



SLALOM COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 1 April 2020

Via videoconference

Attendees: Dave Spencer, Chair; Andy Neave; Dee Lindsey; Karen Crowhurst; Steve Linksted; Deborah Catty; Colin Woodgate; Mark Abbott; Chris Baillie; Andy Grudzinski (AGz); Peter Curry; Anna Gray (AG); Hazel Ridge; Martyn Setchell

Apologies: Richard Ramsdale;

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

MATTERS ARISING

“Background to trophies” project: Alison Setchell (AS) is working through the trophies, identifying the background to them to keep their legacy alive.

British Canoeing Future Leaders Scheme modules: to be rolled over **Action: KC**

Financial assistance requests form: to be rolled over **Action: DC**

The submission date for next years races will remain as previously agreed

The International Panel is considering holding selection races on 27/28 February 2021 at Lee Valley, a date which had provisionally been booked as a Div 1 race. Points raised during discussion will be fed through to the IP as follows (**Action: DS**):

- it may be better to hold selection at the end of the 2020 season or later in 2021.
- Would it be reasonable to take these dates as LV paddle club were intending to run a div 1 race then.

Participation/ retention: development of a questionnaire to be sent to ex-paddlers is ongoing: to be rolled over **Action: KC**. Other ideas for feedback: putting up a sheet of flip chart paper at races for paddlers to add their thoughts on retention

COVID – 19

Current position (PC)

The current view is that it would be a minimum of 12 weeks until the UK was past the peak. This is likely to be followed by a long period before the rules were fully relaxed, which potentially means the loss of the full canoeing season.

It was agreed to follow BC's position on event cancellation, with racing cancelled for May (subject to BC's confirmation). It was recognised that racing in June, July and August is uncertain. MA noted that Cardiff had already made the decision to cancel their event in May.

PC's view was that there may be small div 3 races running by the end of the year but potentially nothing more. It was recognised that there wouldn't be the usual influx of new paddlers into the system because of the current position.

The loss of competitions means that there may be no meaningful ranking system this year, with any decision regarding the implications of this made later in the year.

The economic impact on paddlers was also noted.

AG explained BC's position: that all paddlesport activity should cease; and subject to final ratification, all competitions would be cancelled until the end of May. A decision regarding June would be taken at a later point. BC was also having to review its annual plan, and had had confirmation that funding from Sports UK and Sport England could be repurposed. There were challenges caused by the loss of income which were being worked through.

MS asked AG to raise the boat storage and white water membership with HPP/ SERCO, and whether there would be a rebate. **Action: AG**

The need for BC to make and communicate timely decisions regarding British Canoeing events was emphasised as some venues will otherwise incur costs. AG agreed to explore the possibility of BC cancellations on a rolling basis rather than on a month by month basis.

There is currently Sports England funding available for small grants which will go to those most at need. This has already been highlighted on the canoe slalom website and facebook page.

Cancellations:

DL asked for support that where BC have communicated events should be cancelled, if organisers do not cancel the events within a few days, DL will do so. This would be a last resort, where the organiser hasn't been responded to emails. This was agreed

2020 racing programme

It was agreed that any promotions that occur during the season will stand.

It was agreed that cancellations of slalom events by the committee would follow BC guidelines. The committee will however support organisers who want to make an early decision.

It was noted that the decisions regarding selection qualifiers for 2021 will be taken back to the IP. **Action: DS**

It was noted that rankings for 2021 need to be considered – whether or not it remains as per 2020. A decision will be made later in the year. **Action: bring forward to June's meeting**

It was agreed that the message on the canoe slalom website regarding the number of points required to avoid demotion would be removed as it was no longer relevant. **Action: NP/ DS**

PROJECTS

Bib project (MA): This project will progress during 2020, with the system initially being developed to allocate bibs for promotees from div 4 to div 3. There will be a test system (database) for bib officers to try out. There was discussions regarding the process for this year if bib numbers and bibs are retained by paddlers. This will form part of a wider discussion once the decision regarding 2021 ranking is made. It was noted that a lot of people have not applied for their bib as they hadn't raced before events were cancelled.

Online judging courses: **Action: AGz will explore this**

England Committee: there has been an initial meeting and will be progressed over coming months. **Action: KC/ AN/ DS/ MS**

Online yearbook: CW had had a mixed response when canvassing opinion on this. It was agreed that due to the current exceptional circumstances, there would be a hard copy year book produced this year at least. An online year book would be considered further for next year.

