



Slalom Committee

Twenty Second

Annual Consultative Meeting

29th November 2025

Commencing at 10:00

Location: Paddle UK HQ, National Water Sports Centre,
Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, NG12 2LU

Minutes

1. Welcome by the Chair

The chair welcomed 36 people to the meeting, representing 26 clubs, holding 79 votes.

1.1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Wilde (Frome), Chris & Ken Baillie, Mike Mitchell (Wyedean).

1.2. Appointment of Tellers

Proxy for North Wales slaloms and Kingston were received slightly later than the deadline. It was proposed and agreed by the meeting that these could be accepted on this occasion.

David Lindesay and Alan Adams agreed to act as tellers for the meeting.

2. Minutes

2.1. 21stth Annual Consultative Meeting (to be accepted)

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Halifax and seconded by Paddle Scotland and were then accepted nem con.

2.2. 2024/2025 Committee Meeting minutes (tabled online for information)

The committee meeting minutes had been circulated after each meeting and were made available electronically before this meeting.

3. Reports

3.1. Chair's Report

What a year 2025 was for Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross.

I will start by saying a huge 'Thank You' to everyone in the sport at all levels on the bank supporting or on the water.

It has been a very successful year internationally and domestically. Congratulations to Paddle UK Team paddlers who won 13 golds, 14 silver and 17 bronze medals at ICF and ECA races across Seniors, U23s and Juniors in Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross. There were additional medals at the ECA Junior cup races. Congratulations to all.

Domestically, over 70 national competitions have been organised creating fantastic opportunities for paddlers to compete at all levels. Thank you to all the Organisers and teams for delivering such excellent races. Thank you to Dee Lindesay for her hard work and patience as she steps down from the role of managing the Calendar over the past few years - this is always a challenging process. A plea to Organisers to get race applications in on time.

It was great to see an increase in more lower division races incorporating fun formats to highlight the importance of having fun rather than solely racing for points such as Frome, Oughtibridge, Orton Mere, Bradford and Bingley and Fairmile. Two clubs working together to organise two races on the same weekend using the top section for Premier and Division 1 paddlers alongside a division 2 and 3 race on the Daleks created a real buzz on the water and off the water. Congratulations to HPP Canoe Club and Stafford and Stone Canoe Club. The Llandysul Festival also created a great atmosphere with the division 4 race on the Lake and the Division 2 and 3 race on the river alongside other activities in the week. These sorts of events are what we need to retain paddler and entice others into the sport. Thank you so much to all those clubs, Organisers and volunteers and to the paddlers for participating.

It was great to see the culmination of the season with the British Open and ICF race at Lee Valley organised very successfully by the next generation of Organisers. Congratulations Ciaran Edwards ably assisted by Jake Brown and Mallory Edwards and the rest of Lee Valley Paddlers Canoe Club. We do need to consider Succession Planning going forward.

Thanks to Donna Hawkins with Nick Taylor's support for organising the Interclubs race at Cardington. It was a great event but with only seven clubs attending there is a need to discuss whether this needs to relocate or change format going forward.

Without volunteers these races would not happen. A HUGE thank you to all the people who make these races possible. We do appreciate the work of all the volunteers whether it is supporting beginners, coaching on the bank or on the water, volunteering at clubs, organising races, officiating and managing behind the scenes, logistics or infrastructure planning. Thank you.

A special thank you to some key figures who are stepping down from their roles this year:

Jackie Brookes as you hang up your Judging Board, pencil and headphones. A big thank you for all your judging and coordinating over the years. You have been a lynchpin for the Officials for more than 30 years recruiting and training judges, coordinating the judges and judging domestically and internationally, including several Olympics. We appreciate all you have done and wish you all the best.

Peter Curry who steps down from the Committee as Safety Officer. Thank you for your hard work on the Committee over the past 15 plus years supporting with such things as Events Planning and Health and Safety. We really appreciate all you have done to list but a few - reading risk assessments and advising, your hours of research and production of guidance documents. Your knowledge has been invaluable. Thank you.

Thank you to Fiona Pennie-Douglas for your hard work organising the national trophies.

Thank you to Zac Allin as you step down from the Slalom Committee as Paddler Rep. Thank you for your valuable contributions over the past few years and thanks for introducing the whitewater coached sessions for non-funded paddlers. These have been and continue to be invaluable and have provided a good model for going forward. Thank you.

Thank you to Helen Darby-Dowman as you step down from the Slalom Committee. We appreciate all your support this year. Do not underestimate your input. It has been invaluable.

I would just like to highlight the Volunteer Survey that PUK have recently sent out. I urge you to take time to complete the survey. PUK have employed Nicola Lake to produce a Volunteer Strategy, and she is trying to gather as much information from the different disciplines as possible.

