time with her explaining how she does the MK1 bibs.

More Division 3 bibs are missing from WK1 than the MK1 for the ranking number required at the start of the season. KC have been able to chase the MK1, but Donna is unable to do this. We have 25 bibs missing from the MK1 (14 missing pre-2018), and 38 missing from WK1, which is percentage form 12% MK1 bibs missing, but 32% WK1 missing.

Once paddlers are promoted, we just issue the next available bib we have, thus reducing the cost and need to make up new bibs

### 7.5.2 *Promotion Certificates*

Two distinct areas of Promotion Certificate can be considered

- Entry Level, promotion from division 4 to 3.
- Above that level. These are currently triggered by the ranking officer.

Investigation of the costs of a commercial organisation producing and sending promotional certificates .....**Action PC**

Possible mechanisms to automatically collect the information and generate promotion certificates will be reviewed.....**Action DS**

For the start of the season, the same mechanism will be used as was in place for the 2018 season.

## 7.6 Safety / Competition Management

### 7.6.1 *Safety Plans*

As of today all events with the exception of Winchester in the 2019 Calendar that are either ranking events or otherwise managed by the Slalom Committee have provided safety plans. There is at present no plan for the Interclubs.

We may wish to give thought to the management of the Interclubs in 2019 in view of issues that have arisen in respect of behaviour in the campsite and its possible relationship with Alcohol consumption. One thought sent to me might be to use a breathalyser and set a limit before racing which required them to be below the legal limit for driving. This might encourage some moderation the night before without precluding it. I have a safety plan from VKC in respect of racing at Cardington.

Work will continue to support and develop plans as the season progresses. Having them all in “on time” this year for the first time and the huge saving in terms of time spent chasing them will free up time to attend to development of the plans.

### 7.6.1 *Weils Disease*

Figures from Public Health England do imply that there is a slowly rising number of Weil’s Disease cases in the UK over the last decade. This could be due to a number of reasons, improved recognition, more activity on waterways, increased bare feet on riverbanks, global warming with increasing temperatures (reduced cold periods and lengthened season of activity).

### 7.6.1 *Cross Contamination*

We still have potential issues in respect of movement of alien species and the year book has been updated in this respect. Fishing and paddling are targeted in this respect. We should encourage and be seen to encourage sensible behaviour and particularly making sure boats are visibly clean at least.



### 7.6.2 *Foreign Travel*

With the potential imminent departure of the UK from the EU particularly if this is a crash out on 29<sup>th</sup> March EHIC cards will cease to work for emergency medical care and paddlers will need to be cognisant of the need for commercial coverage in terms of medical insurance. Many policies do not include white water activities and canoe slalom would need this level of cover.

### 7.6.3 *Equipment Marking*

With respect to standards marking of safety equipment the UK if crashing out of Europe will need to develop and maintain its own standards. At the moment the EU and North America (Canada and the US co-operate) lead on this across the world and while these are broadly similar, they are not fully aligned.

Much of the EU work was initially undertaken by the British and Germans at their respective institutes. I think it safe to say there is little certainty about the future in this area. The RNLI has been considering extending its activities into safety of water activities in respect of relevant equipment and may well take a lead if there is no other provision. I have been in touch with both them and the RYA who also have an interest.

## 7.7 **Strategy Coordination**

This will include

- Four-year plan
- Managing the Calendar

## 7.8 **Technical / Timing**

### 7.8.1 *Equipment*

Gathering and maintaining equipment is on target. New timing kit is being labelled ready for use in the new season.

### 7.8.2 *Judging*

Section Judging forms have been sent out and replies are awaited.

Gate Judges exams will be scheduled for the season.

### 7.8.3 *Software / asset register*

The software will be stored on a central server and an asset register will be developed.

## 8 **Other Reports**

### 8.1 **England**

Little happening apart from training in the off season.

The process of identifying and electing the England Canoe Slalom Committee is being reviewed.

