



British Canoe Union Slalom Committee

“Putting Paddlers First and Valuing Volunteers”

Committee Meeting Minutes

BCU HEADQUARTERS, BINGHAM

Sunday 17th October 2010



“Canoeing and Kayaking are “Assumed risk” – “contact sports” may carry attendant risks. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own action and involvement”.

1 Present

Anne Hounslow [6/6]	Chair	Jim Croft [6/6]	Event Management	Tim Baillie [3/6]	Scotland
Ken Trollope [6/6]	Secretary	Colin Woodgate [6/6]	Strategic Planning	Emma Aldridge [6/6]	Wales
Andy Koszary [4/6]	Treasurer	Steve Bright [3/6]		Mark Shaw [3/6]	England
Jenny Walker [6/6]	Vice Chair	Andy Grudzinski [6/6]	Volunteers		
Paul Ramsdale [1/6]	Marketing/Publicity		Jacky Wetzig [4/6]	Competition Timing	

1.1 Apologies received from:

Andy Maddock [3/6]	GB Canoeing	Andy Goodsell [1/6]	(BCU)	Gareth Wilson [0/6]	Paddler rep
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1.2 Declarations of Interest

A consolidated list of interests has been circulated within the committee. AEG suggested that this should be posted on the web site for general information

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting/ Matters arising (not covered elsewhere)

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

2.1 BCU advice on Risk Assessment (AGo June 10)

Advice is still sought on whether the committee should be instigating risk assessments for all sites, publishing separate guidelines or can rely on the organisers c/f. **Action AGO**

2.2 Canoe Focus Articles relating to Brian Tipper/Ron Vessey (JC/June 10)

Progressed.

2.3 Ed Ecclestone Trophy

A design brief and costs for an individually designed trophy have been circulated, along with alternative trophies available commercially. AK confirmed that the costs were within the funds raised for the trophy. The trophy will therefore be commissioned. The inscription will read "The Ed Ecclestone Trophy, for Outstanding Contribution to Canoe Slalom".

2.4 Trophy Care Volunteer

A volunteer will be sought to be responsible for repair/renovation of the trophies. Carry forward..... **Action All**
A notice will be put on the Canoe Slalom Website. **Action AEG**

2.5 Pan Celtic Races

Pan Celtic races are timed and judged by the timing team and the section judges. No contribution is made to the costs is made for these or levy payments. It was agreed that a judging and timing fee should be paid for each competitor not in an associated ranking race. **Action All**

2.6 Inter Club's Slalom

Applications for the Inter Club's slalom must be made on the same timetable as Premier and Division 1 events to allow protected status and sufficient time to plan.

3 Chairman's Report

3.1 Selection

Draft J18/Under 23 selection is almost ready for review, senior policy is being developed.

3.2 Olympics

In an unfortunate incident at the inter clubs slalom an individual was given the impression that the slalom committee had blocked his application as a volunteer. All present confirmed that they had not been involved in the decision.

Sports specific volunteer applications (where the relevant codes have already been made available) can still be submitted until the end of October.

The BCU will be getting an allocation of tickets which will be distributed via clubs/regions. Paddler's families will get an allocation via the ICF.

4 Finance

4.1 Accounts

Draft accounts to the end of September were circulated. The predicted deficit has been managed to a lower figure than budgeted.

The year end is October, so all clubs and coordinators are encouraged to submit accounts as soon as possible.

JWe asked for a breakdown of telephone stationary and postage costs for the Competition _Co-ordinator.

.....**Action AK**

4.2 Federal Funding (AH/Aug 10)

The full Canoe England grant has now been received.

A deficit is predicted for this year, a similar deficit in 2011 will leave the committee unable to operate in 2012. Continuing to operate with predicted deficits is unsustainable. A review of options to increase the income and pare down the expenditure is underway. **Action AK/EA/CDW/LS**

A review of the costs and committee income attributable to each home nation relating to the numbers of paddlers from clubs in the home nations will be undertaken. Additional variables in the equation will include the subsidies paid by the home nations for event losses and water costs funding.

