



BRITISH CANOEING

Slalom Committee

Seventeenth

Annual Consultative Meeting

28th November 2020

Via Zoom

Minutes

1 Welcome by the Chair

Dave Spencer welcomed everyone to the 17th ACM, explaining how the meeting would run, given that this was the first slalom ACM being held by zoom.

Dave then spent a few moments paying tribute to Alison Setchell, a long-standing member of the slalom community who died earlier in the year. This was followed by a short silence.

There were no apologies to the meeting.

It was agreed that Matt Crowhurst and Dee Lindsay would act as tellers for the meeting. There were no further points of order.

2 Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the 16th Annual Consultative Meeting were accepted nem con, having been formally proposed by the Proteus representative and seconded by the Stafford and Stone representative.

2.2 It was noted that the minutes of the 2019/2020 Committee Meetings had been tabled for information.

3 Reports

3.1 Chair's Report: Dave Spencer spoke to his report, as attached.

3.2 Treasurer's Report: Colin Woodgate explained that there was no treasurer's report tabled at the meeting as there were no accounts out yet, due to the handover between the former treasurer and himself having been delayed as a result of coronavirus. He noted that he would circulate the end of year accounts to all clubs and British Canoeing as soon as possible.

3.3 Other Reports: reports from the coordinators, British Canoeing and Home Nations were tabled for information.

4 Elections

4.1 Chair

Colin Woodgate as Vice Chair explained that there had only been one nominee for Chair – Dave Spencer. As a result, Dave was elected unopposed.

4.2 Treasurer

Dave Spencer explained that there had only been one nominee for Treasurer – Colin Woodgate. As a result, Colin was elected unopposed.

Vice Chair: Colin Woodgate moving to the role of Treasurer meant that the role of Vice Chair was vacant. There had not been any nominations for the role prior to the meeting and so the meeting was asked if anyone wished to put forward a nomination at that point. There were no nominations made and so it was noted that there may be an in-year appointment made by the committee which would be ratified by BC.

4.3 Committee Members

Dave Spencer explained that Andy Neave (Coaching), Karen Crowhurst (Participation), and Steve Linksted (Strategy) terms were expiring in 2020. Karen and Steve had indicated their willingness to stand for a further term, but Andy was standing down. Les Ford and Mike Mitchell indicated their willingness to stand. As a result, Steve Linksted made the decision to stand down which meant there were three positions and three nominations, and so it was confirmed that Karen Crowhurst, Les Ford and Mike Mitchell would be the new members of the committee.

It was noted that Chris Baillie was being replaced by Fraser Glasgow as SCA rep.

It was noted that the terms of Dee Lindesay (Digital / Data Strategy), Andy Grudzinski (Technical / Timing), and Peter Curry (Safety / Competition Management) would expire in 2021.

4.4 Other Officials

It was noted that the Managed Calendar Officer post was vacant, but Dave Spencer explained that the intention was not to fill this role at present.

It was noted that there had been an error in the ACM agenda originally published as the Entry Cards Officer should read Les Ford not Susan Patterson

It was noted that the Annual Prize Co-ordination role was **vacant**. Colin Woodgate suggested that in the absence of any other party taking this up, it should revert to the secretary

All other ranking officers remain unchanged as follows:

- Ranking Status Officer, Nick Penfold; Entry Cards Officer, Les Ford;
- **Ranking Officers**
Premier Men, Tracy Wells; P/1 Men's Canadian Singles, Carole McGranachan; Division 1 Men, Nick Penfold; 2/3 Men's Canadian Singles, Nigel Evans; Division 2 Men, Craig Douglas; Women's Canadian Singles, Mark Shaw; Division 3 Men, Karen Crowhurst; Canadian Doubles, Stuart Meakins; Division 4 Men, James Hastings; Veterans All Categories, Mike Carter; K1 Women Premier & 1, Sally Atkinson; Officials Compiler, Amanda Woodgate; K1 Women Divisions 2 & 3, Donna Hawkins;

Paul Mew offered support to Mike Carter with the veterans, as this is a growing area, and the online bib application system may cause challenges

5 Motions

5.1 Running of competitions, proposed by the committee (75/25)

Colin Woodgate explained the motion as follows:

The 2020 rulebook includes rules that relate to the running of competitions, some of which will cause difficulty and delay in being able to run slaloms in early 2021. In order to reduce these effects this meeting encourages the Slalom Committee to:

- a. Preserve and protect rules that relate to the scoring and timing of an individual competitors run.
- b. Review rules for the current season, identifying where rules refer to a calendar year, and interpret these as being applicable for the season.