This year has had its challenges but with the support of the Slalom Committee and PUK Officers we have found positive ways to move forward. Thank you to the whole of the Slalom Committee for all their hard work and support this year.

Thanks, also to the wider team at Paddle UK for their support, assistance and discussions over the year. Working together as one team enables us to support the sport as effectively as possible.

Challenge is good but I would like to remind everyone that we need to respect everyone's roles and expertise. Positivity on and off the water from everyone creates an empowering environment for all paddlers and all involved. Several clubs this year have introduced Parent and Paddler Codes of Conduct that are seen as a positive way forward to encourage this.

It would be also beneficial for Clubs and Coaches to include training to paddlers and parents on how to write a protest; Paddlers should be completing the protest form (supported by parents if needed) and paddlers should be attending any feedback from the Jury.

Our sport is predominantly Juniors (this is very different to when I started paddling 40+ years ago) so I would like to highlight Peter Curry's report and suggest that parents and coaches with very young paddlers read this to ensure youngsters have the correct equipment and that they are not specialising too early in one specific discipline.

With falling participation numbers, the main focus for this year as a committee has been to focus on Change by developing the Slalom Evolution Proposal. Change is always challenging but the Slalom Committee felt that they had a Duty of Care to develop a proposal to highlight possible changes that could be implemented to encourage retention of paddlers. The Consultations have meant that the original proposal has been adapted to retain the divisional structure. A huge thanks to the Working Group who have dedicated a huge amount of time to this project and have worked tirelessly: Thank to Dee Lindesay, Dave Spencer, Alison Longhurst, Gareth Wilson and Rick Moore.

The decline looks to continue with 745 on the bib list at the start of 2025 but only 622 applying for a bib. This suggests we will start 2026 with significantly lower numbers than in 2025.

I am sadly stepping down from the role of the Chair due to family commitments. This is nothing to do with issues within the Committee. I feel confident that the Committee is in a good place to drive the strategic priorities forward. I would encourage all of you to consider joining the Committee and share your skillset or your area of expertise.

Thank you to you all and all you do for the sport.

3.2. Treasurer's Report

These accounts cover the year ended 31 October 2025 and show a deficit of income over expenditure of £5,182 (2024: £2,164). Levy income has increased to £35,347 (2024: £31,082) although the loss of races in 2024 suppressed levy income for last year and if this is considered then levy income is broadly flat year to year. Additionally, £5,722 of creditor reserves against bib deposits have been released from the balance sheet in line with improved tracking of outstanding bib credits. Other items of note are contribution of £4,000 towards the upgrade of the gate system at HPP, increased support for Slalom specific coaching of £1,760 (2024: £844) and an increase in expenditure for Judging and Timing officials of £15,514 (2024: £12,963).

English Slalom Committee (ESC): All funds of the ESC currently remain within, and are overseen by, the Slalom Committee. As of 31 October 2025, the balance of funds held by the Committee on behalf of the ESC was £21,497 (2024: £21,087), as shown in note 3.

Bib Credits: The estimation of outstanding bib credits going into 2026 stands at 898 as reported by the bib system. The figure in note 4 is £9,500 (2024: £13,232) and better reflects the actual liability of retained bib deposits.

Slalom Bib System: The bib system continues to work efficiently and although Royal Mail prices have risen as per the October 2025 revision, the charge for a 250g 2nd Class large letter is unchanged and charge to post a bib will remain at £2.95. Royal Mail prices are further revised in April and there is no guarantee that 2nd Class charges will not rise again. In 2025 467 bibs were posted and 500 delivered to competitions by hand, so thank you to the Bib Officers for keeping costs down.

Audit: These accounts are unaudited. The BC auditors will audit them during December 2025. Slalom Committee Officers approved the accounts on 21 November 2024 for presentation to the Annual Consultative Meeting on 29 November 2025.

3.3. Other Reports

The reports were available online before the meeting. No questions were raised regarding the reports.

4. Elections

4.1. Chair

George Harratt has been proposed by Stafford & Stone and seconded by Halifax. In the absence of any other nominations, he was elected unopposed.

4.2. Vice Chair

Matt Crowhurst has been proposed and seconded by the Slalom Committee. In the absence of any other nominations, he was elected unopposed.

4.3. Secretary

Les Ford has been proposed and seconded by the Slalom Committee. In the absence of any other nominations, he was elected unopposed.

4.4. Committee Members

Term Expiring 2024: Dee Lindesay, Peter Curry, Richard Sterry. Additionally, Helen Darby-Dowman is stepping down so there are four Committee Members to be elected.

Dee Lindesay has indicated her willingness to stand for a further term. Mick Stegman was nominated prior to the meeting.

