

1 Attendance

Matt Crowhurst (Vice Chair)	Karen Crowhurst	Alison Longhurst - online (England)
Les Ford (Secretary)	Dee Lindsay	Gareth Wilson (Paddle UK)
	Richard Sterry	Mark Abbott (Wales)
	Mick Stegeman - online	David Dickson (Paddler Rep)

1.1 Apologies

George Harratt (Chair)	Tony Leaver (Scotland)
Dave Spencer (Treasurer)	

It was also noted that Mikey Brown had stepped down from the committee, and he was thanked for his contribution.

1.2 Padder Rep

David Dickson was welcomed as the new Paddler Rep to the committee.

2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 Update on Event Safety discussions

MS attended the PUK Disciplines Safety meeting recently. This confirmed that medical/emergency contact information can be held on PUK systems. Still working on the processes to enable the gathering of the information and allowing organisers to access this.

There are still issues with collecting information for on the day entries which will cause friction for people entering the event. The timescale for implementing this is also problematic.

2.2 Updated on Entry Systems discussions

PUK demonstrated their Event Entry System which could be made to work for slalom entries, but a lot of work is needed to develop this to handle all the elements of the current entries website. PUK are prepared to do the development required, but due to the considerable work involved this would be a longer-term solution and not in place before 2028, and possibly longer. A specification for this will be created. **Action: DL**

We will need to continue to use the current entries website in the interim with a solution to collect the required medical and emergency contact information and make this available to organisers. This has significant data protection implications that DL is not prepared to take on within the current system. The suggested solution is that the data is held on the PUK JustGo system and a flag on the entries website is used to identify to organiser that there is data regarding some participants on the system that they need to review for their event. PUK would need to create a 'portal' for organisers to access this data securely.

Post meeting note: DL has reviewed this further and feels that due to GDPR rules the current system could not host a flag against participants as planned. It is therefore suggested that the entries website sends a list of participants membership numbers to the PUK system, which they can provide the relevant details for those participants to the race organiser.

DS & LF will pull together the details of what is required for PUK to action. **Action: DS/LF**

It was also noted that it is not obvious where paddlers should be adding Medical and Emergency Contact details of the JustGo system. LF to ask PUK to look at making this clearer or providing a quick guide to help people do this, as well as communicating to members the need to complete their details. **Action: LF**

2.3 Membership Requirements

At the previous meeting we agreed information for organisers about Membership requirements and how organisers and clubs can signpost people to obtain membership and provide proof at events.

This stated that participants in Open or Kayak Cross events at Ranking competitions would require full membership. After discussion it was agreed that to encourage participation, these could be covered by Single Event Membership / Day Membership. LF will check this is acceptable to PUK and, if so, update the current information to organisers. Rule 1.3 would also be updated at the ACM to clarify this. **Action: LF**

Information will also be created to educate participants on membership requirements, how these can be obtained, and how they can provide proof at events. **Action: LF**

3 2026 Calendar Updates

3.1 Selection Events – Review (MC)

The committee thanked all the volunteers involved in making these events happen.

Various issues regarding the events were discussed and ideas for improvements captured, as well as discussion on what an optimal selection would look like and what resources were needed to achieve this. It was suggested that the IP be asked to put something out to gather feedback from the community. DD will also to gather feedback from paddlers at the Cardiff race.

More can be done to support the community in terms of understanding rules and how they are applied by judges.

GW to coordinate a small group to look at issues raised for future years. **Action: GW**

As selection was ran alongside a ranking race, we also need to look at the rules to allow ICF rules to take precedence at selection where required. (e.g. Rule 9.3 to allow a variation from paddlers starting in bib order). **Action: LF**

LF is responding to an email raising concerns regarding a protest at HPP. **Action: LF**

3.2 Other Updates / Requests

Currently no requests for events or amendments. There are likely to be some request for additional Div 4 races coming in from Wales shortly.

