



1 Attendance

1.1 Present

Andy Grudzinski	[8/8]	Chair	Donna Hawkins	[8/8]	Mark Abbott	[6/8]	Wales
Sally Atkinson	[7/8]	Vice Chair	Karen Crowhurst	[7/8]	Martyn Setchell	[6/8]	England
Colin Woodgate	[8/8]	Secretary	Dee Lindesay	[8/8]	Zac Allin	[4/5]	Athlete Rep
Dave Spencer	[8/8]	Treasurer	Mike Mitchell	[6/8]			
			Peter Curry	[7/8]			

1.2 Apologies

	Jason Humphries	[5/8]	Vacant	CANI
			Richard Ramsdale	[4/8] British Canoeing
			Mark Ratcliffe	British Canoeing
			Stuart Pitt	[6/8] Scotland

2 Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

3 Annual General Meeting

3.1 Logistics

- Dave Spencer will arrange for the building to be opened. Someone will need to be on the ground floor to welcome people on arrival and get them to sign in.
- Teas and coffees on arrival will be in the BC kitchen. People will be asked to bring their own mugs to reduce carbon footprint
- Lunch will be provided as normal. This is to be arranged by Dave through BC.
- The meeting will be in person only, not a hybrid meeting.
- The two rooms will need to be set up as a single room, with a top table and rows of chairs. The TV at the front will be used to show a presentation (as usual) to assist in tracking the meeting progress.

3.2 Votes

It was noted that some clubs have enough paddlers to vote at the ACM, but have not registered / are not NF members. These include:

- Edinburgh Schools (8 paddlers),
- Frome (14 paddlers),
- North Wales Slalom (21 paddlers)
- Nottingham KC (3 paddlers),
- Paddle Peak (4 paddlers),
- Stoud Valley (5 paddlers),
- Wiltshire Youth (11 paddlers).

As they have not registered, there is no contact information to alert them to the issue.

3.3 Reports and Nominations

The committee members were reminded that each working group, Home nations and BC should provide a report to the ACM. These will be posted before the ACM for acceptance en bloc.

- Athlete input and support: Zac Allin
- Awards: Andy Grudzinski
- Calendar: Dee Lindesay
- Kayak Cross, including development, rules, entries, safety: Jason Humphries
- Ranking: Nick Penfold
- Safety: Peter Curry
- Volunteers, recruitment and development: Andy Grudzinski



3.4 Entry Fees

The standard entry fee increase is linked to inflation. There is no proposal to change this. Clubs will be encouraged to charge late entry fees in all cases. This helps with creating and managing the budget for the competition.

3.5 Motions

The motions that are to be put to the ACM were reviewed. Committee motions were finalised, and responses to non-committee motions were agreed.

3.6 Calendar

The calendar to be put to the ACM was reviewed and the issues discussed, the clubs affected will be notified **Action DL.**

A draft set of Interclubs' rules was tabled. This was agreed to be a matter for the team managers at the event to review and agree together.

The calendar includes a Tryweryn Festival to be trialled in 2024 with multiple competitions across the divisions.

3.7 Trophies

Nominees for the Ed Ecclestone award are being sought urgently. Nominations must be received by 12th November for consideration. Proposals, with justification should be sent to slalom.chair@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk marked 'Ed Ecclestone'.

4 Selection

4.1 Policy

There have been a number of questions and issues raised regarding the organisation and running of selection.

Zachary Allin, as paddler rep has been co-ordinating the concerns and questions. A large number of respondents expressed concern over the anonymity of any responses and how this could affect the way they / their children could be perceived by the IP / coaches and the long term effect.

Other issues included

- Entry to both a premier race and selection race having to be paid as a single race, requiring entry to both days even if not eligible for selection.
- Concern over the effects of performance not considering how their actions affect the wider sport in the country.
- Concern that below premier there is still an effect on peoples long term participation with the costs of getting to Lee Valley.
- Access to Lee Valley for slalom training both in the run up to the selection race. Access to training only possible during the day before the selection race. There are also issues across the year to get consistent training slots if you are not on squads.
- There are issues about percentage comparisons for juniors and under 23, with variations on the comparison standards.
- The trust in the World Class, performance and the sport in general in regards to reactions to comments and complaints. The BC Whistleblowing scheme should be more widely publicised.
- There seem to be a large disconnect between performance and the development of the sport. Having World Class athletes attending and racing at domestic races would have a very beneficial effect. Also of assistance would be World Class athletes providing coaching clinics for non-program athletes. This is supported by the slalom committee and will be taken forward to the World Class programme.

