



1 Attendance

1.1 Present

Andy Grudzinski [2/2]	Chair	Donna Hawkins [2/2]	Mark Abbott [2/2]	Wales
Sally Atkinson [2/2]	Vice Chair	Karen Crowhurst [2/2]	Stuart Pitt [2/2]	Scotland
Dave Spencer [2/2]	Treasurer	Peter Curry [2/2]	Gareth Wilson [2/2]	British Canoeing
Les Ford [2/2]	Secretary	Dee Lindsay [2/2]	Zac Allin [1/2]	Athlete Rep
		Mark Haylett [2/2]		

Also present: Matt Crowhurst

1.2 Apologies

Mike Mitchell [1/2] Alison Longhurst [0/2] England

1.3 Declarations of interest

These have been requested from all committee members. **Action: All**

2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

It was noted that there was concern that there was little communication for the rationale for no end of season promotions this year after there had been last year. Historically end of season promotions have only been in exceptional circumstances. This will be made clear when communicating end of season promotion/demotions decisions in the future.

2.1 SCM feedback

The consensus was the online meeting worked well. The rule regarding the number of events is due to be brought to the 2024 ACM for further discussion. **Action: LF**

2.2 2024 Rules Update

The rules have been updated to reflect motions at the ACM. These will be published on the website, and all are encouraged to download them to their device. It was agreed to do a limited print run of the rule book that will be sent to officials and organisers. **Action: LF**

The changes to Div 4 promotion and entry to Div 3 need to be well communicated. A flowchart showing the routes available to those starting or restarting slalom has been drafted. This and simple information about this change will be circulated to organiser and clubs to ensure these routes are understood and used. **Action: KC/LF**

2.3 Multi-class discounts for Div 3 & 4 entries

Work is ongoing to enable these discounts through the online entry website. **Action: DL**

Organisers need to be able to claim any discounts given from the slalom committee. It is intended that Simply Slalom will provide organisers with a list of these that can then be claimed when completing the required summary sheets. **Action: DS**

It was also suggested that the calendar information on the website makes it clear that discounts are not available at those events where enhanced fees apply. **Action DL**

2.4 Awards evening 2024

Some venue options and prices had been circulated. There was discussion over whether this should be an awards evening or an event to bring the slalom community together. To enhance paddler attendance, it would be better to link this event to the British Open rather than the ACM weekend, but that would significantly increase the costs. A community event rather than an awards evening would allow it to be attached to an alternative race weekend. A small group will come up with firm proposals for the event. **Action. GW/MH /ZA**



3 2024 Season

3.1 Calendar updates

Calendar details for a few events are outstanding and being chased with organisers. **Action: DL**

A request for a Div 4 early in the season (February) has been received. It was agreed that short notice Div 4 races can happen at any time of year subject to impact on other races planned and with the agreement of the slalom committee.

3.2 Tryweryn Festival

There has been an ongoing discussion with the centre regarding staging events for all divisions over the same weekend. It was agreed that at this stage we postpone this to 2025 and safeguard a weekend for this in the calendar.

We also need to look at how we maximise use of other sites such as HPP by running races for different divisions on other parts of the site. Organisers are also encouraged to look at how the event experience can be enhanced for all.

3.3 Bib replacement update

Peak UK have generously offered to provide 1000 replacement stretchy bibs for Prem, C2 and Vets free of charge. **Action: SA**

3.4 Selection - race format and expenses

It was confirmed that there will be 2 single-run slalom races on Saturday. Kayak Cross will have practice on Sunday morning, a race on Sunday afternoon and 2 races on Monday. This format and events running back-to-back in the morning or afternoon make it harder to find volunteers to run the race. The cost of parking at the centre and accommodation in the Lee Valley area also impacts on people coming to volunteer at the event.

3.5 Lower Division events leaflet

This is to be produced and distributed through clubs and events. **Action: DS**

3.6 Organisers Pack update

Work is progressing on an updated version of the Organisers Handbook to be ready for the start season. The other documents in the pack are being updated. **Action DS/MC**

A reminder is to be sent to organisers to use the updated documents. **Action: LF**

4 Actions / Priority Items

4.1 Future ranking system discussion

A discussion on the potential future format of racing and ranking structures was introduced as a discussion at the ACM, along with brief summaries of possible options and approaches used overseas.

We need to facilitate this discussion during the year to:

- better understand the challenges that the sport is facing,
- gather views on how the sport could or should look in the future to address these challenges,
- shape any changes that we want to make to achieve this.

A questionnaire to gather feedback from the whole slalom community has been drafted with the aim to finalise and send it out by the end of January. **Action AG**

There is also the possibility of accessing external resources through TASS to help support this process.

5 Committee Responsibilities / Working Group Updates

5.1 Committee Responsibilities

The following amendments were agreed to committee responsibilities:



- Safeguarding – Peter Curry
- EDI – Andy Grudzinski
- BUCS liaison – Sally Atkinson
- Coaching - Gaz Wilson

5.2 Working Group Terms of Reference

These are all agreed, but some are missing from the committee shared folder. **Action: AG**

5.3 Athlete input and support

ZA will continue to lead on this. It was stressed that feedback is encouraged from paddlers at all levels.