### 8.2 **Scotland**

#### 8.2.1 *New slalom site at Persley, Bridge of Don Aberdeen*

Development of this site continues and AKC slalom paddlers are holding regular training sessions.

#### 8.2.2 *New slalom site at Bridge of Earn, Perthshire*

Planning permission has now been granted for the new slalom site at Bridge of Earn. Strathallan are hoping to start work on the site before Christmas.

#### 8.2.3 *Central Scotland Canoe Slalom Training Squad*

Jane Gibson, with Kate Brown providing invaluable logistic support, has formed a slalom training Squad for the central region of Scotland with the aim of providing a programme of training over the winter of 2018 / 19 to paddlers in Divisions Premier, 1 and 2. Initially the group was set up to provide additional quality coaching to paddlers in the clubs of CR Cats, Pinkston Panthers, Forth Canoe Club and Strathallan. The idea is to combine the efforts of the volunteer and paid coaches within the clubs and bring together paddlers of similar abilities to provide a better training environment. Since its inauguration, several paddlers from Aberdeen have also requested to join the group and it has been possible to incorporate all those who have requested a place.



The aim is to take club slalom paddlers and make them athletes that are capable of training and competing at the level that will enable them to enter SCA and GB Performance Squads. There are no strict criteria for entry so as to make the programme more inclusive and to enable subgroups of ability to be developed and coached individually. There is a commitment of enough volunteer coaches to enable the ratio of coach to paddler to be 3-5:1. This ensures quality coaching at all levels.

Whilst providing what the SCA calls a Regional Junior Training Squad, it should be noted that there is very limited support from the SCA. The only support we have had a commitment to so far has been to help organise the workshop on the SIS slalom warm-up routine.

A detailed training programme has been developed by the coaches and includes training at Grandtully, Pinkston, Alva, Holme Pierrepont and Lee Valley. Additionally, a sports psychologist has been engaged to work with the paddlers over the winter there are talks on nutrition and goal-setting. Parents have been encouraged to attend the psychology sessions and to actively engage with the programme and their child's progress.

The programme is run by the volunteers from the various clubs and the paid coaches from CR Cats (Janet Peck) and Strathallan Canoe Club (Piotr Szczepanski). Each paddler pays for the training days that they attend so that club paid coaches can be funded, with additional costs for water time at Pinkston and Lee Valley, booking of halls and the psychologist. There is currently no sponsorship or central support.

#### **8.2.4 *Slalom Inspires –Scottish day***

On the 28<sup>th</sup> December there was an absolutely awesome day on the river for Scottish Slalom Inspires! There were 23 Scottish girls on the River Tay from aged 10 to double Olympian Fiona Pennie. Everyone seriously committed to the Christmas theme also and canoeing kit had never looked better. Well done Eilidh Gibson for organising this event.

#### **8.2.5 *Performance***

Remi has returned to France, the post has been advertised and the review is understood to be under way.

#### **8.2.6 *SCA Entry system***

The SCA entry system has been commissioned. The intent is that this should be used by all Scottish events. It was confirmed that the UK Slalom online entry system will at present will continue to be used.

### **8.3 *Wales***

Paddlesport within Wales is continuing to develop well with regular training and development sessions taking place.

Training sessions are taking place on a regular basis at Nottingham and Lee Valley with a variety of squads. Development sessions for lower division paddlers have continued throughout the winter working towards early divisional races in 2019.

Discussions are taking place within Wales for race options in 2020.

Several Core module courses have been run in Wales during the Autumn / Winter with the aim of several discipline specific Slalom courses being run in the Spring. The core courses have been partly subsidised by the Slalom committee for paddlers / helpers committing to Welsh Slalom and the discipline specific module.

Canoe Wales are visiting various venues in the early part of 2019 with a roadshow looking to get members views, meet the staff and Board of Directors and to share thoughts and ideas about how Canoe Wales can better support paddlers.