A debate relating to water costs at commercial sites ensued, with the opportunities for publicity being discussed, and issues relating to recouping of build costs, and lost opportunity costs.

An analysis of the income and the costs allocated to each division will be circulated to the committee... **CDW/AEG**

4.3 Current Funding Impacts (Various/Aug 10)

A short summary of the impacts of trying to operate under the current funding proposals, and BCU devolution pattern was circulated just before the meeting. The draft has been circulated unapproved. Feedback on errors omissions and suggestions to improve the document were requested. **Action All**

4.4 Trophy Insurance (AK/Aug 10)

A charge has been made on the account relating to Trophies. Confirmation of the coverage of this, and whether this covers timing equipment will be sought.**Action AK**

4.5 Washburn Slalom Double Division 2

Accounts have been received relating to the Washburn event in July, showing a loss and requesting support.

The principles for support were agreed to be that infrastructure items are not covered as these are assets for the club and are not supported. The organisers will be asked to revise accounts on this basis, and to supply with receipts, to the slalom administrator.**Action CDW**

5 Co-ordinators' Reports

5.1 Event Management (*Report Tabled*)

5.1.1 Summary

JC's report indicated that participation is up on previous years, with corresponding increases in promotions, to date 25 people have gained promotion to the Premier Division, compared to 17 at this stage in 2009.

25 Gate judges exam cards have been issued, with a further 18 exam passes, that have not yet applied for their cards. A discussion ensued as to how this could be more efficiently managed.

The quality of returns to the Slalom Accounts Manager have been varied, with some in an almost unreadably small font, some claiming junior discount, but not showing junior status on the results, and some not sending results at all.

5.1.2 Analysis of discount voucher usage (AEG/Aug 10)

An analysis of retention rates for those promoted from division 4 to division 3, indicate that there is a large drop off in participation at this level. The analysis will be circulated. **Action AEG**

As the voucher does not seem to support participation and retention, the issue of vouchers will be discontinued in 2011.

5.1.3 Organisers Pack Contents (JC MS/June 10)

Carried forward, MS to be prompted. **Action AH**

5.1.4 Organisers Pack Usage (AEG/Aug 10)

In progress, some responses received, AEG will circulate the results. **Action AEG**

5.1.5 BCU/Canoe England Phone number

A lot of complaints have been received regarding the use of an 0845 phone number for the BCU/ Canoe England relating to the costs. A Freephone number is available: 0300 0119 500.

5.1.6 Class C Internationals

International entries have to be supplied to the organiser in advance. Numerical entries have to be submitted in advance, with nominative entries shortly before the event. For example, for the Dutch Open, 11 people pulled out after nominative entries had been submitted. This leaves the committee potentially liable to paying entry fees.

An electronic application must be submitted to Slalom Administrator, paddlers will be emailed when numeric entries are submitted, and must confirmed attendance before nominative entries are submitted. The form will stress that any charges from organisers will be passed on to the paddler.

5.2 Strategy/Planning (Report Tabled)**5.2.1 Late applications for the Managed Calendar (JWa/Aug 10)**

A separate list has been compiled of events that have been applied for after the closing date. Two races are requesting date changes; these are in consultation with other clubs affected.

The list of late applications is quite small. It was confirmed that additional events will not be accepted at the ACM, the final closing date for consideration is 1st November.

The Easter Grandtully events have changed to reflect the selection and wildcards. The Premier event will be the first event.

5.2.2 Jury Chair Guide (CDW/MS/Aug 10)

The concept was considered a useful idea for lower division events. The draft circulated was considered too voluminous, if it could be reduced to a much smaller size it should be considered.

