

Paddle UK Slalom Committee

Paddle UK, Lee Valley WWC

Saturday 13 December 2025



1 Attendance

George Harratt (Chair)	Karen Crowhurst	Alison Longhurst (England)
Matt Crowhurst (Vice Chair)	Dee Lindesay	Steve Dixon (Paddler Rep)
Les Ford (Secretary)	Richard Sterry	Mark Abbott (Wales)
Dave Spencer (Treasurer)	Mikey Brown	
	Mick Stegeman	

1.1 Apologies

Tony Leaver (Scotland)
Gareth Wilson (Paddle UK)

1.2 Committee Admin

Committee members were reminded that they will need to complete a Declaration of Interest form and send a photograph for the website. **Action: ALL / LF**

2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 International Panel Representative

With Sally Atkinson no longer being on the committee this role was considered. As we are mid-Olympic cycle, it was proposed and agreed that Sally would continue in this role. **Action: LF**

2.2 Official Expenses

A number of options to manage down the cost of domestic race expenses which has not been considered since the fuel costs came back down from their peak. Options include a lower cap on the overall cost, reducing mileage expenses in line with reduced fuel costs. We also need to also need to look where officials are travelling from for races and options to recruit more local judging and timing volunteers to reduce the costs. DS to circulate information and options for a decision at the next meeting. **Action: DS**

2.3 2026 Calendar Updates

As the ACM agreeing to remove the Interclubs, a number of events have requested moving to that weekend (13/14 Sept) to avoid clashes with other events. After considering the requests, it was agreed that the Nene 2/3 be allowed to move as the site is not available on the original weekend (27/28 Sept). Latham Farm 3/4 be allowed to move (from 20 Sept) so long as they were willing to be on the same weekend as the Nene.

A few clubs are yet to complete the details required for the calendar set up. Reminders are being sent. **Action: DL**

3 ACM Review

3.1 Elections / Committee Roles Vacancies

Mick Stegeman was confirmed as the committee's Safety Officer. Matt Crowhurst will continue as Welfare Officer. It was agreed that the vacant Committee Member post would be the one-year post.

3.2 Calendar Working Group

The Terms of Reference for the group were agreed and will be circulated. **Action: LF**

MC reported that group's initial meeting looked at running webinars for organisers to ensure they understand the tiers system and what it means for their events. It also plans to look at better understanding factors that influence when races can be run and produce a more balanced calendar involving Home Nations. **Action: Working Group**

3.3 Interclubs Working Group

The Terms of Reference for the group were agreed and will be circulated. **Action: LF**

The group will be looking at how a club championship can be built around existing events at HPP on the weekend of 9/10 May, and options for adding other fun elements in future years. **Action: Working Group**

3.4 Trophy Coordinator Role

Mikey Brown is taking on the role for the British Junior 16 & Vets Championship trophies. We may have a volunteer to manage remaining national trophies *British Open and National Ranking Titles. LF will check situation with FP, and also ensure that those taking over the roles have access to the folders with trophy documents. **Action: LF**

3.5 Progressing Future Structure

The overview of actions needed to implement the new structure were discussed and actions assigned. A strong communication plan is needed to ensure everyone is clear on the new structure as we finish the 2026 season and go into the 2027 new season. **Action: Various**

4 2026 Ranking List

4.1 Promotions / Demotions

It was agreed that there would be no demotions given the numbers in the sport and the changes that are coming in for 2027. After discussion it was agreed that there would be no end of season promotions.

4.2 Protected Season Requests

Several paddlers have requested protection as they were unable to complete for the majority of the season. These were agreed. **Action: KC**

A query was raised about whether new paddlers can be ranked in the closed season. After discussion it was agreed that we need to have clear guidance for paddlers, parents and coaches about when to apply for ranking. **Action: KC, SD & LF**

5 Supporting Recruitment and Growing the Sport

There was a wide-ranging discussion on what can be done to recruit into and grow the sport and how the committee can support this.

The headline numbers from the first year of the Slalom Start programme are: 17 clubs engaged, 223 slalom start participants, over 100 have entered their first slalom. 10 new coaches having gone through training and 3 Paddlesport Instructors qualified. We need to share the learning, good practice and solutions that been developed in this programme with the wider slalom community.