### **8.4 *England Talent Programme Slalom***

The programme has been through its end of season review and announced its athletes for the 2019/20 season. 107 athletes have been named to programme and the standard of qualification has once again been pushed higher, testament to the hard work invested by all coaches, parents, volunteers and the athletes themselves!



The focus for Talent in November and December has been planning for the 2019 season. This has included developing the 2019 competition calendars, squad weekends and implementing the logistics and communications with athletes and parents. The programme intends to support 4 international race camps and host a training week in the south of France in the summer holidays.

We have also recruited the new position of Talent Club Partnership Manager, Charlie Barwiss started on 7th January. Charlie's role is integral in supporting the talent club partners to be as successful as possible at utilising their funding grants to enhance the talent pool at club level. This will ultimately positively impact upon success at Junior, U23 and Senior international level. Charlie brings a wealth of experience to the role having worked in high performance sport as a performance analyst as well as for England Golf as a club support officer and team manager.

The programme can also report on a successful review with Sport England whereby inclusivity and diversity remain an areas of focus for the year.

There were also successful presentations by coaches, staff at the Slalom seminar in Nov.

## 8.5 Athlete Representative

Attended the International Panel meetings.

Received & discussed current selection policy with Senior, U / 23. Junior Athletes and provided information to IP.

Nick and Alison continue to organise LV sessions for non-funded England Athletes entering selection.

Many thanks to all the athletes for taking the time to provide their thoughts regarding the future of the sport. All of these athletes would like to express their thanks to the organisers and volunteers

## 9 2019 World Cup / 2020 European Championships

- Volunteer offers were sent out at end of January. The appeal for volunteers was oversubscribed by 56%, so not all offers could be taken up.
- After good take up of the early offers, tickets went on general sale on 28<sup>th</sup> January
- Jaffa was announced as a principal partner for the World Cup and European Championships. The competition website ([www.britishcanoeingevents.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeingevents.org.uk)) links to a money off voucher offering 50p off Jaffa citrus at Tesco
- Progress preparing for the competition continues on track.
- A bid to host the 2023 World Championships was submitted to ICF, copies of the bid, and the executive summary were supplied to the committee. These should be treated as confidential until the host for the competition is decided by the ICF board.

## 10 Possible ACM 2019 Motions

- **Entry Card Retention:** Remove any rules that require retention of cards beyond a race.
- **Short Season Status:** Treat those promoted and reranked paddlers the same for granting of short season status.
- **Move rules to Handbook:** where appropriate
- **Opening dates for races:** Should there be a standard opening date for race entries, either a period before the race, or a series of dates through the year (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> of a month).
- **C2 Discount with enhanced fee:** The C2 discount is set up as 50% of the standard fee, regardless of the level of entry fee.

## 11 Correspondence / Other Business

### 11.1 Trophy Reuse

A number of trophies that are no longer in use / were never used were reviewed. These include:

- Fosters Draft International Canoe Slalom Championship Llangollen 1982 Winner Nations Cup
- British Schools Canoeing Association, the Volvo trophy, Under 18 Boys
- Lookers National Championship Premier Ladies Team
- Mike Mitchell Paddle



- Division 2 / 3 Veterans

CDW will produce a proposal for the division 2 / 3 vet prize. Reuse for others will be considered.  
.....**Action CDW**

### 11.2 Insurance at Entry Level Competitions

There are a number of issues surrounding insurance at entry level. These will be raised at the British Canoeing clubs' conference and will continue to be raised centrally. ....**Action DS**

### 12 Future Meeting Dates

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

- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March in Lee Valley
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November (ACM)
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Travel distances for meetings in Lee Valley and Holme Pierrepont, to agree the ease of meeting in each venue. ....**Action AG**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 16:48

Les Saunders, the ranking compiler division 2 MK1 is moving on 7<sup>th</sup> February. His new address will be:  
54 Lyndhurst Drive, Stourbridge, DY8 5YQ  
There may ne a delay in sending out bibs in the period around the house move.