This is progressing slowly. **Action CDW/MS**

5.2.3 Slalom Budgets

The request for budgets has met with mixed responses, with several organisers reacting defensively. A list of the events that have not responded will be circulated. The information is required as part of the analysis of the costs of the sport, trying to ensure that it is sustainable on both the national and local level.

5.2.4 Review of Rules (Various)

An initial review of the year book to identify the ambiguities and contradictions and compare it to the ICF rules has been carried out. Where ever possible ICF rules will be adopted. Where additional changes to UK rules are appropriate these will be raised as motions to the ACM.

5.2.5 Yearbook 2011

The 2011 yearbook will be the same format as 2010. Advertisers will be sought to defray the costs, both canoeing and associated businesses. **Action PR**

5.3 Technical Support**5.3.1 Waterproofing of Headsets**

Several options have been considered, complicated by the number of cables coming from the headset box. A solution costing £21 per headset was proposed. This was accepted.

5.3.2 Lower division timing

Any timing system that is dependent on computer clock is not accurate, as the clock stops during saves and other peripheral activities. The committee now owns a number of "Timmy's" that can be used with a spreadsheet to time events.

Stafford and Stone are keen to develop a timing facility for their mini slaloms. It was agreed that a device will be sold to S&S with assistance to develop the system, for £450 including VAT.

5.3.3 Timing kit repairs

TUTTI repairs are on-going; no repairs are required to the HPP or mobile Premier/Division 1 kit.

5.3.4 Timing Team/Section Judge Tee shirt/fleeces

The committee agreed to fund the purchase of emblazoned apparel with the costs being met by the individuals to result in no cost to the committee.

5.4 Competition

5.4.1 Selection

Wild cards applicability has been clarified and published on the web.

5.4.2 Waterproof paper

Supplies of waterproof paper have been purchased.

5.4.3 British Open

The organisation is progressing well, with entries accepted from several international paddlers. There is a shortage of gate judges; further gate judges will be sought. It was confirmed that judges' runs will be available for gate judges.

Paddler order will be Div 1, Premier, and then International entries, with progression to final based on the total entry, not just home paddlers.

5.4.4 ICF Judges Exam at coaching symposium

Names to be submitted for the ICF Judging Exam were confirmed. It was felt that running the exam on a Friday evening in the south east was not the best of timing – many who would like to have taken the exam were unable to get there because of work commitments and distance.

5.5 Marketing & Publicity

5.5.1 Promotional pack for new entrants (PR/Jan 10)

Conceptual ideas for the pack are almost complete; these will be circulated to the committee for comment. Quotes for printing in various bands will be obtained. These are to be included in the pack for new Home Nations membership. **Action PR**

5.5.2 Committee Website

Access to the committee pages has now been organised. A protocol of when the information is to be updated will be proposed. Initially urgent items should still go to Nick Penfold, other information should be sent to PR.

During the next season, the establishment, management and sponsorship of a dedicated slalom committee website will be considered.

5.5.3 Consistency across all websites with Slalom Information (PR/Aug10)

The new GB Canoeing website has a blank page for the canoe slalom committee. Whilst the BCU, Canoe England and CanoeSlalom.co.uk sites also have committee information on them, there do appear to be some inconsistencies in the information. A consolidated approach would be preferable and information should be correct where possible. **Action PR**

5.5.4 Canoe Focus

Disappointment was expressed that a recent article in Canoe Focus was unattributed and was severely truncated.

5.6 Volunteers

5.6.1 Publishing Role descriptions (AGr/June 10)

Some role descriptions are still awaited. A consistent format and approach has been applied to all. These will be circulated before being published.

5.6.2 Historic Slalom Summary (AEG/Aug 10)

AEG has produced a summary of the number, location and standard of slalom events held between 1976 to present day. Once completed the summary will be published on the committee web page. **Action AEG**

5.6.3 *Volunteer Awards (AEG/Aug 10)*

The Ed Ecclestone Trophy will be awarded at the Slalom Oscars. For 2010 this will be a committee award, committee members are to supply nominations to AEG by Friday 22.Oct, with a simple majority deciding the 2010 recipient. **Action All**

The volunteer awards scheme will be launched for the 2011 season, with the sub-committee set up post the ACM.

