



1 Attendance

1.1 Present

Andy Grudzinski [3/3]	Chair	Donna Hawkins [3/3]	Alison Longhurst [1/3]	England
Dave Spencer [3/3]	Treasurer	Karen Crowhurst [3/3]	Zac Allin [2/3]	Athlete Rep
Les Ford [3/3]	Secretary	Peter Curry [3/3]		
		Dee Lindesay [3/3]		
		Mark Haylett [3/3]		

Also present: Matt Crowhurst.

1.2 Apologies

Sally Atkinson [3/3]	Vice Chair	Mike Mitchell [1/2]	Mark Abbott [2/3]	Wales
			Gareth Wilson [2/3]	British Canoeing
			Vacant [2/3]	Scotland

1.3 Declarations of interest

These have all been received from all committee members.

2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

2.1 Organisers Pack Update

This has been updated and published on the website. The Organiser Handbook needs finishing and adding to the pack. Organisers are reminded to use this year's documents for events. The documents to be stored centrally on the Secretary's Google Drive. **Action: LF/DS**

2.2 Lower Divisions Leaflet

This has been produced and is being distributed for circulation at events. For next year's edition we need to redraw the map of slalom sites. **Action: AL**

2.3 Website / Yearbook Information

Work is ongoing to get relevant information that used to be in the yearbooks added to the website (including coaching award information, Interclubs rules, Pan-Celtic rules). Clubs are to be asked to check and supply updates for the list of slalom clubs on the website. **Action: LF**

2.4 Div 3 entry information

Information for clubs and organisers about the change to division 4 promotion and entry routes into slalom is to be finalised and sent out this week. **Action KC/LF**

The participation working group will be putting out dates for a couple of virtual meetings to take organisers through these changes. **Action: KC**

3 Kayak Cross Development

Greg Hitchen (British Canoeing) joined the meeting for this item. He has been leading on Kayak Cross for the performance programme and how this event can be expanded domestically. The immediate focus is on qualifying a second MX1 place for Paris. The focus of the last 12 months has been to set up a world class training environment for Kayak Cross and rapidly evolving the techniques and coaching for this, linked to the evolving rules and interpretation of those rules.

The new event has great potential to engage more paddlers in the sport. With two GB world champions in a new event, there is likely to be a high media profile for Kayak Cross during the Olympics. However, it also comes with challenges to make races happen domestically.



What is currently available or happening:

- Boats and gate equipment are available for use at Lee Valley and HPP. These can be made available with notice for other events around the country.
- HPP is looking to run specific KX sessions on Fridays. A temporary ramp in place at HPP, looking to have a number of these that can be moved (or used elsewhere).
- LV working towards running sessions that include the ramp – a process is being developed to enable wider use of the ramp for training.
- A series of evening events have been running at Cardiff.
- Kayak Cross has been run at races including Stone, Ironbridge and HPP.

Domestic racing:

We need a way to enable fun events to happen at lower division races to enable people to try it. We can adapt the rules and format to run races across the domestic season to make kayak cross possible at variety of venues (e.g. time trial only, 2, 3, or 4 four boat head-to-head, fewer gates, no roll zone, no ramps needed, careful seeding for head to heads, round robin formats). We are not alone in trying to get kayak cross off the ground domestically, so we also need to look at activity in other nations.

It was felt that there was no need for a ranking system yet. The focus should be on a fun format that engages paddlers. In time this may lead to a race season and rankings.

There is a need to share ideas from those that have already run events to provide information on simple formats and set ups that have enabled racing so far. This would also inform what support clubs needed most to run events, what are the barriers organisers face, and an understanding of what support is needed to access to purchase equipment. We also need to consider how we upskill paddlers and volunteers regarding the rules.

Concerns:

Safety – sites need to consider what is an appropriate format for their site.

Helmets – need some guidance and clarity regarding what is acceptable (ICF list which is different to those used for slalom). Is there potential for a pool of helmets to be made available?

Guidance for organisers around safety / risk assessment, accepting that kayak cross is a contact sport, and how to manage risks where there are a range of ages and abilities wanting to race.

Available time at events could be an issue, but there may be potential for stand-alone events.

Next steps:

Arrange a virtual meeting with those that have run events is to be set up to pull together ideas and good practice from those that have already run events. These details would then be used to run a session for other potential organisers and some guidance on how events could be run simply at other venues. The aim is to run these in the spring. **Action: MH**

4 Actions / Priority Items

4.1 Dual Entry Discounts

Systems are now set up for online entries and for the organising club to claim the discount via the treasurer. There have been queries around where this applies. It was agreed that this does not apply to events with enhanced fees or at higher division events. It was clarified that any event that charges additional fees (e.g. launch fees) are enhanced fees, and therefore not eligible for dual entry discounts.



4.2 Awards Evening 2024

The intention is to hold this on the Saturday evening of the British Open at Lee Valley. A potential venue has been identified and it is hoped to be able to accommodate up to 160 people. Details and costs are to be confirmed. The committee felt it is not able to subsidise the cost of the dinner but would consider requests to support elements of the cost that can benefit the promotion of the sport or under-righting any loss from the event.

It was agreed that the Prem race can be switched to Saturday so that the ranking season will be concluded, and end of season awards can be presented.