Further nominations were sought for the remaining posts. Richard Sterry was proposed by Llandysul and seconded by Seren Dwr.

All three nominees were then elected nem con. One position remains vacant, and the committee has the option to co-opt into that role until the 2026ACM.

Those stepping down from these roles were thanked for their work and assistance during their time on the committee.

4.5. Paddler Representative

The Paddler Representative is Steve Dixon. This role is elected by a separate election process.

4.6. Other Officials (normally elected 'en bloc')

Managed Calendar Officer	<i>Sally Atkinson</i>	Entry Cards Officer	Les Ford
Ranking Status Officer			Karen Crowhurst
Ranking Officers			
K1M Prem	Tracy Wells	C1M Prem & 1	Oliver Snowdon
K1M Div 1	Les Ford	C1M Div 2 & 3	Emma Godwin
K1M Div 2	Craig Douglas	C1W Prem & 1	Sally Atkinson
K1M Div 3	Karen Crowhurst	C1W Div 2 & 3	Donna Hawkins
K1M Div 4	James Hastings	Canadian Doubles	Stuart Meakins
K1W Prem & 1	Sally Atkinson	Vets (All)	Paul Mew
K1W Div 2 & 3	Donna Hawkins	Officials Compiler	Donna Hawkins
Annual Prize Co-ordination (Junior Champs)		Mikey Brown and Anoushka Nabilli	
Annual Prize Co-ordination (British Open and UK Championship)		<i>Vacant</i>	

All were elected nem con. The committee will continue to seek a volunteer(s) for the remaining Prize Coordinator role.

Thanks were given to the Officials who had stepped down for all their work and assistance supporting the sport.

4.7 England Slalom Committee Officers

The England Committee is a sub-committee of the Slalom Committee and has been reformed during the last year. Under the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Officers were elected for a two-year term at the 2024 Annual Consultative Meeting. The current officers are:

Chair - Alison Longhurst.

Secretary – Matt Crowhurst

Treasurer – Dave Spencer

Vice Chair – George Harratt

5. Ed Ecclestone award

5.1. Ed Ecclestone award

Previous Winners

2010 Irene Osbourne

2011 Ken Baillie

2012 Nick Penfold

2013 Ken Trollope

2014 Les Ford

2015 Johnny Brown

2016 Jacky Brooks

2017 Gareth Bryant

2018 Andy Hounslow

2019 Andy Grudzinski

2020/21 Mike Carter

2022 Neal Underwood

2023 Colin Woodgate

2024 Duncan Berriman

Nominees for this year:

Paul Evans

Jim McPherson

Peter Curry

Stewart Pitt

Patrick O'Hara

Rick Moore

The award was decided by previous winners. **Jim McPherson** was announced as the winner and received the perpetual trophy.

6. Motions

Unless specifically listed, the motions below are proposed by the committee. Wording in *Italics* are for explanation and do not form part of the motion. **Bold Underlined** text is to be added to rules; ~~Struck through~~ text is to be deleted.

6.1. Slalom Evolution Core Motion

Adopted

Proposals for the future structure of slalom racing in the UK have been developed and consulted on during the past year, with the proposed changes published in early September 2025.

However, in summary the changes cover three key areas:

- Introduction of tiers to describe water standards and course difficulty
- Retention of divisions for ranking purposes but not entry control
- Use of new points calculations

Some of the key intentions of the proposals are to:

- Provide freedom of choice so that competitors can select the locations and difficulty of courses that best suits them.
- Improve retention of paddlers that want to race on harder courses but cannot compete frequently enough to maintain a higher ranking.
- Encourage easier entry from those in other disciplines.
- Create fairer points that reflect how close, or otherwise, competitors are in the results.
- Remove issues associated with iniquitous events.

The wording of the rule changes made by this motion are lengthy, so were presented together in ACM Agenda Appendix 1 – Core Motion.

The motion passed with 43 for, 31 against and 5 abstentions.

The meeting was reminded that this will be implemented into the racing calendar and rankings for the 2027 season. The new rules will be used to enable the 2027 slalom calendar to be planned during 2026.

6.2. Slalom Evolution Supplementary Motion - Calendar

Adopted

This motion allows the Slalom Committee to regrade existing races to replace cancelled races where appropriate.

22.1.5	Alterations or additions
22.1.5.a	Except where listed below the Slalom Committee has no authority to add new competitions or change the Tier of a competition after the date of the Annual Consultative Meeting
22.1.5.b	Where, through force of circumstance, a Diamond, Black or Red competition has been cancelled; a substitute competition may be added to the calendar <u>or an existing competition be regraded. For example, an existing Black race could be upgraded to replace a cancelled Diamond race.</u>
22.1.5.c	Competitions may be added at Blue Tier and below in exceptional circumstances (such as new or reopened venues). Application for such competitions to be made to the Slalom Committee at least three months in advance.
22.1.5.d	Short Notice Slalom Taster competitions may be added. Applications for such competitions to be made to the Slalom Committee in advance.
22.1.5.e	In all cases approval is subject to agreement of all other clubs organising competitions on that date.