5.6.4 *Cane England volunteer recognition*

Trying to get slalom volunteers automatically recognised through the Canoe England Scheme, unfortunately there are no corresponding schemes for Canoe Wales or the SCA.

5.7 **Athlete Representation**

5.7.1 *Junior and Veterans Championships*

Carried forward. **Action GW (June 10)**

6 **Home Nations**

6.1 **England**

6.1.1 *English Council Meeting*

Canoe England felt confident that funding should be safe in the current funding reviews as the sport has been performing above expectations.

A new declaration of interest form was in use, the promulgation to the slalom committee will be considered. Overall participation has increased.

Canoe England awards next year will be submitted via the regions.

Some Canoe England specific marketing materials are available. This will be sent to the Canoe England Committee.

A pro forma agenda for all committee meetings was proposed, this will be circulated to all members **Action AH**

Membership: Membership will change so that there is a single membership level for seniors and juniors, family membership is to be scrapped The impact of this on officials is to be considered. **Action AH**

The chair of the English Coaching Management Committee expressed concern about the lack of competition coach representation. Four places are allocated for sport specific coaches, consideration as to a suitable representative is required. **Action AH**

A presentation on making the best of the 2012 Olympics was also given. The Olympics will mark the start of a 60 day sports festival which may have some funding available. It was felt important that we capitalise on the publicity from the Olympics to increase participation.

6.1.2 *ACM*

The England ACM is organised for Saturday of the Serpents Tail event. A new Chair will need to be elected, the possibility of appointing a coaching member rather than a treasurer is being considered.

6.1.3 *Finances*

Sponsorship of unsupported paddlers has been provided. Expenditure is still less than that budget.

Coaching grants have not been taken up; additional support will be offered, with offers made to support winter coaching either at club or regional level.

6.2 **Wales**

6.2.1 *World Cup at Cardiff (2012)*

Funding has been agreed subject to matched funding from Cardiff and event management.

6.2.2 *Bala Prem / Pan Celtic race*

The event ran successfully, thanks to all who assisted.

6.3 Scotland (*Report Tabled*)

6.3.1 Grandtully

Two successful events, with Simon Fletcher's brother attending the Premier event. The TV crew were present for the Saturday of the Premier and footage will be broadcast as part of The Adventure Show on BBC2 either at the end of November or early December. They have altered the scheduling to move this forward as they would like to return for the race in April if the BBC commissions another series of the show.

6.3.2 Easter Races

Weekend races switched to give a larger gap between the Premier event (a wildcard race) and the selection races. These events will be used as a pilot for email entry and electronic payment, identifying issues in the run up to the abolition of cheques.

6.3.3 Judges

There are now more than 20 qualified gate judges in Scotland and we have 4 who are moving onto taking Senior Gate Judges exam. Jim McPherson, currently our only section judge has worked at the last two weekend's racing at Grandtully. Hopefully this progress will continue and so reduce the cost of bringing section judges to Grandtully, (Note 26 have passed the Exam only 12 have applied for registration)

6.3.4 Replacement for Tutti

Jim Mcpherson has been developing a computer programme to replace the ageing TUTTI for timing at events in Scotland. It is currently being tested and the idea is to have something that will work on any laptop with serial or USB ports. The communication section of the TUTTI is also being replaced with a smaller unit.

6.3.5 Scottish Artificial Slalom Course

Work to progress the development of an artificial slalom course in Scotland is continuing. A business plan has been produced and talks are on-going to select a site.

6.3.6 Levy Payment

Concerns were raised from Catharine Croft re the method agreed by the committee in dealing with levies for the Scots. It will in effect lead to duplication of work as Catharine will still need to check all is correct. The turn around time for return of levies to the Scots is generally within the week, only on one occasion has there been a delay and this was because of an error on the form submitted by the club.

