



## **SLALOM COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday 23 September 2020**

**Via videoconference**

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

**Apologies:** Richard Ramsdale; Steve Linksted;

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meetings (29 July and 19 August) were agreed as correct

### **MATTERS ARISING**

An updated statement regarding holding events had been circulated to clubs following the August meeting. was circulated following the meeting of 19 August.

### **2020 BACK TO RACING**

PC explained that the position in relation to events taking place was changing, with further guidance currently being issued by British Canoeing and SCA. The SCA supported concerns of the organisers that achieving a covid-secure event at the present time with the increasing incidence would be very difficult and so the decision has been made not to progress with the Scottish Championships at Pinkston.

Current considerations for potential organisers include: mixing geographical areas was a cause for concern given that Covid-19 cases are rising; and it is difficult to be able to ensure that racing is low risk in terms of injuries (because of lack of training on challenging water). Overall, at present event organisers were not confident to go ahead.

Within Scotland, events across many sports are getting cancelled as a result of COVID. There have been reports of potential rule breaches by paddlesports made by members of the public in Scotland. All should remember that our sport is often in the public view, who have been encouraged to report breaches of the rules.

AG reported that the current guidance for England was that indoor sports would be impacted, but outdoor sport was able to go ahead.

There was discussion regarding the different approaches between England and the Scottish government in relation to what was and wasn't permissible.

It was agreed that given the constantly evolving picture, the committee would put out a statement, referencing the guidance rather than applying an interpretation to it. Clubs could then contact PC directly if they required further clarification.

It was noted that racing in 2021 may also be impacted.

## **PARTICIPATION**

There had been a meeting between DS, KC, AN and Adam Johnston and Aaron Cruickshank regarding entry level races. The discussion had centred around the standard for progression to be based on the acquisition of skills, rather than competition over a course that can take young paddlers up to 200 seconds to complete. It was agreed that a new approach may help with participation and enjoyment of the sport.

AGz suggested that it would be helpful to ask people at an earlier point what they would like to see, which could support the acquisition of skills and get them engaged in the sport.

It was noted that there was a significant increase in membership number in England and Scotland (with the position not currently clear in Wales). To-date this has not been reflected in club membership figures.

**Action: AJ and AC to be asked to put a paper together to support further discussion**

## **COACHING**

AN explained that the environmental requirements for the new slalom coach awards were quite high, and so a lower environmental level was being considered which would be sufficient for safe coaching on less challenging sites. There were a number of people who had gone through the coaching training but then not completing the final assessment. It was noted that several Scottish coaches had recently been successfully assessed, of which 3 have been successful with applications for funding support through the Slalom Committee.

It was noted that there was further work to be done, with different approaches discussed. These included buddying trainee coaches with experienced coaches, requiring people to part-fund the coaching course; using the coaching course as a way of helping people develop on the coaching pathway; and looking at it as investing in the future, with people coming back to coaching later.

## **2021 CALENDAR**

It was noted that there were few clashes in the calendar, as Mold had changed the date of their race where it clashed.

It was noted that there was a clash between Cardington and HPPCC. Whilst the races were for different divisions, the clash would mean that Cardington may not be viable, due to the organisers attending the HPP race.

It was agreed that race organisers would be prompted to go and look at the calendar and identify any concerns, with a view to agreement being reached in advance of the ACM.

It was noted that covid issues could continue to feature until Easter, and as a result organisers may request to move their event. It was agreed that the usual rules would be applied in this scenario.

PC highlighted that event organisers needed to submit a risk assessment before the race could be confirmed at the ACM, and this year it will need to include a section on covid.

**Action: DC to write to organisers with a copy of the covid legal risks document, prompting them to revisit the calendar and address any clashes of concern with the Managed Calendar Officer (Donna Hawkins), and to remind them to submit risk assessments to PC (safety@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk).**

## **YEARBOOK**

The need for a yearbook in 2020 was discussed, with the preferred option being to produce a hard copy calendar instead of a yearbook for distribution. Further discussion required.

## **SEASON LENGTH**

It was agreed to pick this up after the 2020 ACM.

## **ACM**

It was confirmed that the 2020 ACM would be held online. Votes would be allocated as per the rules. It was noted that practicalities regarding counting of votes and checking membership still needed to be worked through.

**Action: DC, DS and CW to draft a plan for the ACM. DC to publish date and venue by 9 October, with the agenda published by 23 October**

It was agreed that the ACM would consider rule clarifications but not rule changes.

## **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)**

Slalom Inspires has a new project "project flow" which is a coaching group for females. There has been a lot of interest in this by prospective coaches from all nations. It was noted that there may be a request for financial assistance at some point.

Transgender / gender identity: following discussion, it was noted that BC published guidance on this in April 2019.

## **TREASURER AND WELFARE RELACEMENT**

It was discussed that because BC are taking over a number of the finance functions for the committee, there would be no requirement for the treasurer to have accounting experience. The role description is being revisited with a view to advertising the position following HR's decision to stand down from the committee

DS will write to Hazel to thank her for her work.

## **AOB (for noting)**

The automatic bib allocation work is progressing well.

The Welsh championships have been cancelled

The selection policy for 2021 will be out for consultation shortly.

AN suggested that the committee considers a development role or commissioning a piece of work to look at how the sport develops in the future. This role could be across all nations.

Insurance for div 4s: BC has confirmed that if paddlers are associate members of a English registered club, they are covered for entry level competitions. It was noted that further clarity is required as to how this will work in practice.

**Date and time of next meeting:** 15 October 2020 at 7pm via zoom