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.

The motion passed with 68 for, 11 against and 0 abstentions.

6.3 Slalom Evolution Supplementary Motion – Calendar Restrictions Adopted

Running lower tiers against higher tiers is problematic for many clubs as they lose their helpers. So we need to find a way to balance the calendar. This is not a new problem, and some people will be aware of previous attempts. The following restrictions are therefore defined by nations rather than the calendar as a whole to ensure an equitable distribution. In the event of over-application, the National Association Slalom Committees will be consulted as to which races should run in their nation and at what tier, but the final decision will rest with the Slalom Committee. Note that the Terms of Reference already give the Slalom Committee the authority to manage the calendar but custom and practice has weakened this making the calendar unwieldy and frequently messy.

The intention is to:

- Set the number of diamond tier races in each Nation. Note that in the case of a two-day competition, it would be possible to run a diamond on a Saturday and a black on the Sunday, say. Note that diamond races cannot be replaced by blacks.
- Set a maximum for Blacks with an overall total maximum number of Reds and Blacks. This is intended to provide some flexibility such that if the number of blacks is reduced then more reds may be permitted. For example, in Wales there may be a maximum of 6 red/black races of which a maximum of 2 can be black. In addition, there may be a diamond race
- Limit the number of weekends used for higher tier racing and open up options for lower tiers.

Since ranked paddlers can compete anywhere, some venues may choose to have different tiers on different days by making less or more use of features.

22.1.2

Planning

22.1.2.a

Red/Black/Diamond Competitions **are limited to** only one **venue** per weekend. ~~Distances between Competitions will be taken as between one and one and a half hours driving time.~~ The Managed Calendar Officer **in consultation with the organising clubs and the Slalom Committee** will determine whether Competitions will conflict with each other. ~~A commercial route planning system will be used. (For further information refer to the Managed Calendar Officer).~~

22.1.2.b

Maximum Numbers of races at given Tiers are set as in the table below. Where applications exceed these limits, the Slalom Committee will decide which applications should be rejected in consultation with the Slalom Committees for the National Associations

	England	Scotland	Wales	Total
Diamond	2	1	1	4
Black/Red (combined total)	10	6	6	22
Black (also included in combined total above)	4	2	2	8
Total Higher Tier Races	12	7	7	26

The motion Passed with 57 for, 22 against and 0 abstentions.

6.4 Slalom Evolution Supplementary Motion – Special Cases for Entry Adopted

The core proposal is intended to expand options for athletes. However, there may be some special cases. For example, when the British Open is run as an ICF race as in 2025, it may be that we need to limit entries to top athletes in order to ensure that we showcase the best of British athletes. Similarly, there may be a need to limit selection to ensure that those eligible do get the opportunity to compete.

This motion provides the opportunity for some flexibility where most needed.

1.3.1	To compete in Diamond, Black, Red or Blue Tier Events, you must <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be a member of a National Association (PUK, PC, PNI, or PS) and this membership must have competition rights AND• be registered in a Ranking Division or in the Veterans Division.
1.3.2	To compete in Green Tiers or Slalom Tasters (entry level events), you must satisfy one of the following – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be a member of a National Association (PUK, PC, PNI or PS) and this must have competition rights OR• be registered with the National Association as an associate club member of an affiliated club OR• have day membership by completing the National Association taster form (this form covers you for competing on both days at a double entry level Event)
1.3.3	To compete in Slalom Taster Events you must be a Non-Ranked athlete in that Event.
1.3.4	An athlete cannot enter the same Event in two different Tiers on the same day.
1.3.5	<u>In exceptional circumstances or when a ranking race is combined with a significant non-ranking race such as Selection or World Ranking, entries to a competition may be restricted by ranking division with the agreement of the Slalom Committee</u>

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.

The motion passed with 69 for, 10 against and 0 abstentions.

6.5 Boat Safety Requirements Adopted

The rule regarding using other types of boat at lower division events does not cover all the safety requirements of boats, so it is proposed this oversight be corrected.

3.2.3	* During the weighing process, residual water and loose fittings must be removed from the boat. At division 2 to 4 competitions, all whitewater boat types may be used without complying to boat specifications provided the boat meets all applicable safety requirements as defined in rules <u>3.2.4, 3.2.5 and 3.3.</u>
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The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.

The motion passed with 74 for, 5 against and 1 abstention.