There was also an general ignorance / uncertainty over where the responsibility lies BC for selection. There seeming to be a ground swell that still thought this was within the remit of the slalom committee, rather than the International Panel as a separate committee. Communication between various committees would benefit from some attention.



It was noted that the selection policy is published for consultation every year and this is one route for feedback. The draft 2024 Junior/U23/Kayak Cross draft policy has just been published those who have raised concerns should submit their opinions through feedback on this. Any feedback is anonymised before it is read by the IP to counter bias, unconscious or otherwise. Feedback already received has resulted in changes to next year's junior policy including:

- A split of venues (LV x 1 day, HPP x 2 days)
- Greater gap between events in order to help mitigate illness, menstruation etc (12 days between races)
- Eligibility extending down into div 1 (rather than it being limited to Prem)
- A separate Slalom and Kayak Cross policy for Juniors, Under 23 and seniors this year.

This may be further discussed at the Slalom Coaching Meeting on 6th November.

5 Matters arising from previous minutes

5.1 Working Group Issues (10/8 4.1)

An initial list questions has been gathered and will be circulatedAction AG

5.2 Athlete Group

5.2.1 Falling numbers

There were concerns over the reduced number of competitors at events and the effect on promotion was highlighted. This is exacerbated by the number of athletes turning veteran.

5.2.2 Premier Race atmosphere

There seems to be a reduced atmosphere at Premier races. This has resulted in some people not paddling. This may be affected by having on line results reducing the gathering round results screens. Trials of not publishing results online will be carried out next season.

The atmosphere could also be improved through music and commentaries.

5.2.3 Community dinner

It is too late to arrange a slalom community dinner this year. The remit and purpose of the dinner will be reviewed for the next year.

5.3 Communications

No report

5.4 Chief Judge Form update (08/10 Matt Crowhurst)

An online version of the Chief Judge form has been developed and is being trialled.

5.5 Volunteer Recruitment (08/10 AG)

BC are setting up communications for those who volunteered at the World Championships, and through the season to keep the channels open and develop the opportunities

6 Accounts

6.1 Slalom Coaching Grant Application

A retrospective grant application had been received for Slalom coaching support. It was agreed that in this case the grant will be paid. It was stressed that grants should be applied for in advance, retrospective grant aid is not certain and may not be forthcoming.

6.2 Financial Statement

The accounts are being finalised in preparation for the ACM. They will be circulated to the committee when agreed.



6.3 Federation Membership

It was agreed that as British Canoeing insists on committee members being members of the governing body, if an elected member is a member only to be on the committee their basic membership will be reimbursed.

Other officials are covered by event insurance and although membership is encouraged, it is not mandatory so will not be covered.

7 Other Competitions

7.1 British Open

The British Open is a national race and is the responsibility of the slalom committee. It was agreed that in the transition to LVPPS running the event a minimum profit will be agreed. When the format and entry fee has been agreed the guaranteed profit will be agreed between the Treasurer and the club.....**DS**

7.2 Interclub's Competition

DH will be the organiser, supported by Viking Kayak Club.

8 Any Other Business / Actions

8.1 Printed rules / statutes for 2024

It was agreed that there will be a small run of printed rules / committee terms of reference next year. A form to express interest in receiving such a booklet will be set up. It is expected that these will be offered to event organisers, UK Section judges, and committee members. While stocks last they may also be requested by coaches.

This will be complemented by a single sheet listing division 2 / 3 4 races. As was produced this year.

8.2 Coaching Conference

MM will be attending the Slalom Coaching conference the day after the ACM. This is aimed at his experiences as a volunteer coach at Wyedean. There was no time to be able to discuss any matters that the committee wish him to raise. Individual members should discuss their views with him direct.

8.3 England Committee

It was reported that the England Slalom Committee is having some issues with volunteers, their remit and organisation. Any possible support will be discussed at a future meeting. It is understood that Martyn Setchell has stood down as England Slalom Chair. An appeal will be made at the ACM for volunteers to take part in that committee.

9 Future Meetings

- 25th November ACM at HPP
- Virtual meeting for the new committee, with restricted agenda 29th November.