

## Participation Report 2022

It was good to be back racing with a full season of races. The numbers participating in the sport have not bounced back to pre-covid levels. The lack of rain this year has led to some races having low water levels.

Several of the lower level races took on board the desire for team events to be run. These team races were run on the Saturday night after racing. Where they were run they have been well supported and paddlers enjoyed taking part. From a participation point of view I would hope clubs would continue to offer team races where possible on a Saturday after racing.

From what I saw this season, clubs running division 3/4 events are allowing plenty of practice time prior to starting racing. This is certainly what paddlers are wanting as indicated in the 2021 questionnaire.

Division 2 suffered the most with race cancellations with 5 double races being cancelled and one double being rearranged. Unfortunately 4 of the 5 cancellations were in the North of England and Southern Scotland, resulting in a poor geographical distribution of division 2 races across the 3 home nations.

Division 1 and 2 have suffered the most with paddlers not returning to the sport after covid. With another years data next year we should get a clearer indication of if our decline in numbers has recovered to the post covid trajectory or is declining at a faster rate.

Karen Crowhurst  
14/11/21