

## 1 Attendance

George Harratt (Chair)	Karen Crowhurst	Gareth Wilson (Paddle UK)
Matt Crowhurst (Vice Chair)	Dee Lindsay	
Les Ford (Secretary)	Mick Stegeman	
Dave Spencer (Treasurer)	Mikey Brown	

### 1.1 Apologies

Richard Sterry	Tony Leaver (Scotland)
	Alison Longhurst (England)
	Vacant (Paddler Rep)

### 1.2 Committee Admin

Website pictures are still required from TL. **Action: TL**

Information on the SportSmart app (injury and concussion management) has been shared, this will be highlighted to the community. **Action: LF**

### 1.3 Padder Rep

A new volunteer is being sought to take on this role, interested volunteers should contact 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 Communications Update

LF highlighted Canva templates that are being created to use on social media to promote entry level and div 2/3 events on a monthly basis. Posts to encourage volunteering and other areas are being planned and will be scheduled. **Action: LF**

It is still intended to seek additional volunteers to assist with social media management and creating content. Posts to recruit volunteers will be scheduled. **Action: LF**

## 3 2026 Calendar Updates

### 3.1 Selection events

A number of issues regarding selection were discussed and MC will be meeting with the organisers and the International Panel in the coming week to discuss and confirm arrangement with the organisers. **Action: MC**

It was noted that Demos were again scheduled for Friday evening and will be available on video despite complaints last year. It was suggested that in future years the selection policy makes clear that this will be the case so paddlers are aware further in advance, and can comment on this when the draft selection policy is out for consultation. **Action: GW**

DL needs details of team paddlers to enable the start list to be set up as per the selection policy. **Action: GW**

### 3.2 Other Updates

Symonds Yat was going ahead this weekend after some uncertainty whether the water levels would be suitable.

A couple of races are yet to be published on the entries system and will be followed up. **Action: DL**

## 4 Standards for Events

### 4.1 Update on discussions with PUK

The meeting was updated following a meeting with Paddle UK about implementing Standards for Events in 2027. The challenging issues are around how emergency contact and medical conditions information are collected, made available to organisers and stored.

What organisers need to do with the information is relatively straight forward, although guidance for organiser will be produced. **Action: MS**

It was suggested that to ensure that organising clubs are committing to following Standards for Events wording is added to the calendar application, so they are acknowledging the club's responsibility to comply with the Standards. Wording to be discussed and agreed with PUK via JH. **Action: LF**

Paddle UK are keen to support the sport to prepare and put in place the systems, processes and information needed to implement Standards for Events

### 4.2 Entry Systems

A demo of the Paddle UK Event Entry System has been arranged for the end of the month to explore whether this can be developed for use for slaloms. This would allow the required emergency contact and medical conditions information to be collected and held by paddle UK, and mechanism developed to share this with organisers. The committee will be updated following the meeting.

### 4.3 Membership Requirements and Checks

The rules around Paddle UK membership are clear and membership requirements are reinforced by Standards for Events. Ranked paddler's membership is check when they apply for a bib and by the ranking database system ion an ongoing basis. Historically Club Associate membership or Single Event Membership/ Day Tickets for Div 4 paddlers were done through paper system, but in recent years way to obtain and prove these types of membership has not been clear. This has now been clarified in discussion with Paddle UK.

Guidance is being produced for clubs, organisers and paddlers on how to obtain and prove these types of membership for Div 4. This will also be published online. **Action: LF**

Organisers will need to check Div 4 entrants have the appropriate membership in place and signpost participants to the guidance on how to obtain and demonstrate they have the required membership in place.

### 4.4 Participation Statement / Disclaimer

We have been advised by Paddle UK that we need to update the wording of the participation statements for slalom. This is being updated on the entry website. **Action: DL**

The new wording is too length for the entry cards, and we have significant stock of cards to use. Therefore, the participation statement in the organisers pack will be updated and brought to the attention of organiser. This should be available to those entering on the day, and by completing an entry card they will be accepting the new participation statement. **Action: LF**

It is thought that organiser receive very few, if any entries through the post. Organisers will be advised that should they received postal entries, these are advised to report to control and asked to acknowledge the new participation statement. **Action: LF**

## 5 Strategy Development

### 5.1 Four Year Strategic Plan

GH is continuing to develop themes and potentials actions. The intention is to have something to circulate and discuss at the next meeting. **Action: GH**

### 5.2 Supporting Recruitment and Growing the Sport

This is likely to be a key area of the 4-year plan. We need to look at how we can bring together existing good practice and share this with the community.

It was highlighted that issues with HPP site access is impacting retention, particularly while it has been closed to the public, but open to those on programmes, as well as apparent inconsistencies in information about who can access PUK slots. GH will clarify access arrangements with PUK a programme, look at whether information this can be better communicated, and whether there is scope to enable wider access. **Action: GH**

## 6 Future Structure Development

### 6.1 Progressing the Future Structure

The current list of actions was reviewed, and the updated version will be circulated.

Potential motions regarding restricting entries and priority of entry were discussed and will be developed further. **Action: DS & LF**

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

### 7.1 Calendar Working Group

An online Organisers meeting is planned for 8th April to explain changes under the new tier structure and plans for developing the managed calendar and the application process. The date will be publicised as soon as possible. **Action: MC**

The intention is that the managed calendar process would start with fixing the higher tier races before opening to the lower tier events in a more managed process, with home nations involved in shaping the spread of lower tier event.

Ahead of the webinar a series of questionnaire will be posed via social media to gather information from the community about likes and dislike of the current calendar. **Action: AL & LF**

### 7.2 'Club Championships' Working Group

Discussions about how this can be run at the various events at HPP on 9/10 May is ongoing, but it was noted this needs to be progressed quickly to allow information to be shared ahead of the event. It was felt that we should try to use the opportunity to push participation. **Action: GH**

### 7.3 Home Nation Updates

- **England** – No report
- **Scotland** – No report
- **Wales** – No report
- **Northern Ireland** – LF has asked if there is a NI rep to at least copy into minutes.
- **Pan Celtic** – This is due to run at Grandtully (18/19 April) and Fairnilee (23/24 May). Information has been provided to the organisers and Home Nations are looking to identify team managers.

## 8 Any Other Business

### 8.1 Volunteer Training

MC will identify areas of the county where more officials are needed to support the Timing and Judging teams and will discuss with SA whether additional training sessions can be planned. **Action: MC**

The potential to run some Chief Judge training for higher level events was discussed and will be explored. **Action: MC**

### 8.2 Div 4 to Div 3 progression

An email has been received seeking clarification on those seeking to progress from Div 4 to Div 3 following age-related discussions last summer. The current process was reviewed and a response will be sent. Information on the website regarding Div 4 paddlers applying for Div 3 ranking will be improved and a form added to help collect the details required for ranking. **Action: LF**

Paddle UK information on considerations for engaging younger paddlers in the sport has been shared and will be promoted again. **Action: LF**

### 8.3 2027 World Cup

Paddle UK have secured a World Cup race at Lee Valley on 13-15 Aug 2027. This is being announced through ICF channels, but Paddle UK are planning an announcement in mid-April to coincide with the 15th anniversary of Lee Valley opening.

### 8.4 Future meeting dates (see below)

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

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