The British Open is still not published on the entry website. LF will email the club. **Action: LF**

3.3 Interclubs

Question has been posed about whether the community want to have an Interclubs, and if so when, where, and the format that the event should take place. It was agreed that while this year's event has fell through, the Club Championship working group (GH, HDD and DH) be ask them to look at this with a including a member of the calendar working group, and report back to our next meeting.

Action: GH

4 Strategy Development

4.1 Strategy Development

4.2 Growing the Base of the Sport

These items are interlinked and were discussed together.

A number of practical actions for the sport were discussed under the priorities of Recruit, Retain and Develop. These will be circulated for comment. **Action: LF**

5 Future Structure Development

5.1 Progressing the Future Structure

We need to start providing information to the community on what the 2027 racing season will look like for them. While the information is there in the ACM documents, it is not easy to find or in a particularly 'user friendly' format. They summary 'explainer' document will be used as a starting point. GW will look at using AI to produce a user friendly format /explainer. **Action: GW**

We also need to start capturing questions and producing answers to create a FAQ resource.

The aim is to start making information available and capturing FAQs by the end of the May. **Action: GW & LF**

5.2 2027 Calendar Development Progress

The organisers meeting was well attended and actions are ongoing to collect race venue information. The group believes it is on schedule to have most Black/diamond races fixed by mid-May, and then request applications for Red races, before applications open for Blue, Green and Taster events.

It was also noted that two ICF events will be hosted which the calendar needs to fit around:

- ICF World Cup race at Lee Valley – 13-15 August 2027
- ICF World Masters at Grandtully – **date tbc** August 2027

6 Updates

6.1 Home Nation Updates

England – Funding being agreed for non-programme athletes who have been selected. The Club Support scheme is continuing with PUK to support various initiatives. Some funding will be offered to those doing the Advanced Coaching Programme. It is also planned to continue to put some funding to the ww coaching programme. The committee is also considering whether anything can be done to bring venues back to slalom in areas where these have dropped off.

Scotland – Sport Scotland funding announced to support coaches for 3 years which clubs are applying for. A new CEO is place, and also a Head of Sport working across all disciplines. Numbers in the sport are down generally.

Wales – Discussing taster sessions to get different clubs involved. A performance coach course is due to be run.

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

6.2 Paddler Rep Update

Nothing to report yet.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Time between runs (DL)

A Div 4 organiser has raised a question of whether rule 9.2.5.c (requiring one hour between runs) is applicable to Div 4 races or if it can be ignored. It was agreed that this was acceptable and not enforced at this level. A rule amendment will be put to the ACM to remove this requirement for teams and at Taster & Green tiers. **Action: LF**

7.2 Future support for BUCS

An enquiry has been received from two university clubs looking to host the event at other venues. It was agreed that the limited support offered to the event would apply wherever in the UK the event is hosted.

7.3 Oscars

No organising team has been identified to date. GW has contacted last year's organisers about this and is awaiting a response. It was suggested that the organiser could come from elsewhere in the community (e.g. a Parent?). **Action: GW**

It was also suggested there could be an award to the club that increases ranked paddler numbers

7.4 Washburn

PUK had a meeting with clubs this week. While discussion with YW and EA are ongoing it is unlikely the site will be available for racing in the future

7.5 Payment/Refunds

There has been a recent issue with a paddler entering a race, payment failing and not being made, and the paddler not attending or contacting the organiser to cancel. In theory the entry fee is due, and the entry website will seek payment when they next enter a race however on this occasion it has been cancelled by the organiser. DL is monitoring to see if it is a recurring issue.

7.6 Future meeting dates (see below)

The current schedule of meetings for the year are:

- Wed 24th June (online) *** **Please note corrected date**
- Sat 12th Sept – PUK, HPP (**awaiting room confirmation**)
- 8th Nov - PUK, HPP *** **Please note amended date (awaiting room confirmation)**
- **28th November - Slalom ACM**
- December tbc - Post ACM