6.6 Event Safety Plans Adopted

At some point we seem to have lost the requirement for organisers to provide the Chief Judge with a copy of the safety plan/risk assessment. This puts it back into the rules. This has been added to the Safety Officers duties.

7.18.4	<u>UK They must ensure a copy of the Event Safety Plan is made available to the Chief Judge.</u>
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The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.

The motion passed with 77 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

6.7 Clarifying Judging Rules and Roles

Adopted

Following the rule clarification issued earlier this year regarding operation of judging it is clear that the current UK rules (taken from the ICF rules) are confusing and leave room for misinterpretation.

A simplification better represents how judging operates at Prem/1 events and remains clear for lower division events where there is only a single judge responsible for a section of gates.

These changes do not change the judging process but reflect the current practice as set out in April's rule clarification.

Additionally, rule (7.6.3) relating to the role of Assistant Chief Judge that is being removed from the UK rules as this is carried over from ICF rules and not relevant to domestic races.

~~7.6.3 Not applicable in the UK. They will oversee the collection of the forms necessary for the administration of the Enquiry Office and any other matters necessary for the Secretariat.~~

7.7 TRANSMISSION JUDGE (UK)

~~7.7.1 The Transmission Judge, who may also act as a Primary or Secondary Gate Judge, is responsible for the transmission of the final decision of the Primary Judge/s to the Scoring Office. is responsible for observing and recording an athlete's passage through their assigned gates.~~

~~7.7.2 Normally the Transmission Judge will collate and transmit the results of the gates assigned for a Section.~~

~~7.7.3 The Transmission Judge signals the penalties for each gate with the corresponding discs, eards or section scoreboard.~~

~~7.7.2 The role of the Transmission Judge is to record and forward the highest score for each gate in their section to the Scoring Office. It is not the role of the Transmission Judge to overrule any decision of a Gate Judge.~~

7.8 GATE JUDGE (UK)

~~7.8.1 The Gate Judge is responsible for observing and recording an athlete's passage through their assigned gates, communicating the athlete's score on each gate to the Transmission Judge.~~

~~7.8.2 At the discretion of the Chief Judge, a Gate Judge may be assigned one (1) or more gates for which they will make the final decision of the athlete's passage.~~

~~7.8.3 This Judge will be referred to as a Primary Judge and may also provide their own assessment of adjacent gates to the respective adjacent Primary Judge/s.~~

~~7.8.4 In arriving at the final decision the Primary Judge must also consider the adjacent Gate Judge's observations, especially those who may be in a better position for a particular negotiation (better position may mean being closer or further away but on a better angle for each individual case).~~

~~7.8.5 The Primary Judge will assess each circumstance, make a decision and signal that decision to the Transmission Judge.~~

~~7.8.6 It is the duty of all Gate Judges to consider and record their own view of every gate to which they have been assigned.~~

~~7.8.7 It is not the role of the Transmission Judge to overrule any decision of a Primary Judge, rather to record, display and forward that decision to the Scoring Office.~~

~~7.8.3 At Division 2, 3, and 4 events the gate judge and transmission judge roles are usually combined.~~

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.

The motion passed with 77 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

6.8 Inclusions of Vets in Points Calculations

Not Adopted

Proposed Stafford & Stone, Seconded by Wydean

The low number of entries is making it increasingly difficult to hit average promotion points (e.g. Div 1 example is 950 required to hit 4750 from 5 races), typically this only falls to 1st and 2nd place. The separation of the Vets category has unfortunately coincided with the recent drop off in participation.

Under this proposal:

- Vets would be included in the main divisional results and ranking for each event.
- Divisional points would be calculated as if all paddlers (including Vets) had raced together.
- After divisional points are allocated, Vets' points would then be recalculated separately using the existing Vets system, so that they continue to receive points as per the current structure.
- Where one or more Vets place above any host-division paddler, the points allocation shall begin from the highest-placed host-division competitor. It is suggested that the highest placed host division paddler still receives the maximum points, with points allocated downwards from their position.

This ensures that from the Vets' perspective, nothing changes. They retain their dedicated points and recognition — while their inclusion in the overall results boosts the number of ranked competitors for divisional paddlers.

6.6.3.a For points purposes, host division accordance with the formula: Points = [div max] - ((position-1) x ([div max]/No. of host div comps + **vets***)) e.g. in a Premier event with 32 boats, the eighth placed athlete would receive: $2000 - ((8-1) \times (2000/32)) = 2000 - (7 \times 62.5) = 1562.5$ points rounded to 1563 e.g. in a Division 2 event with 32 boats, the eighth placed athlete would receive: $500 - ((8-1) \times (500/32)) = 500 - (7 \times 15.625) = 390.625$ points rounded to 391

*** Where one or more Veterans place above any host-division paddler, the points allocation shall begin from the highest-placed host-division competitor.**

The motion passed with 2 for, 77 against and 0 abstentions.

