

# Paddle UK Slalom Committee

Paddle UK, Lee Valley WWC

Saturday 13 December 2025

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## 1 Attendance

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| George Harratt (Chair)      | Karen Crowhurst | Alison Longhurst (England) |
| Matt Crowhurst (Vice Chair) | Dee Lindesay    | Gareth Wilson (Paddle UK)  |
| Les Ford (Secretary)        | Richard Sterry  | Tony Leaver (Scotland)     |
| Dave Spencer (Treasurer)    | Mikey Brown     |                            |
|                             | Mick Stegeman   |                            |

### 1.1 Apologies

Mark Abbott (Wales)

Vacant (Paddler Rep)

### 1.2 Committee Admin

Committee members were reminded that they will need to complete a Declaration of Interest form if they haven't already done so. **Action: ALL / LF** and send a photograph for the website.

Website pictures are still required from MS and TL. **Action: MS & TL**

### 1.3 Padder Rep

Steve Dixon has stepped down from the role. A new volunteer is being sought to take on this role, enquiries to LF. If more than one person is nominated a ballot of ranked paddlers will be organised.

**Action: LF**

## 2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

### 2.1 Official Expenses

As there was a short time to agree changes to the level of support to volunteers, the existing volunteer expenses will be retained for this season. This will allow for wider consultation with volunteers to develop a sustainable model for supporting volunteer officials who attend events. It also provides an opportunity to seek additional funding to support these.

### 2.2 Slalom Disciplinary Regulations

LF has had responses to the queries raised by PC previously and an updated version had been circulated. The meeting agreed that we will adopt these and will publish them on the committee pages of the website. **Action: LF**

### 2.3 Trophy Coordinator(s)

It was confirmed that Mikey Brown will be looking after the set of trophies for the British Junior & Vets championships. Emma Nabili is taking on the other sets of national trophies (UK Championships, British Open, and End of Season ranking). Fi Pennie is supporting both new volunteers through administering these sets of trophies for the coming year.

It was confirmed that October's HPP Prem has been declared as the UK Championship, therefore the trophies that have in recent years been awarded at selection will this year be awarded at this event. LF will ensure that this is clearly communicated in advance of selection. **Action: LF**

With no yearbook, we don't have a published list of previous championship winners. LF is liaising with DB on how we can best record previous national trophy winners on the website.

## 3 2026 Calendar Updates

### 3.1 Selection events

Queries have arisen regarding allowing Paddle UP entries at the Prem races that are also selection races and regarding practice runs at the HPP P/1 selection race. Accepting Paddle Up entries is at the Organisers discretion, but the waiting list order must be followed regardless of selection eligibility. Practice rules require Div 1's to have a practice run, but also do not allow practice runs from Prem and Selection, so there is a contradiction for the HPP P/1 race selection.

After discussion it was agreed that:

It was agreed that the Prem races should accept Paddle Up entries (although it is at the organiser's decision).

At the HPP Prem/1 race there should be practice for Div 1 paddlers. However, any Div 1 paddlers entering for selection would not be able to take their practice run in any event (to clarify, a Div 1 paddler who is entered for selection in one boat will not be allowed to practice in either boat).

These will be confirmed with the organisers and a statement issued by the International Panel to confirm these details. We will also ensure the position regarding Div 1 practice is clearly communicated on the website and entries website ahead of the event opening for entries.

### 3.2 Other Updates

Symonds Yat Div 2 – prior to the meeting the organiser has highlighted that as the Sunday is Mother's Day, local businesses need all the available parking. It has been agreed that the event will run Sunday's practice on Saturday afternoon, with a small practice window on Sunday for those only attending for Sunday.

## 4 Standards for Events

### 4.1 Update on discussions with PUK

MS spoke about the discussion that he and MC had with PUK (James Hinves) regarding supporting slalom events and organisers to meet the required standards from 2027. A summary of the discussion had been circulated in advance.

Organisers need the relevant medical and emergency contact information for participants to be able to make appropriate decision / provision for declared issues for any medical issues that are known. PUK are clear that the onus is on the participant to declare the required information.

PUK are supportive and keen to ensure there is a process to collect and hold paddlers data on the JustGo system so data is held centrally. They are also willing to develop a mechanism to share the relevant information on pre-entered paddlers to the organiser in time to act on it.

A meeting will be arranged with James Hinves (PUK) and MS, MC, DL, LF & MA(?) to progress this with PUK, ideally prior to the next committee meeting. **Action: MS**

A number of 'what if's' were discussed. Any additional scenarios at competitions should be added to existing document so that these can be put forward to PUK and solutions identified. **Action: All**

We also need to raising awareness of the Standards for Events with clubs/organisers to ensure they are aware of the above work being done, and so they are compliant with the training and other requirements that will need to be in place for events in 2027.