Other thought that need considering for developing were:

- Need to get parental buy in to getting kids into paddling, selling benefits to the parents to keep them engaged too.

- Need opportunities and need a welcoming experience for paddlers and parents to be involved.
- Fun events (eg paddles up)
- Information to help interest and engage schools – involve PUK in producing something we can use. Look at what other sports are doing to engage schools
- Communications to raise the profile of the sport.
- Think about better branding and visibility for the sport.
- Consider the option of slalom ambassador roles

RS will lead a working group on this that will be solution focused. Information will be shared on social media to encourage people to share their ideas for solutions. **Action RS & LF**

6 Strategy Development

6.1 Strategic Priorities for 2026

It was suggested that we develop an interim strategy & plan, then look to develop a full 4-year plan to align with the new PUK strategy in 2027. GW previously shared a document on this which will be circulated to the new committee and looked at the next meeting. **Action: LF**

6.2 Succession Planning

A document of key roles and systems has been circulated for contributions which will be recirculated. Further work needs to be put into this at future meetings. **Action: LF**

7 Standards for Events

These have now been published and will be implemented from the start of 2027. The most significant outstanding issue for slalom events is being able to collect and store the details required for each competitor at events as this is not collected within the online entry or bib administration system. While in principle having this information makes sense there are practical difficulties collecting the information before and at events and implication in storing the information long term.

A link to the full document will be circulated for all to feedback the issues that they see this presenting to the sport. LF will collate feedback and MS will take up with PUK to seek their ideas and support to put solutions in place. **Action: LF & MS**

It was also recognised that issues such as this imposed on volunteers takes time away from our ability to focus on grouping and developing the sport as well as further deterring people to volunteer to run events. This will be fed back via PUKs Volunteer Manager. **Action MC**

8 Video Camera's for Judging

A proposal has been put forward by a parent for cameras to be used to assist the jury in marketing decisions at P/1 events, and for a team of volunteers to be created to transport and set up the system at race. The merits and difficulties of implementing this were discussed and it was agreed that we would not proceed with this option.

9 Updates

9.1 Home Nation Updates

England – Nothing to update since ACM

Wales – Currently focusing on supporting non-squad paddlers by including them in training and supporting them to become coaches to keep them within the sport. There have been some discussions about the possibility of streaming events to help raise the profile of the sport.

Scotland – A review of the talent pathway is ongoing. 12 people have been supported through the slalom coach qualification.

9.2 Paddler Rep Update

SD has been making people aware he is available to meet with people about issue they want to raise. There is a dedicated email (slalom.paddlererp@vol.paddleuk.org.uk) for those wanting to contact SD.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Advanced Coaching Programme Funding Support

This is a new programme sitting alongside the coaching qualification structure to provide coaches with a high quality CPD on both technical slalom technique and coaching behaviours. The programme cost £450 per person. There have been enquiries as to whether the committee would provide funding support to volunteers to join this programme. Currently the slalom committee will 50% fund Slalom Coach discipline specific training and assessment (but not core coach training or other requirements) for club volunteers, with match funding usually available through the Home Nations. As it does not add to the number of qualified coaches, and that there would be high demand for funding, it was agreed that this would not be supported

10.2 Slalom Disciplinary Regulations

LF has had responses to the queries raise by PC at the last meeting which resolve those issues but hasn't had time to update and circulate the regulations. These will be updated and circulated for final agreement at the next meeting. **Action: LF**

10.3 Div 2/3/4 calendar leaflet

It was agreed that this would be produced again for 2026. **Action: DS**

10.4 Enhanced entry fees

It was agreed to continue current process of officers signing off by committee officers as these are received.

10.5 Future meeting dates (see below)

It was felt that meeting in person was preferable to online meeting, so the following dates were agreed:

- Sat 14th Feb – Lee Valley WC
- Sat 14th Mar - PUK , HPP
- Sun 3rd May – Cardiff WWC
- Thurs 16th July (online)
- Sat 12th Sept – northern venue tbc
- 7th Nov - PUK , HPP
- **28th November - Slalom ACM**
- December Tbc - Post ACM