A meeting will be arranged with the SCA Treasurer to discuss approaches, hopefully at the British Open.
.....Action AH/CDW

6.4 G.B. Canoeing

No report

7 ACM Motions

7.1 Multi class discounts

A motion will be put to the ACM targeting increased participation by restricting it to lower divisions and increasing the discount. This will scrap the discount at premier and division one. A single multi class discount can be earned per entry, with the discount being increased to £3.

7.2 Premier/Division 1 Veterans Ranking

A motion will be put to the ACM, proposing amending Division 1/Premier ranking points to be calculated by comparison to the Men's Kayak results. A factor of 1.2 will be used in the 2011 season at Premier events to provide a more level comparison. This will be reviewed at the 2011 ACM.

7.3 Protest Time

Current rules allow 1 hour from the end of each class except the last which has 15 minutes. Strictly a conflict if the last class is less than 45 mins long. A standard of 15 minutes after the results are posted will be applied for all classes including officials. A motion will be put to the ACM.

7.4 Risk Assessment

A motion will be put to the ACM proposing the establishment of a panel to review and advise on Risk Assessments for events. Initially this will be headed by Peter Curry, other volunteers will be sought. During 2011 all clubs will be encouraged to submit risk assessments for review. An application for an event in 2012 must be accompanied by a risk assessment approved less than a year earlier. This will be reviewed in regard to BCU process and approval.

7.5 Enabling Motion for Rule Review

As the UK rules are being reviewed against the ICF rules, a motion will be put to the ACM agreeing that unless there is a compelling reason not to, UK rules should be brought back in line with ICF rules.

7.6 Strategy Panel

It will be proposed that a panel is set up (chaired by strategic planning coordinator) to review and define medium term strategy including build up to and aftermath of Olympics. The initial remit will exclude longer term strategy until we know HOW we will not miss this opportunity. A true strategic approach can be defined after the initial tactical issues have been resolved.

7.7 Formalise U23 across all divisions

A motion will be put to the ACM, formalising U23 age category across all divisions.

7.8 Club Motions

Clubs are reminded that they have to submit ACM motions 30 days before the meeting (28th October), signed by two full members of their national governing body, representing the views of the committee of a registered club.

7.9 Maximum entries for an event.

Unless the organiser specifies one, no entry limit will be applied.

7.10 Protest Fees

A review of protest fees will be considered for all divisions.

7.11 Recording of penalties

It is suggested that recording of penalties will follow the ICF convention of recording left and right gate poles as per paddler presentation not river bank.

7.12 Nominations for officers and co-ordinators

At the ACM there will need to be elections for

- Chair, Anne Hounslow indicated that she is willing to stand again
- Treasurer, Andy Koszary is also willing to be re-elected.
- Secretary, Ken Trollope does not want to stand again; the committee will nominate Colin Woodgate.
- Jacky Wetzig (Competition), Jim Croft (Event Management) and Paul Ramsdale (Marketing/Publicity) indicated they would like to stand again, the committee will nominate these. A further co-ordinator post is open, this will be published on the web.....**Action JC**
- The Paddlers Representative will also need to be elected, as Gareth is standing down. A posting will be put on the web inviting applications.**Action JC**
- Les Milam is giving up C1W ranking; Mark Shaw will be nominated for this post.

Any nominations should be submitted to the Secretary before the meeting. Those for Chair and Secretary must be in the form of motions, so must be submitted by 28th October (as 7.8 above).

8 A.O.B.

8.1.1 ACM arrangements

There will be no lunches provided at the ACM or further committee meetings.

The meeting closed at 16:00

Dates of Next Meetings

7th November 10 am/Bingham, ACM - 27th November HPP

The 2011 Club Registration forms are available in electronic format please contact Slalom Administrator.