6.9 Age Group Prizes

Adopted

There is often confusion over how organisers should allocate junior and other age group prizes at events, particularly whether a age group prize is only for competitors in that specific age group, or open to those in the age group and younger. The current rules say organisers should state on the start list how such prizes are to be allocated, but this rarely happens.

This has been looked at in previous years but managed to create further confusions. It is hoped this provides clarity on how junior and other prizes are to be awarded and allow discretion to the organiser over how many age groups prizes they award.

22.8.3 In all divisions when there are three or more eligible athletes, Organisers ~~shall~~ **should** provide a prize for the Junior athlete who gains the best score during the competition in each event ~~and a prize for the best under 16 performance~~ who has not attracted any other prize. Organisers may, at their discretion, provide ~~a~~ **additional** prizes for other age groups. ~~the best Junior 10, Junior 12, Junior 14, Under 23 and Master performance;~~ **Junior and Under 23 prizes can be won by highest placed athlete in that age group or younger who has not been awarded any other prize. For example: the Junior 16 prize can be won by the any athlete who is Junior 16 or younger.** ~~Where a Junior wins a prize for an older age group, their age group prize shall be awarded to the next eligible Junior. but if they do so should state the rules for deciding the winner in the start list.~~

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.

The motion passed with 73 for, 2 against and 4 abstentions.

6.10 Alterations or Additions to the Managed Calendar

Adopted

When changes are made to the calendar during the year, it is usually with the agreement of all concerned and clubs are usually very helpful and accommodating. However, the current rule could mean that a Division 4 organiser in the far north of Scotland could prevent another Division 4 in the far South of England which is clearly unreasonable. This just gives the committee a little more leeway if needed.

22.1.5.e In all cases approval is subject to ~~agreement of~~ consultation with all other clubs organising competitions on that date.

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.

The motion passed with 73 for, 2 against and 4 abstentions.

6.11 Calendar Applications

Adopted

These changes are primarily to reflect the actual calendar applications process and formalise the rules that are currently followed.

22.1.2 Calendar ~~Returns~~ Applications

22.1.2.a Initial Calendar ~~applications returns~~ must be made following the process and within the deadlines described on CanoeSlalomEntries.co.uk.

22.1.2.b ~~Clubs are reminded that a~~ A competition cannot be accepted unless a Safety Plan is supplied to the Slalom Safety Officer prior to the Annual Consultative Meeting.

22.1.2.c Organising Clubs are required to meet any additional Competition Planning and Safety requirements defined by their National Association.

22.1.3 Competition Details

Final competition details must be submitted via canoeslalomentries.co.uk, following the Annual Consultative Meeting, no later than 15th December of the same year. Failure to do so may result in the competition being removed from the Calendar. Minimum Details to be provided in the final submission must include:

22.1.3.a ~~Please complete as many of the details as possible but do not delay submission of the form. Include post code of the address for entries.~~ Any ~~open~~, confined, or other non-ranking slalom, slalom sprint or other form of competition or activity using the same stretch of water to be held in conjunction with the proposal must be specified and may not be held without specific approval recorded in the published calendar (failure to observe this can result in loss of ranking status). Such competitions should normally be held after the ranking competition has ended. ~~Entry limits may be stated.~~

22.1.3.b Named Organiser and an email address. This must be an individual who meets the current requirements for a Competition or Events Organiser in Paddle UK's Standards for Deployment.

22.1.3.c Enhanced Fees Amount where requested.

22.1.3.d An email that can be published for potential competitors to contact the organizer.

22.1.3.e Any Entry Limits

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.

The motion passed with 73 for, 2 against and 4 abstentions.

6.12 Course Variation

Adopted

This proposal aims to promote variety and enjoyment in slalom racing by encouraging meaningful course changes across consecutive race days or divisions. Course variation enhances the competitive experience for paddlers, providing fresh challenges and helping develop a wider range of technical skills.

This change is particularly relevant with the introduction of paddle-ups, which have increased overlap between divisions but also 'double events' where the same paddlers will be racing on consecutive days. By ensuring that each race faces a distinct course, events become more engaging, fair, and reflective of the adaptable and dynamic nature of canoe slalom.

The amendment also recognises that some venues may face geographical or logistical constraints, and therefore allows reasonable flexibility where significant changes are impractical, provided that this is communicated clearly in advance.

9.5.7 UK **Course Variation for Consecutive Race Days or Divisions**

Where a race venue is hosting events across consecutive days, including events for consecutive divisions (for example, Premier Division on Saturday and Division 1 on Sunday), the course shall be changed by a significant amount between each day's racing. This is to ensure a distinct competitive challenge for each event.

