

Firstly a very big **thank you** to all involved in officiating and the technical side of delivering Canoe Slalom in the UK, including:

- clubs, event organisers, paddlers and volunteers who have organised, helped set up, judged and provided timing / scoring at slalom competitions – from opens and division 4s through to Premier races and overseas at international races– for the paddlers throughout 2017;
- Jury members for keeping the events running and dealing with a range of issues in some trying circumstances;
- Sections Judges and gate judges who continue to demonstrate the highest standard of judging at events in the UK and overseas and run the gate judging courses at various events;
- the members of the Timing Teams for their continued support in providing professional standard timing at the Premier, Division 1 events, and other events such as the Interclubs and the British Open;
- Andy Hounslow for his hard work maintaining the backbone of slalom – Tutti – and for the clubs and individuals who have assisted – either directly or by reporting issues as they arise - with the maintenance over the season; and
- Nick Penfold, Duncan Berriman, and the ranking team for keeping the ranking system in order.

It has been a busy and successful year, as evidenced by the growing participation and in the jury report forms, which would not be possible without all of the above and their dedication and professionalism.

It is with sincere gratitude for his support that I report that Andy Hounslow has decided to step down from his role as Tutti Maintenance Officer. Andy has been the stalwart in maintaining and fixing the Tutti system (and more) for many years. Often dealing with any issue that arose at ‘the drop of a hat’ putting aside personal plans to ensure that races at all levels throughout the UK could happen week in week out, despite the kit and the users’ best endeavours to throw a spanner in the works. I would like to thank him for all his hard work, dedication and perseverance he has committed to the role and the support he has given me over the many years. I would also like to thank the Andy’s family for putting up with the myriad of boxes and the weekends of kit testing the role brought to their home. Thank you Andy.

On the judging side... It is good to see a growing number of people coming forward to try to the gate judges exam and section judging. Over the next few months, we will be looking at ways of rolling out further training / updates for gate judges and section judges, hopefully using video scenarios.

On the timing side... The 2017 season generally past well with only the usual expected wear'n'tear being experienced with timing and communications systems as the year progressed. After a slow start, happy to confirm that we will shortly be buying the replacement to Tutti. The intention is for it to be as easy as Tutti to operate without the technical issues arising from the wear and tear. This should happen over the winter season and briefings on the new system will be published and sent to clubs and organisers shortly.



Thank you also to all the new volunteers who have come forward, whether it be to get involved in gate judging, section judging, timing, volunteered at events, many of whom are now regular faces. If you are interested in joining or finding out more, please get in touch (details below and in the yearbook) and/or drop by the scoring office at a Prem / Div 1 race and say hello.

If you should have any thoughts / ideas or concerns with regards any technical / competition aspect of canoe slalom in the UK and/or would like to be involved in any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me as below, or alternatively, catch me on the river bank or in the scoring office.

Andy Grudzinski
M 07912 850595

E andrew.grudzinski@gmail.com