



## SLALOM COMMITTEE MEETING

**Wednesday 3 June 2020**

**Via videoconference**

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

**Apologies:** Richard Ramsdale; Hazel Ridge

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

### MATTERS ARISING

British Canoeing Future Leaders Scheme modules: KC identified that module 4, running a committee, may be useful. **Action: AG to circulate**

Financial assistance requests form drafted. **Action: DC to circulate**

Draft participation/ retention questionnaire has been circulated to England group

HPP membership and boat storage has been confirmed as being frozen during lockdown / whilst HPP is closed.

The organisers of the Oscars have been made aware that these will not go ahead in 2020. Wider communication required. **Action: DC**

### COORDINATOR UPDATES

Health and safety: lots of work is going on in the background to understand when and how slalom can open up again.

Scotland: Tully main carpark is now open, (though closed at night). Part of the issue is that it has had to remain locked as people have been dumping rubbish there. In Scotland, restrictions mean that people can travel no more than 5 miles to access water. Feedback is that athletes are now wanting certainty regarding the future of the season. Clubs are likely to face financial difficulties going forward.

Coaching: Adam Johnstone has linked in with Aaron Cruickshank, DS and AN regarding entry level points for slalom, with a view to looking at different criteria. A meeting has been arranged with AN and DS to discuss this further. **Action: DS and AN to feed back following the meeting**

Officials: AGz is keeping in touch with officials to keep them updated.

Athletes: there is currently no official access to facilities at HPP though there is now some water going down the course to prevent damage. Similar is happening at LV. MS is keeping in touch with off programme athletes.

SL: there is a finance and audit committee meeting next week, with potential financial pressures due to a decrease in membership, particularly in England

## **BC Update (AG)**

BC has been sharing updates via its website, with the current position being that up to 6 athletes could paddle together, with social distancing. There was also guidance published for clubs and centres, which included FAQs and webinars, aimed at supporting clubs with, amongst others, the risk assessment process.

The forthcoming finance and audit committee will be considering the difficult financial position, with BC having to carry out financial reforecasting due to a reduction in income. Some BC staff have been furloughed during this period.

Membership has increased to over 40,000 members. BC are looking at where the new members are coming from, and how to maintain the levels.

All BC events will be cancelled until the end of July and will then be cancelled as necessary on a rolling basis, with approximately a 3 week notice period. The plan is to make the next announcement on 17 July. There is a centralised system of risk management in relation to this, which includes factors such as travel for events. Concern was expressed by the committee that 3 weeks notice of event cancellation was too short.

MS had heard from athletes that they were encouraged by how BC had responded to the crisis.

AG explained that some training for GB athletes had resumed at LV, with 4 athletes and two coaches accessing the water. At HPP, the sprint programme was recommencing training on 15 June, with the para programme at the end of June. There was no date for opening the white water course. Work is ongoing.

## **2020 Ranking Races**

There was extensive discussion regarding the remaining ranking races in 2020 given the impact that covid-19 has and will continue to have, including consideration of the following:

- There will be variation in who is able to train and attend races, with a number of factors in play such as differences in home nations rules.
- There needs to be sufficient time for potential competitors to get race fit once they are able to access appropriate water
- At best, the earliest events would be likely to run would be mid-September and so it wouldn't be possible to hold sufficient accessible races for there to be a meaningful ranking season in 2020
- There remains the potential for a second peak of covid-19, which would cause further disruption
- People are looking for clarity about the rest of the season

- We need to encourage paddlers to comply with the rules and restrictions in place.

**Decision: as a result of the discussion, it was agreed:**

1. **There will be no further ranking races in 2020**
2. **Where promotion has taken place, this will be retained**
3. **Paddlers will keep the same start of season bib number for 2021 as for the 2020 season except for those paddlers who have been promoted**

The committee agreed that the objective for the remainder of 2020 is to get people paddling and racing for fun. Key points raised were:

- Potential for races to run later in 2020 when it is safe to do so but as open or club races, not ranking races
- Some larger venues may be better able to accommodate this, eg LV, HPP or Tees
- In the short term, all races will be cancelled. Organisers can then make the decision if they want to hold a non ranking event, when it is safe to do so

Selection 2021: it was recognised that there would be impact on selection in 2021 as there was not the opportunity to qualify for selection through promotion / ranking during 2020. The International Panel will look at this and consider how best to address this issue.

**Action: DS and DC to develop a statement for sharing widely regarding the decision to cancel all future ranking races in 2020.**

### **Running safe non-ranking events during 2020 (PC / AGz)**

There was discussion regarding the practicalities of running open and club events later in 2020. The following was noted:

- Safe race day administration / judging: whilst difficult, it may be manageable for most but not all sites as there are sufficient spare headphones to allow cleaning; and keyboard covers can be used. All however would be subject to appropriate spacing being possible
- Toilets: these are a point of transmission and so a concern. No electric hand driers could be used.
- At present, people are unable to stay away overnight without permission which would impact on ability to travel to races. The position with campervans and motorhomes is uncertain.
- Safety and first aid: this may be difficult as people doing safety / first aid may need to be prepared to self isolate if a rescued / hurt paddler subsequently showed symptoms of coronavirus
- Impact of covid-19 on the slalom community: individuals may be financially worse off as a result of coronavirus or have lost a family member. There may also be the potential, with the introduction of track and trace, that people may be required to self isolate and so unable to race
- Event organisers will need to comply with home nation, BC, and local association requirements as well as the slalom committee guidelines
- No canteen would be able to operate
- A revised risk assessment would be required by BC, which includes consideration of coronavirus. This would go through Peter Curry.
- There would be no levies on race entries

It was agreed that organisers could contact AGz and PC for support on running of events in line with the covid-19 guidance.

**Action: AGz and PC to arrange a meeting for interested clubs**

There was discussion regarding other ways that the slalom committee could support clubs to attract paddlers and run races, especially for lower divisions. Anecdotally, people have expressed an interest in canoe slalom whilst watching paddlers training during lockdown. The current hiatus in sport may be an opportunity to publicise / get engagement from potential newcomers to the sport.

**Action: DS to liaise with BC on updating slalom pages in canoe slalom**

It was noted that there needs to be planning for the future, including marketing, given that there is a high likelihood that there will be a drop off in participation as a result of coronavirus.

**Bib application and admin fees**

The online bib system is progressing well. There was discussion around what admin fee should be charged (to cover postage etc). Given the differences in how bibs are delivered to athletes – by hand or posted – a flat rate fee is required.

**Decision: it was agreed that for 2021 there would be no admin charge for bibs, with the position reviewed for 2022.**

**International panel update**

The position regarding international teams for 2020 is under discussion. Specifically, whether teams should be selected and taken to races this year. BC have developed a position paper which proposes that there are no GB teams in 2020. Programme athletes are currently being asked for their views. It will also be discussed by the IP at their meeting on 4 June, and BC will make a final decision by the end of June.

**2021 calendar**

Deadline for calendar applications for 2021 is 1st July 2020 for prem and div 1; and 1st September 2020 for all other events. There is still discussion required regarding clashing div 2s.

The dates of selection is still uncertain, as it will depend on whether or not the junior and U23 worlds go ahead in New Zealand. A decision is likely soon.

**AOB**

Support for new organisers hosting early season races: there was a concern raised that early season race organisers do not have the same level of support as later in the season, which causes issues, especially where the event organiser is new. Following discussion, it was agreed that this would be more fully considered at the next committee meeting. **Action: DC**

Financial difficulties for clubs: it was agreed to roll this forward to the next meeting. **Action:**  
**DC**

**Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 29 July 2020, 7.00pm via zoom**