

1 Attendance

George Harratt (Chair)

Mick Stegeman

Mark Abbott (Wales)

Matt Crowhurst (Vice Chair)

Karen Crowhurst

Les Ford (Secretary)

Dave Spencer (Treasurer)

1.1 Apologies

Richard Sterry

Tony Leaver (Scotland)

Dee Lindesay

Alison Longhurst - (England)

David Dickson (Paddler Rep)

Gareth Wilson (Paddle UK)

2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 2026 Calendar Updates / Requests

Shepperton – this will go ahead as a 2/3 despite low water levels. A Div 4 race has also been added. Lee Valley Prem / British Open – this has now been published on the entries website.

2.2 Update on Standards for Event / Entry Systems Discussions

Two webinars are scheduled (16 Sept & 1 Oct) with PUK to explain Standards for Events and ensure organisers are aware to the requirements and how to meet these.

Discussions are ongoing regarding timescales for further development of the PUK Entry System so that we could move to using this system which will collect required medical and emergency contact information. This would not be before the 2028 season, and may slip to 2029. The interim solution that PUK are happy with is to have the updated participation statement asking participants to provide organiser with any relevant details.

We will look to create have a FAQ sheet on Standards for Events for organisers after the webinars.

Action: MS

All clubs are to be reminded that they should be submitting Safety Plans to MS ahead of the ACM. A dedicated email address will be requested from PUK for this. **Action: LF**

2.3 2027 Interclubs / Club Championships Update

A date has been set aside in September 2027 for this event, although this has caused an issue in the calendar for lower tier races. MA to check whether the event could run alongside a ranking event to resolve the problem. DH has indicated she would be willing to organise the event, GH will contact her to confirm. **Action: MA & GH**

2.4 Paddle UK Changes

It was noted that Ashley Metcalfe has stepped down as CEO. Kier Worth will be taking on the role of interim CEO.

3 Tiered Racing Structure

3.1 Progressing the Tiered Racing Structure

The working group are currently running shadow points from this year's races, will be simulating the start of the 2026 season under the new structure to ensure the back-end systems are all working as they should. **Action: DS / RM / DL / DB**

Planned communications will refer to the points calculation examples and explainers produced for the 2025 ACM.

Communication has been received regarding the impact on points of different lengths of courses and different difficulty courses within the same tier of racing. It was agreed that there are many factors (including water level, ensuring appropriate feature in the course, which paddlers race, different paddler benefiting from harder and easier or shorter or longer courses) that make it difficult to standardise courses to the 'close to 95 seconds' recommended in the rules. A response will be sent and the issue covered in FAQs about the tier structure. **Action: LF**

The rule (9.4.2) regarding a course time of close to 95 seconds for the winning K1M is only a recommendation and is direct from the ICF rules. It is poor rule, rarely observed (even at ICF events) and less relevant to domestic races. It was agreed that we should look to change to a UK rule to say the course should be appropriate to the tier of the event. **Action: LF**

A query has also been raised of the impact on points of a previously higher ranked paddler returning to the sport at a lower tier race after a break. They would have a TSP of 100%, but if they won by a large margin would reduce the point of all other paddlers. This is being reviewed to understand the likely impact. **Action: DS**

3.2 Communications Plan

A draft plan for communication about the new tiered race structure was circulated and agreed. This will include:

- Summary and FAQs on the website, plus a form to capture additional questions
- Explainer video
- Publishing the 2027 rules
- Draft Calendar published (confirmed at the ACM)
- Scheduling social media posts through winter
- End of season to ranked paddlers
- Online and drop in Q&A sessions

This will start to roll out in late September / early October. **Action LF**

3.3 2027 Calendar Update

The draft calendar of tiered races was discussed, with options to resolve a few outstanding issues be confirmed with organisers before all organisers are informed of proposed dates. MA and the working group were thanked for their work in pulling this together. The aim to publish the draft calendar at end of September. **Action: MA & LF**

A dedicated managed calendar email will be requested from PUK. **Action: LF**

The calendar process was briefly reviewed, and the calendar group ask to advise on any improvements to process and rules for managing the calendar in the future.

World Masters (23-29 Aug 2027, Grandtully) – the organising team due to meet in the coming weeks to progress planning for the event.

Lee Valley World Cup –this is potentially moving to the following weekend (20-22 Aug 2027). The committee was very concerned that this will create problems for volunteers as it will be immediately before the World Masters.

4 ACM Preparations

4.1 Meeting arrangements

The usual arrangements are ongoing for the meeting. Advanced notice of the meeting, a reminder about club registration and the deadline for motions from outside the committee (Friday 23rd October) will be publicised. **Action: LF**

4.2 Committee Posts

The Chair and Treasurer roles are due for election at the ACM. GH is willing to stand, but DS is stepping down so we need to identify a volunteer for the treasurer's role. There will also be 3 committee member posts to fill, 2 are vacant and KC is stepping down. These will be publicised, and all to encourage people to volunteer for these roles. **Action: LF / All**

4.3 Potential motions

Several potential motions from the committee were discussed and agreed which should be progressed for the ACM.

5 Strategy Development

5.1 Action Plan 2026-27

Amendments to the circulated version were discussed. This will be updated and circulated for final agreement before being published. **Action: LF / GW**

Based on the action plan it was agreed that alongside implementing the tiered race structure, additional priorities for the committee in the coming year would be publicity, kayak cross, increasing female representation on the committee. These priorities would be highlighted in seeking volunteers for vacant committee roles.

6 Updates

6.1 Home Nation Updates

England – AL standing down as chair of the England Slalom Committee and will need to be replaced. Phoebe Spicer has joined the England Committee as an paddler representative.

PCC should be in England in 2027, will approach an organiser to
Club support scheme to be launched again.

Scotland – 50 paddlers attended a European coaching trip in the summer organised by Scottish clubs.

Wales – Sid Sinfield is stepping down so PC will be recruiting and a new Performance Director.

6.2 Paddler Rep Update

No report

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Entry Cards

Minor amendments to the rear of the entry card are being finalised for tiered racing and a new supply of cards will be organised. There are enough cards in stock and circulation for the remainder of the season. Existing cards will still be usable for running events in the new structure. **Action: LF / DS**

7.2 Awards Evening Update (Oscars)

Eight venues in Nottingham have been contacted including which do not have availability on the HPP race weekend. Alternative arrangements are being made for presenting the Annual awards at on this weekend. **Action: GW**

7.3 Annual Trophies

Trophies are currently being collected in for the J&V Championships, British Open and End of Season Awards. We may need to seek a new volunteer for the trophy coordinator roles.

7.4 BUCS Slalom

PUK are running this event on 20-21st February 2027. It was agreed this could be supported to the same level as previous year (use of timing kit and some judging support).

7.5 PUK Budget Allocation

A PUK budget allocation has been used to support selection costs & ITO travel. We will need to make another submission in the autumn for the coming year. **Action: Officers**

7.6 Protected Season requests

A reminder will be put out encouraging anyone requiring protected season status to contact the ranking officer before the end of October.

7.7 Future meeting dates (see below)

The schedule of meetings for the year is:

- Sun 8th Nov - PUK, HPP
- **28th November - Slalom ACM**
- *29th November PUK Slalom Coaching conference @ HPP*
- Tues 1st December, 7:30pm (tbc) – online

Proposed 2027 meetings (very provisional)

- Sat 9th Jan – in person
- Sat 27th Feb – in person
- Wed 24th March, 7:30 - online
- Sat 22nd May – in person
- Wed 30th June - online
- Sat 11th Sept – in person
- Sat 6th Nov – in person
- **Sat 27th November – Slalom ACM**