Paddle UK Slalom Committee

Online

Sunday 8 November 2026

1 Attendance

George Harratt (Chair)	Mick Stegeman	Mark Abbott (Wales)
Dave Spencer (Treasurer)	Karen Crowhurst	Gareth Wilson (Paddle UK)
Les Ford (Secretary)	Dee Lindesay	David Dickson (Paddler Rep)

1.1 Apologies

Matt Crowhurst (Vice Chair)	Richard Sterry	Tony Leaver (Scotland)
		Alison Longhurst - (England)

2 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 Update on Event Safety Discussions

Two webinars for organisers / safety officer were well attended, and MS is looking to run another and make the recording available. JH is also running 3 Event Safety Officer orientations specifically for slalom (9 Dec, 6 Jan & 10 Feb, all 6pm to 9pm)

Organisers need to have completed the PUK Risk Management and Risk Assessment e-learning. MS is planning to circulate an email highlighting the training requirements for each role at events. Action: MS.

Ensuring that people have completed the appropriate training /credentials for their roles at events is the organising club's responsibility.

2.2 2027 Interclubs / Club Championships Update

Looking to still proceed with the event at Wagon Lane, MA will follow-up with the club and DH. **Action: MA**

2.3 Awards Evening Feedback / Future

The presentation evening worked well at the rugby club, and thanks were expressed to all those involved in arranging this and organising trophies. After discussion it was agreed that we should look to repeat this more relaxed event to present annual trophies at the end of season, with the intention of a more formal event at the end of the Olympic cycle. **Action: All**

2.4 J16 & Vets Championship Trophies

Following the competition and a complaint received, the trophy sets have been made up to include every age group from J12 to J16 in each individual class, plus Vets trophies in each event, and single junior C2 trophy. The additional trophies were presented to their winners at events the following week.

3 ACM Preparations

3.1 Meeting arrangements

LF has the usual arrangements for the meeting in hand regarding room, lunch, attendance etc. The agenda will be published on Friday 13th November as required. Reports should be forwarded to LF as soon as possible. **Action All & LF**

3.2 Committee Posts

We have received a few nominations for committee and officer roles but are still seeking someone to take on the Secretary role and a few more committee members. **Action: All**

3.3 Potential motions

Proposed motions were discussed and agreed to all the ACM agenda to be finalised. **Action: LF**

There are a large number of potential motions. Some that are non-controversial 'tidying' motions to update the rules or amend outdated references will be combined into a single tidying motion.

There are also a few changes that have need to be made which will be brought into the rules without an ACM motion. (The Committee's Terms of Reference allow this a responsibility for the rules lies with the committee, the ACM is consultative with meeting time better spent on items that require discussion).

These are:

- **Amending membership requirement** – this simply updates rules to match what we put out as an update in March 2026
- **Amending rule of course length** – only changes a rule that is a recommendation
- **Removing the officials ranking list/competition** – on the recommendation of the retiring compiler as these are a time-consuming volunteer job, and no longer felt to be valued
- **Remove postal entries** – no longer used

An appendix to the ACM will be published detailing these rule changes and a justification changes, to ensure the community are aware of these changes. **Action: LF**

3.4 Other discussion Items

It was agreed that we should spend some time on volunteering an judging, the issues that are deterring people and what we can do to encourage more volunteering at all levels of the sport. **Action: GW**

3.5 2027 Calendar

Issues with the calendar were discussed and several actions to be taken forward before the ACM.

It was also confirmed what information needs to be collected for events to be added to the online calendars on both the canoe slalom entries and slalom website.

4 Tiered Racing Structure

4.1 Progressing the Tiered Racing Structure

Background work and testing on the slalom systems is ongoing. Points modelling is being done on the 2026 season results which has informed some tweaks being put to the ACM. These will be published once amendments put to the ACM are confirmed.

4.2 Communications Plan

LF is a little behind on updating FAQ, adding additional information to the website and scheduling information on social media. The static text the website (mainly the FAQ section) also needs updating to reflect the new tiered structure. This will be done after the ACM. **Action: LF**

LF will circulate potential dates for webinar/Q&A sessions over winter and need additional people to be involved in running these sessions. **Action: LF/ All**

5 Strategy Development

5.1 Action Plan 2026-27

Some additional work is needed to develop quantifiable actions.

5.2 PUK Strategy

Information was shared on the direction of the PUK strategy that is yet to be published. This will inform future committee action plans.

6 Updates

6.1 Home Nation Updates

Wales – Nothing to report

Scotland – A successful Scottish Championships took place the previous day at Grandtully with around 40 paddlers attending. New PS staff are in posts with more consultation and engagement with the community. A training weekend last weekend saw clubs and programmes coaches involved. Funding coming from PS to support paid coaches in clubs.

England – AL stepped down and Mark Haylett has agreed to become chair. A new round of club partnerships funding is open for applications.

It was agreed the Yorkshire Slalom will become a regional sub-committee of the England Committee. This could be a model for other regions to follow. The England Committee Terms of Reference will be updated to enable this. Yorkshire Slalom will also update its Terms of Reference. **Action: LF**

6.2 Paddler Rep Update

Nothing to update

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Div 4 on online entries

DL has updated the entries website to do some membership checks on those entering Div 4 competitions online. She would appreciate any feedback particularly if it is causing any issues or appearing not to work.

7.2 Paddler Safety at Higher Tier Races

There is concern about lower ranked paddler entering higher tier races on water that they may not be ready for yet. Ultimately the decisions to enter and race lies with the paddler or parent, and they should be guided by clubs and coaches on what races and venues are appropriate for them. The potential already exists through judges runs and open events, with few issues and it is thought most paddlers will continue to enter suitable races. Where organisers of higher tier races have concerns about a lower ranked paddler's entry, they are encouraged to raise it with the paddler's club to seek confirmation that the race is suitable for the paddler

This is already covered in the FAQs for 2027, and upcoming communication will highlight this issue with the community.

Additionally, competition risk assessments should take account of this and suitable control measures put in place these could include additional safety cover, consultation with paddler/ guardian, advice not to paddle in extreme cases.

7.3 Bibs

KC is looking at the possibility of a few changes /swaps of bib colours as we move to the structure.

7.4 Expired Membership

We have had an incident of a paddler who races when their membership had expired. It was it is the paddler's responsibility to ensure their membership is current when racing, and any liability that may arise that would be covered by the member's insurance would rest with the paddler. The ranking/bib system checks memberships daily and suspends paddlers points when membership expires, but these are reinstated when membership is renewed. However, the wording on the ranking list and bib application are clear that paddlers are ineligible to race if membership is not current. Creating a system to check membership is current at the time of the race would be onerous.

It was also felt that points earned this situation should be cancelled. However, this needs to be applied consistently and may be difficult to do on the current system. It was agreed to ask bib officers to monitor this issue in 2027 with a view to future action. **Action: LF**

7.5 Future meeting dates (see below)

The schedule of meetings for the year is:

- **28th November - Slalom ACM**
- *29th November PUK Slalom Coaching conference @ HPP*

Proposed 2027 meetings (*very* provisional)

- Tbc evening December 2026, 7:30pm – online
- 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**