A working group will continue to progress the details for the event. **Action: GW/ZA/MH**

4.3 Grandtully Update

The Easter Prem/1 race is cancelled. There is every intent from all involved that the summer races will be able to go ahead. The new site lease agreement is having some final tweaks and should hopefully be signed and agreed. Campsite works should hopefully be completed in June. It is hoped that a date can be agreed for a rearranged Prem/1 race later in the year.

Scottish races should continue to follow the existing SCA event notification and approval system.

4.4 Calendar updates

Marple 3/4 (6/7 Sept) has been cancelled by the club to avoid a clash with the Interclubs that leaves them short of volunteers to run the event.

Lee Valley – a query has been raised by the centre regarding the safety plan which is being dealt with.

Tees Barrage (18/19 Oct) – the race has been cancelled due to scheduled maintenance at the site. An alternative date has been proposed and approval will be sought from clubs with events on that weekend.

Action: DL

The 2025 managed calendar should open for race applications in the next few weeks. A new organiser is needed for the 2025 selection event.

5 Participation Survey/ Research

A draft participation survey has been circulated for research being conducted through a TASS funded project. A wider survey has also been drafted by the committee with a broader range of questions and seeks opinions from volunteers and paddlers. It is suggested that we look to combine these into one single survey rather than two surveys circulating. Committee members to send comments on both drafts to KC by 1st March. **Action: All, and KC/GW**

6 Future ranking system discussion

The participation survey will seek opinions on the different options for the ranking season discussed briefly at the AGM.

A number of options have been put forward for introducing rolling points to the ranking system. This could help address paddlers dropping out when they have narrowly missed promotion at the end of a season. It was agreed to look at ranking lists to understand how widespread an issue this is, and also try to model the possible options based on last year's results and this season's results. **Action: DL**

7 Working Group Updates

7.1 Athlete Rep update

Water access at HPP has been problematic due to water levels. Access for non-programme athletes to the British Canoeing 8 - 10 am slot has also been problematic on weekends. The England committee have invited Rich Ramsdale to their next meeting so water access issues will be raised. **Action: AL**



ZA is trialling coaching sessions for non-programme athletes to help sustain participation by these paddlers in the sport.

7.2 Communications

LF is picking up this area and starting to look at how we can improve and streamline existing communications as well as opportunities to improve how we can raise the profiles of the sport outside the existing slalom community. **Action: LF**

8 Coaching Support

8.1 Volunteering - Shifting the offer

We are developing a good understanding of some of the barriers to volunteering, and as a committee look at what can we realistically put in place to lower those barriers, and how we can better recruit and support volunteers in the sport.

MC is working on an official's pathway to programme to recruit additional volunteers to section judges and timing team roles. There is also potential to run activity around the BC slalom schools to engage paddlers and parents in judging and other volunteering roles.

Concerns about the cost of attending selection for volunteers were also discussed.

8.2 Coaching Update / Funding

A summary of the challenges to slalom coaching has been shared with the BC's Director of Paddlesport and Director of Coaching. Experience is that there is confusion around the coaching pathway. Information to aid aspirant coaches through the process is being developed which should include details of the current funding support available. Also, a reminder of the coach support funding will be shared with clubs.

A Slalom Coach training course is due to run in England in March.

After discussions with club coaches, GW is also working to understand how clubs can deploy 'unqualified' personnel to support session delivery.

9 Home Nations Update

9.1 Scotland

The committee is continuing to monitor the situation in Scotland and support race organisers as needed.

9.2 Wales

No report.

9.3 England

The new committee is moving forwards and looking at what activity there is around the country. They are looking to understand what potential commitments there could be for supporting unfunded athletes, and where funding may be needed to support the sport in the clubs and regions. The committee's next meeting will be focusing on participation and retention in the sport and how this can be supported.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 ITO Expenses

A query has been raised regarding what expenses are covered for ITO's attending events. AG to recirculate the existing travel expense policy. **Action: AG**

It was clarified that where travel costs are incurred and cannot be claimed back from the ICF or ECA until after the event, these can be claimed from the committee on the understanding that they are refunded once payment has been received from the ECA/ICF.



There has previously been a decision regarding the maximum number of UK ITO's attending each event which does not seem to be being applied. Consideration needs to be given to the number of ITO's attending and level of expense to the committee in future years. **Action: AG/DS**

DS is working with British Canoeing to identify what costs can be reclaimed centrally. **Action: DS**

10.2 Minimum Standards of Deployment Consultation

LF briefly updated on the consultation with British Canoeing that he and DS attended. This is linked to a cross-sport initiative to make participation for everyone safer. There will be actions for the committee, clubs, and event organisers as these are introduced over the next few years. Further details will follow as details and timelines for implementation are firmed up.

10.3 BUCS Review and 2025 Event

There was discussion about the level of support that the committee and the sports volunteers can provide for this event. An outline of the options for different levels of support that may be available and the potential costs of these to organisers (depending on the venue) is to be prepared. **Action MC/SA**

10.4 Rules books

Printed copies of the 2024 Slalom rules are available to event organisers and officials from the Secretary with distribution via events or post. A reminder that these are available will be sent to organising clubs. **Action: LF**

10.5 Interclubs

A small committee is being formed to move the event forward. It was confirmed that the event should be self-funding. **Action: DH**

10.6 Future Meeting Dates

- Tuesday 9th April, 7:30pm – virtual (on Teams)
- Monday 20th May, 7:30pm - virtual
- Saturday 20th July, 10am - BC HQ
- 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