A "significant change" is defined as one that materially alters the course layout, gate sequencing, or technical difficulty.

Where the geography of the river or logistical constraints make such a change impractical, the Course Designer may retain a similar course layout, provided that the decision and rationale are communicated to competitors and the Chief Judge prior to racing.

An amendment was proposed by Stafford & Stone and seconded by Cheltenham to clarify that the course changes should be approved by the Chief Judge. This was accepted with 74 for, 0 against and 5 abstentions. The substantive motion was then

9.5.7 UK **Course Variation for Consecutive Race Days or Divisions**

Where a race venue is hosting events across consecutive days, including events for consecutive divisions (for example, Premier Division on Saturday and Division 1 on Sunday), the course shall be changed by a significant amount between each day's racing. This is to ensure a distinct competitive challenge for each event.

A "significant change" is defined as one that materially alters the course layout, gate sequencing, or technical difficulty and has the approval of the Chief Judge prior to the course change.

Where the geography of the river or logistical constraints make such a change impractical, the Course Designer may retain a similar course layout, provided that the decision and rationale are communicated to competitors and the Chief Judge prior to racing.

This was then passed nem con.

6.13 Vets Practice

Adopted

Vets are predominately racing for fun and want to get the most water time out of their weekend. The current practice rules for Vets mean that at a Prem or Prem/1 race they do not get an official or any free practice opportunity. This is deterring some Vets from attending these level events.

It is proposed that this rule is amended to allow practice at Prem/1 events which can be easily incorporated into the schedule with Division 1 practice. Additionally, that at stand-alone Prem events this is more problematic as there is no other practice. Therefore, it is proposed that Vets are able to be paddlers in Demo runs, enabling them to have practice and helping the event have Demo paddlers that are often in short supply.

9.7.9 UK Those competing in the veterans class are restricted by the practice rules for the **highest lowest** ranking division that they are being compared to. **Additionally, at Premier competition those in the veterans class may do demonstration runs.**

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.
The motion passed with 66 for, 13 against and 0 abstentions.

6.14 Accepting Entries from the Waiting List

Adopted

It recently came to the Committee's attention that the rules regarding Priority Entry Deadline (rule 6.1.4) are incorrect in the published 2025 Canoe Slalom Rules. Further investigation found that the rules as adopted at the 2018 ACM were incorrectly transcribed into the 2019 Canoe Slalom rules with several crucial words omitted. This error has remained in the rules unnoticed to date. The rules as passed have been in operation since 2019 through the waiting lists for events on the Canoe Slalom Entries website. The Committee considers that the rules as passed in 2018 still stands. A rule clarification has been published and the error will be corrected in the printed and online versions of the 2026 Canoe Slalom Rules when these are published.

While looking into this issue, it is felt that an additional rule would add clarity. The intention of original (and corrected) rule wording is that where places become available (e.g. through entry cancellations) these should be offered to paddlers based on the order set out in the Priority Entry Deadline rules. The following addition is proposed to make this clear in the rules.

6.1.4.e UK <u>If the Entry Limit is reached any places that become available (e.g. due to cancellations) must be offered to those on the waiting list in the order set out in the in rules 6.1.4.a to 6.1.4.d.</u>

The motion was introduced, then put to the meeting under the 75/25 arrangement.
The motion passed with 75 for, 0 against and 4 abstentions.

6.15 Committee Terms of Reference

Adopted

The Slalom Committee Terms of Reference are reviewed periodically. Following a review, it is felt a number of minor amendments are required to make clarifications and to update our governing document.

The meeting is reminded that amendments to the Terms of Reference requires a two-thirds majority and is subject to subsequent approval by the Paddle UK Board. The following changes are proposed and will be voted together.

Update the definition of a **Voting Club**:

Any Registered Club that has either
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- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three or more Ranked Members registered for that club as their first named club <u>on the current ranking list</u>, or• has organised a ranking competition in the preceding twelve months. |
|---|

Or any volunteer group approved at an Annual Consultative Meeting.
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Inclusion on Kayak Cross and make references to UK consistent:

6.16 4.2 Paddle UK Slalom Committee Responsibilities

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">d. Set and publish competition rules and make recommendations for the conduct of canoe slalom & kayak cross in the UKf. Give advice, guidance and encouragement to sponsors of slalom & kayak cross in <u>the UK, Great Britain</u> |
|--|

Clarify voting members of the committee which is note currently defined within the Terms of Reference:

7.1 Managing Meetings

a. All officers and committee members have one vote.

And then renumber following bullet points.

