



Paddle UK Slalom Committee

Wednesday 18th September 2024

Virtual Meeting

1 Attendance

1.1 Present

Sally Atkinson	[6/7]	Vice Chair	Mike Mitchell	[4/7]	Gareth Wilson	[6/7]	Paddle UK
Dave Spencer	[7/7]	Vice Chair	Karen Crowhurst	[7/7]	Alison Longhurst	[5/7]	England
Les Ford	[7/7]	Treasurer	Dee Lindesay	[7/7]			
			Peter Curry	[6/7]			
			Donna Hawkins	[6/7]			

Also present: Matt Crowhurst

1.2 Apologies

Andy Grudzinski	[5/7]	Chair	Mark Haylett	[5/7]	Zac Allin	[3/7]	Athlete Rep
					Mark Abbott	[4/7]	Wales
					Vacant	[3/7]	Scotland

1. Previous Minutes and matters arising

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of Scott Richie who has sadly passed away.

2.1 International Panel Nominee

SA has written a policy together to clarify the situation for appointing the Slalom Committee's representatives which has been circulated. DS stands down in November. SA has attended the recent meeting as an observer and is nominated to this role.

2.2 Website

There has been a query about who posts pdf results to the website – Duncan Berriman can post these. DB is also working on some upgrades to enable maintaining the website to be shared around more people.

2.3 Other Matters

Paddlers were congratulated on their successes at the recent Ivrea World Cup Race.

Domestically it was great to see both Abbey Rapids and the Interclub championships making successful returns to the racing calendar. Thanks to all involved in making these events happen.

3 Participation Survey and Strategy Development

3.1 Consultation Update

The final survey report has been produced and will be published imminently. An email and link to a video is to be circulated to all registered clubs. **Action GW/LF**

3.2 Whole Sport Plan

A draft whole sport plan document has been circulated previously and feedback was discussed. This will be finalised and as a committee we need to communicate our strategy and take this forward. Action plans would then flow from these. The aim is to have this circulated in early October. **Action: GW**



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3.3 Project 2026 Development

The initial concept for a new racing structure has now been shared with home nations to seek support for and evolve the principles for the project and gather feedback. A small working group is meeting to begin to develop further details on the proposals. Work is also needed to highlight the issues facing the sport and how the proposals address these issues if we are to get buy-in from clubs that run events and the whole slalom community. There is a lot of work to do to develop proposals sufficiently to be ready for the ACM. It is likely that proposals are presented as a discussion at the ACM, and an SCM early in the new year to bring in enabling motions for the 2026 season.

4 Calendar Updates

4.1 2024 Calendar Updates

Nene (28/29 Sept) – there are issues with the pumps which means that the event may need to run with reduced numbers or be cancelled. *Post meeting note: the vent has now been cancelled.*

There has been lots of positive feedback about the Graveyard becoming a P/1 race. There has also been feedback regarding unintended consequences of this decision that needs to be considered in similar situations in the future, including a full event and the impact on other events.

Events are now feeding through automatically to the Paddle UK website events list from the entries website.

4.2 2025 Calendar

It was confirmed that the calendar conflict between Tees and Llandysul in October has been resolved.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that we would email all Prem/1 organisers to ensure that they are aware of the decision at the last meeting that we would be looking to remove the rule which limited the number of races, but also highlight that if this was not passed that events would be at risk at the ACM. **Action: LF**

Consideration is being given to the British Open becoming an ICF ranking race in 2025, potentially hosting two one-day ICF races alongside a Prem Race one day and Kayak Cross the other. There are issues around the entry system, formats, how these dovetail with the domestic race. There are also implications for volunteers.

5 Bib and Ranking Status Issues (SA/KC)

It was proposed and agreed that KC takes on the role of Bib Officer Coordinator, including looking at the end of season ranking list for December's meeting. It was agreed that we would continue with the existing supply of bibs for next year as far as possible, where necessary making use of the higher numbers that are not currently needed.

Ranking and re-ranking requests are currently going to Duncan Berriman, KC and DH are happy to pick this up for men and women respectively. KC to follow up with DB. **Action: KC**

KC is looking at a list of possible enhancements to the bib system.

There has been an issue with PUK membership reminders not going out and paddlers being unaware that their membership had lapsed. Bib Officers have chased up individuals. DS to follow with PUK. **Action: DS.**

6 ACM preparations

6.1 Committee Motions

Those discussed at previous meetings have been drafted. The deadline for ACM motions from outside the committee is 25th October. A reminder is to be circulated/published. **Action: LF.**

6.2 Committee – terms expiring

LF highlighted the members that were due for re-election and asked them to consider if they are willing to continue in their role.



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7 Home Nations Updates

Scotland: Activity is now starting to happen at Grandtully. Event risk assessments are currently going via PC to get Paddle Scotland approval.

England: The Committee is meeting regularly and progressing in a number of areas.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Awards Evening Update

More than 80 tickets have been sold for the event so far. The group are pulling final details together, including awaiting a quote for the trophies.

8.2 Slalom Start Box resource

This is a resource that the Paddle UK Talent programme has developed in collaboration with Proteus CC who have designed and led their own recruitment in the last 6 months. The Slalom Start Box is intended to support paddler recruitment within clubs to increase the number of children and young people engaged in Canoe Slalom across the UK. The box is a digital cache of resources, templates and best practice examples that would allow a club to more easily plan, create links and deliver safe, fun and engaging taster sessions. These digital resources will be freely available and accessible to any club in the UK, both those involved currently as well as those that want to engage in Slalom. There will be a soft launch to clubs in October and fully released at the Slalom Coaching Conference in December.

8.3 IJCSL updates

The process for nominating volunteer ITO's to attend international events in 2025 is ongoing. **Action: MC.** LF will recirculate the policy for volunteers to be eligible for nomination as ITO. MC to review and propose any changes required to the next committee meeting. **Action: MC.**

8.4 Open Event Entry - Requirement for membership

A query has been received regarding whether membership is required for Open event entry. The rules require full membership for ranking paddlers, and entry at Div 4 is also allowed for club affiliates or with event membership. There is no provision in the rules for entries in an Open event, or as an official or for international paddlers as guests. PC highlighted that this is not a new issue, and the organiser and organising club are covered by insurance through their club affiliation. However, the paddler would not be covered for any liabilities to a third party that may arise that is included in Home Nation membership.

8.5 Volunteer and Judge training

MC, SA and others have pulled together a presentation for training new volunteers and judges. This will be trialled at the HPP P/1 with a view to rolling this out at various winter training events to encourage and support the recruitment of more people to judging and volunteering in the sport.

8.6 Inter club trophies

It was agreed that surplus from the event could be used to cover engraving the perpetual trophies and to repair a damaged trophy.

8.7 Future meeting dates (see below)

- Saturday 9th November, 10am – Paddle UK HQ
- **Saturday 30th November ACM**
- Sunday 1st Dec – Slalom Coaching Conference (now confirmed)
- Post ACM meeting - Wednesday 4th December, 7:30pm (tbc)