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# British Canoeing

## Slalom Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 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 [6/6] Chair	Andy Neave [4/6] Coaching	Dave Spencer [6/6] England
Martyn Setchell [6/6] Athlete Rep	Dee Lindsay [5/6] Digital Strategy/Data	Chris Baillie [4/6] Scotland
	Karen Crowhurst [6/6] Participation	Mark Abbott [6/6] Wales
Colin Woodgate [6/6] Secretary	Peter Curry [6/6] Safety/Comp Mgmt.	
	Andy Grudzinski [4/6] Technical/Timing	

Deborah Catty was also present from item

### 1.2 Apologies

Hazel Ridge [4/6] Treasurer	Steve Linksted [4/6] Strategy	Kiran Dews [0/6] CANI
		Richard Ramsdale [1/6] British Canoeing

Anna Gray, British Canoeing Sports Development Manager

## 2 Presentation

Chris and Ken Baillie were presented with their British Canoeing Award of Honour by Dave Belbin, British Canoeing Vice President. All members congratulated Chris and Ken on their well-earned award.

## 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

## 4 Annual Consultative Meeting Preparation

### 4.1 Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda for the ACM was discussed and agreed.

Committee members were agreed to speak to the motions as follows:

- 6.1 Martyn Setchell
- 6.2 Peter Curry
- 6.3 Karen Crowhurst
- 6.4 Peter Curry
- 6.5 No committee response
- 6.6 Dave Spencer
- 6.7 Mark Abbott
- 6.8 Dee Lindsay
- 6.9 Andy Grudzinski

### 4.2 Veterans Ranking

There was a discussion of the various suggestions that have been discussed regarding veterans ranking. This will be a discussion topic at the ACM with a view to a committee motion for next year.

### 4.3 Pan Celtic Futures

The purpose of the Pan Celtic competition was discussed. This should be returned to the home nations committees for further consideration and proposals.



## 5 Priority Items

### 5.1 Unaccompanied Minors

A concern has been raised and addressed regarding unaccompanied minors

The committee supported the existing policy “A minor must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or nominated adult who shall assume responsibility for the minor throughout the time at the competition”, and clarified that this includes pre- and post-competition;

Where the parent or guardian is not attending an event, it is the parent’s / guardian’s responsibility to expressly identify and arrange that their child is accompanied at all times by a nominated adult, providing any and all information to said nominee that the nominee may require (such as medical history etc);

The committee reiterated that where concerns are raised by any person about the welfare of any person (including the lack of accompanying parent), this shall be reported to the relevant persons in accordance with the BC / home nation welfare procedures, such as <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/guidance-resources/safeguarding/report-a-concern>.

Acknowledge of this policy will be added to the code of conduct to be accepted when applying for a bib. The terms and conditions will be reviewed and updated ..... **Action AG**

The guidance relating to video recording at competitions will be reviewed to clarify the legal position and set out a best practice.

### 5.2 Timing / Judging Levy at Double Premier / Division 1 competitions

Previously Timing/Judging levies were charged at the same rate for a double and single competition, such that a Double Prem would be charged a single set of levies for the weekend whereas a Prem/1 would be charged levies on both days This year, the levy forms reflect that the fee is chargeable per days racing, as per the rules.

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

#### 5.3.1 *Presentation of Modules for the Wider Community*

A folder with the presentations for the various modules has been uploaded to the Committee Google drive, Committee members are encouraged to review these and agree at a future meeting which are appropriate.

### 5.4 Division 2, 3 and 4 Strategy

#### 5.4.1 *Talent Squad Impacts*

Talent squads pulling athletes away from clubs with training most weekends, the same is happening with coaches, volunteer club coaches increasingly becoming paid coaches..... **c/fwd Action DS / MS**

## 6 Chair’s Report

No report tabled.

### 6.1 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. .... **On going Action DS**

### 6.2 Review of Other Disciplines Yearbooks

Available other discipline’s yearbooks have been reviewed.

### 6.3 Managed Calendar

#### 6.3.1 *Status*

The current situation is available online, as a dynamic report. This has not been approved, and commitments should not be made until approved. Consideration will be given to posting a snapshot on the CanoeSlalomUK website, but this will only be updated periodically. The version to be presented at the ACM will be that on the Monday before the ACM.