Participation: whilst this is predominantly an England problem and so potentially falls under the remit of an England committee, it was noted that the sport was more likely to lose people across all nations this year. Adam Johnstone had emailed on this topic and this will be followed up. It is likely that there will be central resources available to support the rebuilding of the sport in the future.

USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCING

Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that using a mixture of shorter video conference meetings and longer face to face meetings was optimal. There are a number of different videoconferencing platforms that can be explored. It was agreed to use skype for business for the next meeting in the interim.

AOB

Oscars – it was agreed that there would be no Oscars in 2020, with the intention to hold it in 2021, post the Olympics. This needs to be communicated. **Action: DC**

Senior Euros – CW explained that there is ongoing discussion regarding the holding of the Euros later in the year as it impacts on Olympic boats. One suggestion was to use the British Open. BC were considering and would respond. The view of the committee was that it was unlikely to be agreed as it posed a significant financial risk and didn't impact on GB boats as all 4 boats have already qualified.

ICF nomination – only one application was received by the committee and so it would be put forward

Date and time of next meeting

7.30pm, 3 June 2020 via videoconference.

Appendix 1

Coordinator's report, Dee Lindsay

Data/Digital Strategy

I started this in early March when the world (at least the West) still seemed normal. I've deleted a lot, but some remains valid.

1 Cancellations and Booking Fees

Once the paddler has been charged for their entry, we are unable to return booking fees. Unfortunately, this meant that the early wave of cancellations did leave paddlers slightly out of pocket. As it seems likely that there will be more cancellations of competition, I am delaying the charges to paddlers' credit cards in the hope of avoiding this. This is only (hopefully!) for the short term.

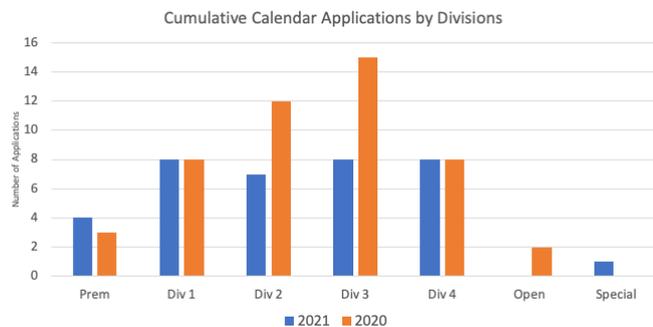
If further cancellations are required, please can all organisers respond promptly so that we do not run into the charging period. (Go to bottom right corner of the first of the setup pages).

2 Club Stripe Account Updates

Many thanks to everyone who has rallied round and helped to get these updates done. All those clubs that were running a race with online entries this year are now complete.

3 Calendar Application System

Users now have an option copy competition setup from a previous year (based on same site and organising club). There are slightly fewer applications this year (25) than at a similar time last year (28). The difference is concentrated in the middle divisions.



4 Lee Valley Div 1

There was clearly a demand for this, especially amongst the upper half of the men's K1 (between bibs 6 and 35 we were only missing two paddlers, so a pretty solid turnout). Lee Valley Paddlesports Club really did pull out all the stops and worked very hard and there were truly fantastic numbers of volunteers from several other clubs.

Amongst the paddlers, opinion is that they'd rather have the race in February than not at all and, as one of the organisers, holding the race prior to selection pretty much guaranteed a good supply of officials. Downside is that it lengthens the season for other volunteers.

I'm glad to report that the race did make a profit, but it would not have taken much to turn that profit into a loss, so paying the extra costs to run in March (or later) is just not viable.

Next year last weekend of February happens to be 27th/28th which might help a bit (assuming centre don't just bring forward start of rafting)!

5 National Association Membership Expiry Dates

Duncan has amended the BC number update process so that updates are pulled when:

- membership expires in the next month and a bib has been issued or the paddler has raced
- the membership number has not previously been checked or verified against the BC database
- the verified membership has expired in the last 6 months.

WCA is now also supported via the API.

Currently expiry dates are only updated weekly, but this *could* be done more frequently, subject to costs.

This does make emails more practical, but I still suspect that paddlers will just send their updates to me rather than the bib officers, so that problem doesn't go away.

As a bit of a trial, I did check for expired membership and added RTCs for LV (both resolved before the race). This *could* be done automatically for ranked paddlers, but I still have concerns about effectively moving the onus to the organiser.

Something to re-consider after the current situation is resolved.