## 5 Strategy Development

### 5.1 Strategic Priorities for 2026

There was discussion on these around the Committees purpose and roles set out in the Terms of Reference, and the Headline priorities that had been circulated. It was agreed that GH will pull together a draft of priorities. We will then work on actions that can flow from these

### 5.2 Supporting Recruitment and Growing the Sport

RS has been continuing to gather information on this area, and it will be one of our strategic priorities. As a committee there is a limited amount that we can do directly to recruit paddlers but it is an area where we can influence, encourage and support those that can recruit in clubs We can also ensure that our message support recruiting paddlers and volunteer, as well as providing resources and sharing good practice with the community.

### 5.3 Succession Planning

We have collated information on key roles and systems withing the sport, this needs some additional details around specific skills needed in some roles. We also need to consider contingency /back plans if someone is suddenly not longer able to do their roles, so it would be useful to have a greater awareness of the range of skills/experience/knowledge that exist within the sport that could assist.

It was agreed that this should be a standing item on the agenda to identify when people in key roles will be standing down and allow a longer term approach to identifying new volunteers. This approach could enable new volunteers to shadow current volunteer and potentially identify people who can share some of the work of existing volunteers. LF will progress collecting information and identifying where contingencies are needed to mitigate risks. **Action: LF**

## 6 Future Structure Development

### 6.1 ACM Motions

Two motions were proposed to tweak the points calculations that have come out as the working group have started to look at implementing the new rules into system.

One motion will simplify the presentation of the points equations, but does not change the resulting points calculated. This will also give paddlers an 'expected points' based on their current two-season percentage which could provide some with greater motivation to paddlers who would see it rise as hey improve during the season. It would also allow paddlers to see their expected points at different tiers enabling them to make informed decisions about which tier races might be best for them to attend. It is important that we sell the additional potential benefits of this change to paddlers.

The second motion amends the timing of when the TSP would be calculated. It was suggested that we should also amend rule 22.7.5.a to require results to be send within 48hrs rather than 72hrs.

Both motions will be taken forward to the ACM. **Action: LF**

### 6.2 Progressing the Future Structure

Various actions on the circulated 'to do' list are ongoing.

It was agreed that the Ranking List at the end of the 2026 season ranking will be used for the 2027 ranking lists with no promotion or demotion at the end of season. Requests for protected season status will be accommodated but will need to be submitted in a timely manner (end of October is the deadline in the rules).

End of season promotion / demotion under the new structure is still being considered and a wider group of people in the slalom community are being consulted on this.

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Calendar Working Group / Calendar Applications – we are looking to coordinate this through the Home Nations to help shape a more balanced calendar across the nations and tiers. This includes building a better understanding of which tiers a venue is suitable for, at what times of year the levels are suitable for those tiers, and if there are any other restrictions on when an event can be run. It is planned to run a webinar for organisers in the next couple of months to help organisers understand the changes under the new structure, the impact for them, and engage them in the new process and aims for a balanced calendar.

## 6.3 Communicating Changes to Paddlers

LF will look at the communications actions and develop a more detailed plan for communication with paddlers to ensure they understand the incoming changes and what it means for their racing.

## 7 Developing our Communications

### 7.1 Social media volunteers /

A proposed role description for volunteers to assist with raising the sport's profile through social media (creating and sharing content) was agreed. This will be promoted to seek suitable volunteers.

**Action: LF**

### 7.2 Communications Actions

Ideas for areas that we could develop content and develop messages were shared and will be worked up with volunteers. **Action: LF**

## 8 Updates (please provide written updates to circulate in advance)

### 8.1 Home Nation Updates

**England** – the next round of club support grants is open for application.

**Scotland** – nothing to update

**Wales** – have been trialling 'Slalom Plus' to engage paddlers who are outside of squads in coached sessions to aid retention in the sport. This has also engaging some inactive coaches to come and help out

Northern Ireland – LF to follow up with PUK to see if there is a named representative.

### 8.2 'Club Championships' Working Group

Discussions are ongoing in the group to run a Club Championship at HPP on 9/10 May when there are multiple divisional races running and extracting results from each for the Championship.

## 9 Any Other Business

### 9.1 Volunteer Training

It was agreed that we need to run more of the training that was trialled last year and successfully recruited a number of Transmission Judges. GH to approach SA about her doing some more of these at events. We need to consider and address where there are particular shortages of volunteers (roles or geographically) such as a current shortage of timing volunteers.

LF to look at some targeted communications to signpost people to volunteer roles and training opportunities This will also look to reinforce a culture where volunteering is the norm, help clubs to engage parents in volunteering. **Action: LF**

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It was also suggested that we look at whether some of the various training required by PUK can be offered at events. This will be looked into. **Action: LF**

## 9.2 'Oscars' Awards Evening

Last year's organisers have been contacted about arranging this year's event, including bringing on the next pair of organisers to develop a succession process. **Action: GW**

## 9.3 Past Trophy Winners

As we no longer have a yearbook, we don't have a published list of previous National Trophy winners. LF is discussing with DB who we can best host this on the website.

## 9.4 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 Mar - PUK , HPP
- Sun 3rd May – Cardiff WWC – venue to be confirmed. **Action: RS**
- Thurs 16th July (online)
- Sat 12th Sept – northern venue tbc – **Action: LF**
- 7th Nov - PUK , HPP
- **28th November - Slalom ACM**
- December tbc - Post ACM