



SLALOM COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 15 2021

Via videoconference

Attendees: Dave Spencer, Chair; Peter Curry; Deborah Catty; Karen Crowhurst; Dee Lindsay; Martyn Setchell; Andy Grudzinski (AGz); Mark Abbott; Les Ford; Mike Mitchell; Colin Woodgate; Richard Ramsdale; Fraser Glasgow

Apologies: Anna Gray (AG);

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as correct

2. Matters arising

FG and DC to send photos to Nick Penfold for the website.

DS has clarified that insurance is provided to cover club activities for England clubs. Whilst Scotland and Wales use the same insurer, the home nation reps need to confirm that the cover is the same. **Action: FG and MA**

3. Talent Programme

RR did a brief round up of the talent programmes across the home nations

- England has launched a new talent strategy which is based around 3 key principles developing athletes, clubs and coaches, better supporting juniors in their clubs. There will still be a core of employed coaches but an increased emphasis on developing club coaches and an increased amount of funding and support being made to clubs through the Talent Club Partnership Programme. At U23 level, a partnership approach with universities is being explored, which would provide support to any UK athlete at that university. Initially, England talent is working the universities in Nottingham, and then will look to roll it out further. The RTA is changing to an open programme (Slalom Schools) launched on 16 April, which will support club coach development opportunities.

4. Return to racing:

4.1 Div 2 races

Organizers have asked if div 2 races can run between May and June, given the more positive position in relation to covid. Concerns discussed were: until June and beyond, large swathes of the population will still not have vaccine protection; there

are ongoing limitations on travel / staying away overnight / camping; events need to be covid-secure, with toilet facilities a major issue. On balance, it was agreed that the original date of 21 June would remain as the earliest date for div 2 races.

4.2 Support for organisers:

- it was noted that there are likely to be ongoing limitations on providing catering which would impact on income from the event. It was recognised that clubs were reluctant to put up fees.
- The provision of toilets is a major issue for an event to be covid-secure

The practicalities of running an event are being explored for Junior / U23 selection, with solutions such as full runs rather than demos being considered; and responsibility for toilets being debated. Learnings from this would be shared.

AGz and PC will look at providing support to organisers, targeting organisers of May and June events. **Action: AGz / PC to contact organisers. KC to forward collated organisers concerns to AGz / PC**

4.3 It was agreed that there would be no end of season demotions at the end of the current season. **Action: DC to communicate**

4.4 Vets championship – vets are keen to run a championship and so it was agreed that they should organise this themselves. **Action: MM to communicate this to the vet group**

4.5 Junior championships – at present the committee does not expect the junior championships to run but will keep this under review

5. Increasing participation in lower divisions

Overall, the position in relation to paddler numbers as a result of the pandemic is uncertain with anecdotally, some clubs seeing an increase. However, some clubs have not been able to recruit.

KC has put together a questionnaire for div 2 and below paddlers to provide information on this group of paddlers (interest / intention / structure). The committee supported the approach and it was agreed to promote the questionnaire through slalom website, facebook, twitter, networks and clubs. The results of the questionnaire will be discussed at the next meeting. **Action: DC to add to agenda**

Extreme slalom is seen as a fun way for people to get involved. Key things to consider:

- what is considered to be a great experience or event for paddlers. For example, venue, access to equipment etc.
- need to get clubs aware and involved
- how to promote events
- can BC help promote at the lower end divisions
- who needs to drive it?
- This season, event organisers need to be given the message that they are encouraged to run extreme events if they can
- A draft concept for rankings needs to be ready to be discussed at the ACM

6. Online bib application system

All the bib officers have seen and tried out the bib application system and are fairly happy with it. There are still practicalities to be worked through, including costs. CW will speak to BC once a draft cost model is in place. **Action: DS / CW / KC to catch up on the practical and financial elements.**

7. AOB:

Shepperton, 29/30 May. It was agreed that this could be amended as requested by the club, and would run as a div $\frac{3}{4}$ on both days.

Data protection. It was agreed that this needed to be considered in detail – looking at what data is held, and the purpose of it. **Action: DC to add to next agenda**

8. Date and time of next meeting

13 May @ 7.45pm via zoom