## 6.4 Insurance

### 6.4.1 Insurance at Entry Level Competitions (190202 11.2)

There has been discussion within British Canoeing and a Chris Earle is responsible for progressing the requirements and offering in England. Progress will be tracked, and outcomes influenced where possible. In the meantime, the existing system will continue.

The applicability of this to club level events open to non-members (such as Stafford and Stone and Proteus Winter Series) will also be raised. ....**Action DS**

## 7 Secretary's Report

### 7.1 Automated Bib Application system

Some basic pages have been developed, with the possibility of a phased implementation over the season through the season. The system will be demonstrated to the ranking officers for approval and agreement before implementation. .... **Action MA**

### 7.2 2020 Boater X proposals

Due to other commitments by the commercial partners, the Boater X series proposals have not progressed. A telephone conference has been agreed for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, CDW is representing the Committee in this group ..... **Action CDW.**

### 7.3 International ITO Eligibility for 2020

A draft statement of the requirements to be eligible to be nominated as an ITO to an ICF / ECA level 1 and 2 competition was agreed at the previous meeting. This will be reviewed for 2021 nominations, but should be agreed well in advance to give people the chances to ensure they complete the required responsibilities.

It was agreed that the same criteria will be used for 2021 as was used for 2020.

### 7.4 British National Prizes

The National Prizes will be awarded at lunch time during the ACM. The winners will be notified and asked to come, or to send a representative. 2019 Prize winners that have not returned their prizes will be reminded they have a duty to return them.....**Action DS**

### 7.5 The Right to Paddle up

An appeal has been received regarding paddling up at a race where the paddler had not received an explicit paddle up entry but had competed in the officials' event.

It was agreed that the paddle up was correctly refused and will not be applied retrospectively.

## 8 Finance

### 8.1 Current Position

The draft accounts are currently being prepared cover the year ended 31 October 2019 and will be forward to committee once all expense claims for the season have been received.

The following notes should be read in conjunction with the accounts.

#### 8.1.1 Balances

Current overall bank balance (inclusive of Canoe England balance) stands at £ 82,731.26 (£63,819.52BC + £18,911.74/ current account) on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. There will be some change to the overall balance as there are some levy payments still to be received and paid along with outstanding expense claim payments to be made and overseas judging reimbursements due.

#### 8.1.2 Slalom Committee Financial Support/ Grants

A race support application was received from Manchester Canoe Club due to unforeseen losses. It was decided to support the club to the tune of £320

A one-off grant of £1,500 was made to Slalom Inspires (with Home Nations contributing £1,000)



### 8.1.3 *Slalom Levies*

Gross slalom levies receivable in the year were £36,414 to date (some forms still to be received), compared with £39,979 for 2018. The decrease is mainly due to cancellation of events or lower attendances due to the severe weather and water levels –e.g. Graveyard race/ Washburn.

### 8.1.4 *International Events*

UK officials were well represented at all major world events in 2019. The accounts show that the cost of supporting their attendance was £2933. However, this cost will reduce, as there will be some contributions back to the Committee from the ECA and ICF to European and World Championship judging support.

The current surplus from the British Open/ Premier Race held in September was £1759 after payment of levies.

### 8.1.5 *CanoeSlalom.co.uk*

Nick Penfold has requested a grant towards the hosting fees of the Canoe Slalom UK website as in previous years.

## 8.2 **Spreading Technical Costs Across Home Nations**

An effort will be made to get all timing and judging expenses claims in by the August in order to be able to make a good analysis of the figures for the next meeting. In future expense claims should be claimed according to the rules, that is within 1 month of the expense. All expenses must be submitted by 11<sup>th</sup> November so that accounts can be finalised for the ACM..... c/fwd **Action HR**

## 9 **Co-Ordinator Reports**

### 9.1 **Coaching**

Tabled Report

#### 9.1.1 *Coaching Courses*

Two training courses have now been organised following the revised two-day Slalom Coach Award syllabus. A Yorkshire Slalom organised course attracted 8 trainees with 7 of these successfully applying for funding through Slalom Committee and England Canoe slalom. A British Canoeing organised course only attracted two trainees of which one has successfully applied for Slalom Committee and England funding.

There are several other potential trainees who have expressed an interest in attending future courses.

To date, only a very small number of trainees have progressed to assessment.