- c. For the current season only, in light of the ongoing difficulties facing organising events, work with organisers on a competition by competition basis to agree and publish relaxation of individual rules in order to support the running of competitions. The areas affected may include (but not be limited to) rules relating to:
- i. Publishing results at an event, and the timing of this publishing and its effect on protests and protest time.
 - ii. Minimum timing between a competitor's runs
 - iii. The order of events in the weekend, and of competitions during the weekend. This may affect calculation of points against a different event (e.g. C2 points, inshore events)
 - iv. Provision of demonstration runs, to reduce the risks of breaching social distancing, requirements for everyone to be on site at a particular time, and assist in managing costs for pumped courses.
 - v. Provision of practice at division 1 competitions
 - vi. The roles and positions of judges. For example, judges walking with competitors at lower divisions, less cross judging at division 1 / premier races, alternate judging methods (cameras etc.)
 - vii. Prize giving, specifically in the light of alternate result publishing and social distancing.

No club asked for this to go to vote and so the motion was accepted nem con.

5.2 Demotion, proposed by the committee

Dee Lindesay explained the motion as follows:

For all ranked paddlers who have completed a minimum of one ranking race in their appropriate division, there will be no end of season demotions in 2021. This would reflect that the year ahead is likely to be impacted by coronavirus and so was designed to encourage good behaviour and practice in paddlers, rather than there being pressure to train, travel and compete; and to reduce anxiety.

There was significant discussion on this with key points:

- A number of clubs felt that it was too early to make such a decision as there was still a lot of uncertainty about how different the year ahead would be. Once the full impact was known, the committee could use their discretion in terms of demotions and end of season promotions.
- The clubs trusted the committee to manage the situation sensitively throughout the year. Motion 5.1 has been agreed and allows the committee flexibility to come up with a reasoned way forward.
- Paddlers may be discouraged from racing if they are only able to attend a limited number of races due to covid-19 and so were concerned that they may not achieve the necessary points to remain in their current division if the normal demotion level applied. The question was asked about how many paddlers are aware of possible demotion? This is probably limited amongst younger paddlers.
- An early communication of the position would reduce anxiety about the above point.

- There may be more promotions than usual as the season is spanning two years, given that some paddlers are poised for promotion in the first races of 2021 using results earned in 2020.
- Given that we have lost a full years' worth of promotion, is it an issue if there are a few more in 2021?
- There does need to be a mechanism for at least capping numbers in prem
- There may be a significant drop off in paddler numbers which would impact on the number of demotions
- There is a need to encourage adherence to COVID 19 restrictions, which is likely to impact on training and ability to race for some of 2021
- BC would be expected to provide a steer if covid-19 continues to impact substantially in 2021.
- Communication of the discussion, and the way forward is key, for example, sympathetic consideration for frozen ranking status where training and racing has been impacted.

There followed a vote on the motion. The motion failed unanimously.

6 Approval of the Calendar for 2021

Dave Spencer went through the calendar. It was noted that there were safety plans missing for races at the following venues:

- Matlock
- Marple (Andy Guest will chase up)
- Hexham
- Wagon Lane
- Ironbridge
- Hatfield
- Winters Farm
- British Open

It was noted that there was a clash between Tryweryn and Ironbridge which could cause issues. As a result, Ironbridge agreed to change their race to 10 and 11 July.

It was noted that clarification was required on when junior and U23 selection would take place, and whether it would run in tandem with the McConkey race. The weekend of 22/23 May was preferred by some as there was no clash with a senior world cup race. However, that weekend would be difficult for Scottish paddlers as it would be in the middle of their main exam period.

It was noted that Bala Mill on 17/18 July may need to be set up differently on the system, ie as 2/3 race and a separate div 4 race.

It was noted that Orton Mere races had been lost this year, as well as the Manchester CC run HPP race. The latter race was due to the financial risk of running the race.

PC thanked everyone who had submitted their plans. Clubs were asked to submit outstanding safety plans within one week.

Colin Woodgate highlighted that in 2022, we would need to run a test event at Lee Valley.

7 Return to racing discussion

This part of the meeting was not formal business and so not minuted. There will however be further information and practice sharing opportunities circulated to clubs and event organisers.

8 AOB

Dave Spencer explained that there would be no yearbook published, but the plan was to produce a dedicated calendar, similar to the calendar produced for Div 2/3/4 races in 2020.

Dave Spencer closed the meeting thanking everyone for attending and their contribution.