Current practice is that where a competition is cancelled, the organising club does not receive a vote for this event. It is felt that this is unfair in situations where the club has done everything to organise the competition, but had to cancel through exceptional circumstances such as a flood or cancelled release:

Voting at Consultative Meetings

9.3 Where a Ranking Competition has been cancelled due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. high river levels, cancelled water release) the Slalom Committee may at their discretion allow a vote to be allocated for that competition.

And then renumber following bullet points

Clarify procedure when someone holding votes leaves the meeting in line accepted current practice:

9 Voting at Consultative Meetings

6.17 9.12 Where a person holding club votes leaves the meeting, they may pass their votes to the representative of another voting club with appropriate directions for casting those votes.

The motion passed with 74 for, 0 against and 5 abstentions.

Amendments will be taken to the next PUK Board for confirmation before taking effect.

7 Approval of the Calendar for 2025

All clubs were thanked for their flexibility to enable events to be accommodated, and for submitting their safety plans in advance of the meeting. The meeting thanked Dee Lindesay for her considerable efforts to manage the calendar and accommodate changes as much as possible

The following points were noted:

- Symonds Yat 2/3/4 (6/7 June) would run the Div 4 on a shortened version of the course.
- Proposed that Cardington races (20/21 June and 5/6 Sept) also be requested to run their Div 4 on a shortened version of the course to be consistent, and enable a suitable course for all the divisions.
- Llandysul Div 4's, the club is looking to run some of the summer races on the river to offer a moving water Div 4
- The Pan Celtic Cup will be in Scotland with races will be confirmed.
- The British Junior 16 & Vets Championships will be alongside the Llandysul Div 1/2 (10/11 Oct)

The calendar as presented at the meeting was agreed nem con.

The formal part of the ACM ended at 14:25

8 Discussion areas

8.1 The Future of the Interclub Competition

This event is scheduled for 12/13 Sept 2026 and it is proposed that it would run at Stone.

While the event is thoroughly enjoyed by those that attend, this is only a small number of clubs. It has been highlighted that many clubs are not interested in attending. The location and that it sits within a busy run of events paddler, parent, and volunteer fatigue contribute to the number of people opting for a weekend off rather than attending the event as it is 'another weekend'.

In discussion, it was felt it better to create more of a 'festival' of the sport to attract a wider paddler and club engagement sport. The successful Peak Challenge in August was highlighted as such an event with opportunities for paddlers to come together to have fun and do a number of paddling disciplines.

It was also felt that building a such an event around an existing event would avoid the need for another weekend. It was acknowledged that there is limited time to create something for 2026. Therefore, it was proposed that for 2026 that we build something activity around the 9/10 May weekend at HPP. Much of the community will be coming together on that date for a P/1 race on the main course, a 2/3 on the Daleks, and Div on the Winfield Pool, so there is potential for some form of club points scoring and additional social activity around the events. Donna Hawkins will lead on the social element. A working group will come together to progress ideas for future years: George Harratt, Emily Walker, Donna Hawkins, Helen Darby-Dowman, John Bradley

It was agreed to remove the scheduled 2026 Interclub competition from the calendar. It was noted that this may result in some organisers wishing to move their event to the weekend vacated by the Interclubs. It was agreed that this will be managed by the committee /managed calendar officer.

8.2 How can we collaborate better to produce a Slalom Calendar?

It was highlighted that creating a calendar that can accommodate all events and requested to avoid clashes is nearly impossible. There are many factors influencing when events can be schedule including likely river levels, venue availability, water costs, organiser and volunteer availability. Lower division events don't want to clash with higher division events as their volunteers want to attend those, and are reluctant to clash with other events as reduced numbers threaten the viability of their (or both) events.

It has also been expressed earlier in the meeting that there is paddler and volunteer fatigue from the number of events clustering together, and the idea that at higher levels paddlers are doing too many races where more training would be beneficial to their development. There are also issues with the spread of races during the year and geographically making it more difficult to bring new paddlers into the sport 9eg several races close together within a few weeks and long gap before any more races at that level

After discussion it was felt that:

- It is better and easier to have discussion about scheduling events early and ongoing throughout the year rather than try to 'shoe-horn' in events when applications come in late.
- There is a need to be driven by when higher level events are able to be run at sites
- Lower division events also need to be considered early to enable a better spread of events across the regions and throughout the year to help recruit and retain paddlers.
- We also need to consider timing of Div 4 events around when clubs are bringing in new paddlers and when they are looking to take them to races to aid recruitment and their progression.
- There is support for home nations helping to shape the calendar for better spread of events.

A working group will be put together to look at how we can better shape the calendar to the needs of paddlers and the sport. Sally Atkison will lead on this.

This and other discussions during the day discussion also highlighted that recruiting more paddlers into the sport needs to become a key priority for everyone in the sport. We need to work on how we drive this including sharing information from clubs that are doing recruitment successfully, how we engage people in slalom