The Slalom Committee and National Association Committees need to consider the level of funding support available to support training in the future.

#### 9.1.2 *Talent Coach Developer*

British Canoeing have recently announced the appointment of Pete Catterall to the England Talent Programme in the role of Talent Coach Developer. Pete's appointment follows a rigorous selection process which attracted excellent candidates from both inside and outside of the world of Paddlesport.

The role of Talent Coach Developer will support the delivery of the British Canoeing World Class Coach Development Programme through coach support and mentoring which enhances the expertise of coaches across the England Talent Programme and non-Olympic discipline programmes. The role will provide tailored and specific support to Talent Club Partnership clubs and beyond, supporting coaches with workshops, individualised development plans and provision of mentoring support and assistance.



9.1.3 **Mike Chandler**

Mike, who was previously Head of Performance Coaching, has unfortunately left British Canoeing. As part of changes to the Coaching structure within British Canoeing the remit of coach development of programme coaches (both within the Performance and Talent department) now sits centrally under the leadership of Lee Pooley, Head of Coaching and Awarding. Mike leaves British Canoeing after around 7 years of service, forming strong relationships with all staff members and impacting on a huge number of development journeys, he will be greatly missed from the coaching team.

I personally received a tremendous amount of support from Mike when taking on the position of Coaching Coordinator on the Slalom Committee and when applying for a Slalom Coach tutor role for the new Coach Awards. Mike was the prime developer of the Slalom Coach training programme.

Mike continues to act as chair of the Slalom Coaching Technical Group.

9.1.4 **Coach Training Funding**

The current approach of funding 100% of the costs of training between the Home Nation and the National Committee was discussed. Some feedback on the continuation of training given by those given a grant and their progress to assessment will be sought.....**Action AN**

9.2 **Digital Strategy / Data**

No Report Tabled

9.2.1 **Automated Emails**

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.....**C / fwd.Action DL / AG**

9.2.2 **RDT Co-ordination**

There are some RDT meetings at the same time as the Slalom ACM this year. This time of this year there are many meetings to be held at the same time. The Slalom ACM dates will be published more widely once decided, initially via the BC / Home Nation Calendars, in order to provide information to attempt to reduce clashes. ....**Action Secretary.**

9.3 **Participation**

Tabled Report

With season almost complete I have started looking at participation figures for K1 paddlers, taking my data from published results, Division 2 to 4 are not complete.

Early indications would suggest Division 1 and Division 2 are shrinking for both men and women by over 10%. Prem and Division 3 number are fairly static.

9.3.1 **What should we be considering to reduce the decline in Division 2?**

i. Length of season:

Currently the lowest attended Division 2's fall at the start and end of the season.

ii. Spread of Races:

Should we be running 2 Division 2 races on the same weekend? Howsham and Llandysul had low numbers as they ran against Bala Mill and Grandtully respectively. Cardington's race in June ran against Fairnilee and numbers at Cardington were lower than their September race.

iii. Standard of water:

If we take the harder Division 2's to be Grandtully, HPP and Washburn, that is 7 races. As these do not attract the largest number of entries, there are therefore less promotion points available. (Note - if you include Lee Valley legacy it was very well attended by the men but not by the women)

The highest attended races are Matlock, Lee Valley legacy (K1M only), Ironbridge, and Cardington.

In conclusion, I do not think there is an easy fix, but I do think we should start with Division 2. How we tackle selective racing I do not know, but it does not prepare them for Division 1.



### 9.3.2 *Division 4 Promotions*

With potentially 4 Division 4 races left this season the number of promotions should increase slightly.

From a retention point I think we need to stop automatically allocating bib numbers on promotion from Division 4 to Division 3, so that paddlers only appear on the ranking database once they have applied for their bib. This would eliminate the number of newly promoted paddlers listed with points suspended. (This occurs usually because a paddler races at a double event gets promoted on the Saturday races to Division 3 on the Sunday but has no intention of racing again, so does not apply for their bib).

The issues relating to the automated bib allocation on promotion to division 3 will be documented and will be discussed at the next meeting ..... **Action KC**

### 9.3.3 *Slalom Inspires*

I was able to attend the Scottish regional event; the ethos of the event is very good and certainly engages the young Division 3 paddlers and their parents in different activities. It would be good adapt the engaging of parents across the sport.

