

1 Attendance

Sally Atkinson	[4/4]	Chair	Peter Curry	[4/4]	Gareth Wilson	[2/4]	Paddle UK
Matt Crowhurst	[4/4]	Vice Chair	Dee Lindesay	[4/4]	Tony Leaver	[2/4]	Scotland
Dave Spencer	[4/4]	Treasurer	Karen Crowhurst	[4/4]	Zac Allin	[2/4]	Paddler Rep
Les Ford	[4/4]	Secretary	Richard Sterry	[4/4]	Alison Longhurst	[2/4]	England
			Mikey Brown	[4/4]			
			Helen Darby-Dowman	[3/4]			

1.1 Apologies

Mark Abbott [3/4] Wales

1.2 Committee Admin

Still outstanding Standards of Deployment information. **Action: TL**

2 Previous Minutes and matters arising

2.1 International Entries Clarifications

It has been clarified that the ECA junior cups are level 4 races, so not entered via Paddle UK. This has been updated, and the policy will be publicised.

3 2025 Calendar Updates

Kilhurst 2/3 (17/18 May) has been cancelled due to site access issues.

Marple 3/4 (24/25 May) are unable to run the competition on the scheduled date and have requested a change to 3/4 May when there is no other competition running. After further discussions it was agreed that the impact of losing both these 2 competitions in the north of England in the same month provide exceptional circumstances, so the change of date for Marple should be allowed (see rule 22.1.5.c).

4 Safety

4.1 Events compliance with Risk Assessments

It has been brought to the committee's attention that two early season events have not put in place the safety arrangements that they have set out in their risk assessment/safety plans. This puts the organiser and club at significant risk, as if there is an incident they could be found to be negligent. The organisers of these events will be contacted regarding these concerns.

All organisers will be reminded that they must ensure that safety arrangement set out in their risk assessments must be in place for their events. Repeated incidents could lead to ranking status being withdrawn from future events run by a club. Organisers will also be reminded that good practice is to make a copy of the risk assessment available to the Chief Judge at the event. **Action: SA / LF**

5 Consultation Event Planning

There was a full discussion of the current proposals that are being put forward to the consultation event. A plan for the event on 5th April was developed and will be shared with the committee. This includes preparations for the event, information that will be made available before the event, and plans for collecting feedback at and after the event. **Actions: Various**

6 Recruitment

Held over to next meeting due to lack of time.

7 Working Group Updates

Updates / notes from the working group meetings have been circulated previously.

8 Home Nations and Paddler Representative Updates

England – England now has a new team manager for the Pan Celtic, which is Steve Dixon, replacing Mike Mitchel. Regrettably Ciaran Edwards is stepping down from the committee and we would like to thank both of them for all their work. Jon Males will be joining the committee as the new representative from the south-east.

We were pleased to hear 15 England clubs have applied for the slalom start box. The English White Water Camps that we support are looking to be extended with the intention of one a month subject to coaching gaps in the calendar. At the time of the meeting the window for the next round of the club support scheme was still open so we were unsure how many English clubs were requesting financial assistance to help improve participation.

Finally, once the selection results are known we can consider what financial assistance we can provide English athletes this year.

Scotland – the Grandtully Prem/Div 1 is race fully approved, and preparations are ongoing with the support of Paddle Scotland. Additional bearers and infrastructure repairs are planned for Grandtully over the next few weeks.

Pinkston is looking into a bridge to the island that could (potentially) accommodate a KX ramp. Slalom Development Group will liaise on this to support their work. Everyone is looking forward to first Scottish slalom race of the season at Pinkston in under 2 weeks time.

Paddler Rep – some issues have been raised about judging (also see 9.4). ZA looking to stand down at end of the year.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Updates from Discipline Chairs Meeting

- New Discipline Development Manager James Hinves (SA had a brief mtg with JH) is available to support Committees with structures, processes, etc. Suggested he supported the development of a Judging Pathway document. He is keen for the disciplines to share good practice, e.g. our levies information is being shared with other disciplines. He will be able to signpost us to other support from PUK.
- **Other new staff at Paddle UK:** Head of Governance - Joy Johnston, Finance manager - Tim Slate
- PUK Volunteer Manager - currently advertised.

- There is financial assistance from PUK for across the disciplines for athletes who have made Team but are financially struggling to be able to participate, which can be advertised after selection. **Action LF**
- A Communications Network Group will be created to develop Media Guides, etc. (Jack Parnell - Communications Officer).
- PUK will now only do events coverage for World Champs and European Champs. Any coverage of World Cups, Europeans to be led by Discipline Committees who can share write-ups with PUK. (There were several of us suggesting that we are not there so how we get the information will be interesting). PUK are wanting to focus on marketing the sport at grass roots level to support participation. We need to coordinate and link in with Communications Network Group. **Action: HDD and RS**
- At National Championships there will be a PUK Photographer and these photos will be available for the disciplines to use.
- Brands policy - we need to use Hummel if buying any kit (non-specialist) e.g. caps for England. Committee to read the policy and discuss at next meeting. We can also share links to partners on facebook etc.
- Events: Mac Allen is key contact. Generally, this would be remote support generally but can coordinate volunteers and equipment. Medals available - share with clubs (£2.50 for wooden medals)
- Discussed volunteer recognition and what PUK could do to recognise volunteers.
- There is a 4-year lead-in for international events - what do we want to be looking to host for 2029/2030 onwards?
- Richard Atkinson (Environment and Access Lead and Biodiversity) wants to encourage 'Check, clean, dry' for equipment to stop invasive species. Does anyone want to lead on this? We could invite RA to a Committee mtg - short slide show and resources for clubs (free from DEFRA).

9.2 Slalom Talent Update

An update from the Slalom Talent programme (England) has been circulated.

9.3 Updates from IP Meeting

- Tom Duggan is the new Performance Director and will be in post from April 10th. He will attend the HPP and LV Selection races.
- Levies for Kayak Cross at Selection have been discussed as these are needed to support volunteers attending.
- Planning towards the UK being selected to host for a World Cup race in 2027/28.
- 2026 Selection Planning - Andy Maddock will meet with Home Nations to discuss venues, proposing 2 venues again and running on the last w/e in March and 2nd w/e in April.
- The issue with email address given for selection queries is being resolved.

9.4 Appeal received

An appeal has been received regarding a judging decision at Llandysul Div 1 which is being followed up. **Action: SA**

9.5 Future meeting dates (see below)

- Sat 5th April – Consultation Event on Future Structure of Slalom
- Sun 6th April (face-to-face)

Paddle UK Slalom Committee

Online

Tuesday 11 March 2025



- Sat 24th May (virtual)
- Tues 8th July (face-to-face)
- Tues 23rd Sept (virtual)
- Sat 8th November (face to face) - prior to the ACM
- **Sat 29th November – ACM**
- *Sun 30th November – Paddle UK Slalom Coaching Conference*
- Tues 2nd Dec - after the ACM