5.4 Awards

This only requires action at the relevant times for each nation's awards, so no longer a working group.

5.5 Communications

Limited progress to date. LF will take on leading this area looking at how we communicate and the messages that we want to get out to the community. **Action: LF**

5.6 Kayak Cross

MH will take over the committee responsibilities, principally liaising with Greg Hitchen who leads on this for BC. It was suggested that GH is invited to a future meeting to update the committee on planned activity on Kayak Cross. **Action. GW/LF**

5.7 Officials' recruitment and development

Group has been meeting and fact finding, including looking at a pathway for officials. **Action: MC**

5.8 Participation

The group has been progressing well and looking forward to getting data from the upcoming questionnaire. It will also be interesting to see what impacts the changes to Div 4 promotion have. **Action: KC**

5.9 Stand Up Paddling

This group has not met and there has been limited uptake by SUP at open events. British Canoeing has a technical group for SUP across the whole sport. It was agreed that PC will be committee contact for this area.

5.10 Volunteer recruitment and development

British Canoeing has contacts for a lot of volunteer contacts following on from the world championship and other high-profile events. AG is due to meet with them to look at how we can capitalise on these volunteers and engage them in supporting events around the country. **Action: AG**

5.11 Information Questions / Survey

AG will circulate the draft to the committee for final input with the aim of getting this out to the slalom community by the end of January. **Action: AG**

6 Coaching Support

6.1 Follow up from Coaching Conference

The Slalom Coaching Conference was well attended, and it is intended that this will run again in 2024 on the day after the ACM (1st December). It is apparent from the conference and other feedback received that the process for becoming qualified as a Slalom Coach isn't clear to potential coaches and the process presents challenges to volunteers looking to support the sport as a club coach.

A summary of these issues has been fed back through several channels to promote discussion within British Canoeing with a view to produce clear information and signposting online for how to become a Slalom coach.

6.2 Funding available to support volunteer gaining slalom coaching qualifications



Funding to support club volunteers to complete their Slalom Coach training and assessment has been available since the new coaching qualifications were introduced in January 2019. This has 50% funded 72 people to do slalom coach training and 11 to do their slalom coach assessment. Home nations either match the slalom committee funding or enable access to other sources of funding to support the balance of the cost. In recent years the uptake of this grant funding has been low, due to a limited number of courses running and reduced awareness that the funding was available. Clubs will be reminded that this funding is available to volunteers and information will also be linked to efforts above to make clearer information available about the slalom coach qualification pathway.

Currently funding does not cover Core Coach training or any of the prerequisites (e.g. First Aid, Safeguarding, Registration) required prior to Slalom Coach Assessment so there is still a financial burden on prospective coaches or their clubs. The committee will look to review what the funding will support and the level of contributions when we have a better idea of the likely demand and costs. **Action LF/GW**

7 Home Nations Update

7.1 Scotland

Everyone is looking forward to the return of Fairnilee as a race venue, without the use of the building. A summer training camp is planned for France. Things are progressing with regards to a new lease at Grandtully which will enable gates to be reinstalled and races to take place.

7.2 Wales

No further update.

7.3 England

The new English slalom committee has now met with 6 members in place and a plan to recruit some more members to plug the geographical gaps and athletes' representation. This first meeting looked at the terms of reference and financing responsibilities. Plans have started to bring back the English championships alongside already calendared races. Access to water courses was discussed alongside a desire to consider activity at a regional scale and to work alongside the BC slalom's committee working groups to increase participation. England will also be hosting this year's Pan Celtic race.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Website / Yearbook Information

It has been highlighted that since we stopped producing the Yearbook there are a few areas of content that do not appear on the website. There is also some information on the website (e.g. clubs interested in slalom) that has not been updated for some time. LF to review content that is missing or needs updating and liaise with Nick Penfold to resolve these. **Action: LF**

We had a list of the various systems that are used to run the sport and who is responsible for each. This needs to be checked and updated. **Action: DL**

8.2 Committee Communications

Contacts on the committee WhatsApp groups need updating. **Action: AG**

8.3 ECA/ICF board nominations

Another person has asked for their name to be put forward to the BC board for nominations to the ICF Slalom Committee. This was discussed and the nomination supported.

8.4 Future Meeting Dates

- Saturday 24th February, 10am - BC HQ
- Tuesday 9th April, 7:30pm - virtual
- Monday 20th May, 7:30pm - virtual
- Saturday 20th July, 10am - BC HQ



British Canoeing Slalom Committee

Saturday 6th January 2024
British Canoeing Offices, Nottingham



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- Wednesday 18th September, 7:30pm - virtual
 - Saturday 9th November, 10am - BC HQ
 - **Saturday 30th November ACM**
 - *Sunday 1st Dec – Slalom Coaching Conference (tbc)*
 - Post ACM meeting tbc - Sunday 1st December or Wednesday 4th December