### 9.3.4 *Managed Calendar*

There was a long and spirited discussion relating to the challenges relating to managing (or co-ordinating) the calendar. This will be a discussion item at the ACM.

## 9.4 **Safety / Competition Management**

No tabled report

### 9.4.1 *National Association Committees*

The UK Slalom Committee is mandated to manage safety across the country. This is a UK responsibility, and is not a Home Nation responsibility, except for races run that are closed to only the Home Nation race.

### 9.4.2 *Buoyancy Jacket Testing*

The instructions for testing buoyancy jackets have been circulated. Again, it is recommended that any second-hand Buoyancy Jacket is tested before purchase. This will be publicised through the CanoeSlalom web site.

### 9.4.3 *ICF Medical Committee discussions*

Input has been given to the medical committee regarding transgender issues and the use of asthma sprays. Paddlers should never use more than their prescribed dose of treatment when competing, in particular the overuse of asthma medication is a noted issue across sports

Issues surrounding female athletes with high testosterone levels remain an issue Internationally, at Olympic levels and may become an issue at National Level.

### 9.4.4 *Safety Plans*

Plans are being received for the 2020 season. It was stressed that competitions **MUST** have their plan approved before their entry on the calendar is accepted.

The quality of the plans is continuing to improve. GDPR considerations may need to be included in the future.

## 9.5 **Strategy Coordination**

No report tabled

### 9.5.1 *Rule v Organisers Handbook*

There are some differences in the procedures between the organiser's handbook and the rulebook, these are being resolved. The intent is to have information in one location only, with rules in the rulebook, and procedures in the organisers pack. Where there is information in two places, it should be for specific reasons, such as Weils disease..... **Action SL**



## 9.6 Technical / Timing

No report tabled

### 9.6.1 *Slalom e-learning*

**Regulation training:** The possibility of associated e-learning has been taken up with Lee Pooley. Video is being gathered for production training materials featuring non British athletes. .... **Action AG**

### 9.6.2 *2020 International Officials*

The ICF and ECA Canoe Slalom Technical Committees calls for nominations for Technical Officials at International Competitions next year closed on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Fifteen people have been nominated to represent GBR. This is in addition to the three ITOs appointed for the Olympic Games.

## 10 Other Reports

### 10.1 England

No report tabled

England have successfully retained the overall Pan Celtic Cup.

### 10.2 Scotland

Report Tabled in Advance

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#### 10.2.1 *Bridge of Earn slalom site*

The posts are now on site and will be erected in the near future.

#### 10.2.2 *Scottish Champs 26th October 2019*

The Scottish Champs were held on Saturday 26th October 2019 at Grandtully, followed by an SCA slalom ACM, a meal and ceilidh. An extreme slalom organised by Georgia Holmes as part of her fundraising for a trip with a charity to Malawi also took place.

#### 10.2.3 *Performance*

Jon Schofield is now in place as Head of Performance and Pathways. The season is kicking off for the Scottish Performance Squad for Slalom which includes 2 new selections amongst 10 athletes, ranging from U23 to J16:

There is an ambitious plan of camps, primarily utilising weekends at HPP and longer camps at Lee Valley during the school holidays. These camps and races will supported by 4 coaches. Stuart Gerrie, our Performance Coach based in Scotland, Adam Johnstone and Mark Delaney. Additional support will be provided by the recent appointment of a shared partnership coach in conjunction with Breadalbane Canoe Club. There will be an official announcement of the successful candidate shortly.

Overall the SCA is looking to increase engagement with Clubs in Scotland and is at the beginning of strengthening these relationships with several clubs.

#### 10.2.4 *Central Squads*

Last year the squad was very successful with many notable individual successes.

The purpose of Central Squad is to supplement what any slalom clubs are already doing and offer training opportunities at weekends and during the holidays for those paddlers in Division 2 and above. It allows paddlers take part in camps at HPP and LV as well as training days in Scotland. This year there are 48 paddlers interested from every slalom club in Scotland.

The first Kick off camp for all paddlers and parents is November 2/3 at Strathclyde University and Pinkston.

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### 10.3 Wales

#### Tabled Report

Congratulations to the Welsh paddlers who have been selected to the various training groups over the winter.

Winter training Kick off camps are taking place during half term in Lee Valley for the performance group. North Wales paddlers are attending a training camp in Bala over the weekend 2/3 November.

Following the Llandysul Division 1 race in October the AGM for the Slalom Committee was held in the new offices. Following the resignation of Steve Rayner the Vice chair Richard Bramley has now taken on the role of Chair. The role of Vice Chair is now held by Mark Abbott. All other committee posts remain unchanged.

Following the AGM a committee meeting was held where various funding applications were discussed with most being approved and others requiring further clarification before approval.

Canoe Wales have been running a race timing system now for several years with some of the equipment now requiring replacement / extensive refurbishment. Approval was given at the committee meeting for various items to be upgraded / replaced over the winter.

### 10.4 British Canoeing Programme

No Report Tabled.

The lack of representation will be taken up with British Canoeing.....**Action DS**

### 10.5 Athlete Representative and Vice Chair

#### Tabled Report

#### 10.5.1 *Markkleeberg World Cup*

First time visit to Markkleeberg. Stayed at the campsite above the site, which is a short walk down to the course. The course is a compacted U shape with varying shape sides, vertical and sloped. For a course designer, the question would be “what features to leave out”. The pumped course uses water from the lake with a stunning views and sunsets from the restaurant. There is a sandy beach just to the side of the course for relaxing. Almost like being on holiday!

#### 10.5.2 *HPP Premier / Division 1*

Our club event, which I hope everyone was happy with. Thanks for all the help and especially those who attended the pre-race meeting. I did have a couple of complementary comments regarding Steve’s published judging rota before the event.

#### 10.5.3 *Tryweryn ~~Double-Prem~~ Single Prem*

Short notice localised river levels and possible flooding caused a challenge for the organisers. The outcome being no water release for the Sunday and possible early finish on Saturday. Hence not hanging around to get 2 runs down the course as quickly as possible.

#### 10.5.4 *Llandysul Division 1*

Great to see the club getting back on its feet. Still some work to do in the club house next to the river. As normal, a warm and welcoming event and this year we were spoilt by an excellent river level. The best level I have ever seen for an event at Llandysul since I have been paddling there. Thoroughly enjoyed my judges runs on both days. It was also good to see so many of the young paddlers assisting in whatever needed to be done to run the event. You know who you are and were a great example, thank you.

#### 10.5.5 *Tees Premier / Division 1 / Pan Celtic*

With Les and Sarah at the helm, you know the event is in good hands. Lines have been renewed which made gate adjustment easier than last year. Some water level issues caused the event to run late with catch up periods to get back on time. This provided challenges for athletes timing warm up and mental preparation without getting cold. The team did a good job at getting back on track for second runs on Saturday.



#### 10.5.6 Prizes

I find it very interesting at prize giving, to see who collects the prizes won and how they are received. Does the recipient stuff it in their pocket straight away or study the detail? It was very rewarding at Tees to watch our seasoned paddlers who must have many prizes study the detail and take care to handle them. I would consider this a success.

#### 10.5.7 International Panel

The panel meet again this week to review the feedback on the selection policy. Could I thank everyone who took the time to read the policy and provide feedback.

#### 10.5.8 Olympic Team

Well done to those athletes who put themselves in a position to compete for the final 4 places. It's a tough road which requires many years of preparation and hard work. Congratulations to Adam, Bradley, Kim & Mallory who have earned the opportunity to fulfil your dream.

### 11 2019 World Cup / 2020 European Championships

The organisation for the European Championships is picking up, building on the excellent work and relationships built up for the World Cup

### 12 Correspondence / Other Business

#### 12.1 Pan Celtic

There have been various suggestions relating to the running of the Pan Celtic Slaloms. This will be reviewed and discussed with those keeping the competition going at the moment. It will be an item for discussion at the 2019 ACM..... c/wd Action MA / MS

#### 12.2 Russian Selection

A Russian Coach has requested that Russian selection be held at the Lee Valley Division 1 race. The issues surrounding this are thought too much for this to be feasible.

### 13 Future Meeting Dates

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

- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November (ACM) Apologies were offered by Chris Baillie, and Colin Woodgate
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December (New Committee). This will take place in a smaller meeting room on the ground floor of the BC HQ. Apologies were offered by Chris Baillie, Steve Linksted, and Colin Woodgate
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Annual Consultancy meeting

Meetings during the 2020 season will be agreed at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 17:30