



BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING Annual Consultative Meeting

DATE: Saturday 2nd September 2017

TIME: Meeting Commenced at 19:50

VENUE: NWSC, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham

Minutes

Attended:

Alan Laws (Chair), Cathy Wynne (Secretary), Ann Hoile, John Hoile (Regatta Chair), Louise Clive (Regatta Treasurer), Roland Lawler, Margaret Chapman, David Joy (CEO), Paul Ratcliffe (Performance Director), An 'Attendance Signature List' was circulated, in total 35 people signed the sheet. 18 (out of a possible 58) sprint clubs had a voting member present.

1. Notification of Absences:

Michael Bannister.

2. Approval of Minutes from the ACM, 3rd September 2016:

The Minutes had been made available on website.

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by R Lawler and seconded by J Hoile, agreed nem con.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes not covered on the agenda.

4. Chairman's Report: (Alan Laws) The report has been available on the website.

- AL thanked all staff involved in Super September
- Cotswold Water Park is a potential future venue for regattas, possibly 2019/20. Owners are very keen. There is a training group there already.
- A need to develop club and regional regattas.
- Junior Canoeist of the year is **Ieuan James** from Forth CC. Presentation tomorrow.

5. Secretary's Report: (C Wynne)

The report had been circulated beforehand on the website. This was a factual report which gives numbers of meetings, members and visitors attending meetings and the focus of SRC meetings through the year. Meetings are mainly out of season now and never more than 4hrs.

6. Treasurer's Report:

a) Regatta Committee Treasurer: (L Clive)

The reports had been circulated beforehand on the website. There were 2015/2016 End of Year and 2017 to date reports. 2015/2016 accounts had been prepared by the previous Treasurer, but LC would try to answer any questions. The accounts had been audited.

The accounts for 2017 are pre-September regatta, the 'year-end' will be 31st October. This year the national regattas should break even or maybe make a small profit.

A question was asked about the 2016 accounts, had the SRC given a grant of £10,000 to the Regatta Committee which isn't shown in the Regatta accounts. LC said she thought the £10,000 had been transferred by the office internally direct from the SRC account to the PD, as payment towards the costs of starter gates etc.. She agreed as the money had been granted by the SRC to the RC it should have been shown in the RC accounts, as received from the SRC, before the transfer to the PD. This will be confirmed with the office. There were no further questions.

b) SRC Treasurer: (M Bannister)

The report had been circulated beforehand. In MB's absence questions would be answered by the committee. There were no questions.

Majority voted to accept both sets of 2015/16 accounts, with 1 vote against accepting the Regatta Committee accounts.



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7. Appointment of Tellers

Voting members had been asked to complete their voting slips and return them to the tellers asap so that they could be counted in time for the election of officers.

Anna Gray and Heather Williams were appointed as tellers for the meeting.

8. Election of Chairman

For this item J Hoile took over from AL who was thanked for his work this year.

JH informed members there had only been one nomination and that was Alan Laws.

All present voted in favour of the sole candidate. Alan Laws will be Chairperson for 2017-18.

9. Election of Committee Members:

Tom Love had withdrawn his nomination.

There were now 9 nominations for 7 places on the committee.

18 clubs voted – Phil Caisley, Louise Clive, Imogen Collins, Paul Dimmock, John Hoile, Nicole Williams and Cathy Wynne were elected onto the committee.

10. Performance – Canoe Sprint: (H Williams)

HW report had been on the website. She wanted to recognise every athlete who had represented GB this year. Three athletes, Liam Heath, Emma Wiggs and Jeanette Chippington, had won three major titles in the year. Ieuan James was the first Junior gold medallist in over 20yrs. She acknowledged a number of athletes and staff members who had retired or left BC, including Alan Williams, John Anderson, Alex Nikorov, Miklos Simon and Trevor Hunter.

11 Under 12 Youth Racing – (A Hoile & L Clive).

The report had been on the website. AH explained how the SRC came to the decisions it had and what was proposed for next year.

As a Trial: There will be an U12 Open race introduced at next year's regattas. Open to any boat (except Lightnings) There will be heats and finals. Raced over 500m or possibly 200m. Paddlers will be promoted if they achieve the time for D classes. Points will be included in the MacGregor series.

U12 Open races will be added to the programme from April 18

Items of Discussion

12. Proposed by J Alexander. Presented by G Smith.

a) Under 12's:

There was a request to include the U12's in the National Champs and that U12's only race 200m.

More clubs felt they would prefer 200m races for Lightning classes. Straw poll showed 8 for, 3 against & 7 abstentions.

b) 5km races

A request to include all classes in the 5km races and make the distance open to more. This year's races were requested by the MRC for international selections. The committee would look at including more 5k races next year so that not only the top paddlers (A & B) could take part. Clubs felt that if they were more often or schedules were fixed and known ahead of time, more people may take part. A lot of the decision was over the timing of previous races, but people agreed that paddlers would have to decide which they wanted to do, it wasn't up to timetabling to try to accommodate all.

Request: SRC and Regatta Committee to consider adding more inclusive 5k races

c) MacGregor Paddle

It was suggested that paddlers should qualify for the MacGregor event by competing in at least one other regatta in that year.

A discussion took place around the pros and cons of this with cases for both.

Straw poll showed 7 clubs for the suggestion, 6 clubs against, 5 abstained.



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Items of Discussion Cont.

d) Team Leaders Meeting

It was suggested to move Team Leaders meeting to a Friday evening.

The poll showed most clubs against, 2 clubs for.

13 Proposed by K Burbeck.

a) To adjust Standard times for women in sprint racing.

S Hawthorn had presented figures which she said showed that the current standards system is unfair to women and there was a discrepancy between seniors and juniors. RL said that results showed that it was not unfair, that women perform better than the men this year internationally. A lengthy discussion took place with quite strong feelings on both sides. The figures seem to show that in the higher classes' women seemed to cope better than in the C & D classes.

Straw poll of clubs showed a strong wish for the women's times to be reconsidered, with 10 for, only 1 against, 7 abstained.

b) To reimplement demotions or suggested demotions

Although Team Leaders can now request demotions for their paddlers some felt this wasn't enough and that it was mainly the Masters classes for which requests had been made.

Options were discussed, clubs did not wish to return to published enforced demotions, proposals such as giving suggested demotions, like the Marathon's system, or if people have two D 'warning suggestions' they would then be demoted.

The Clubs requested that demotions be given but as suggested demotions via Team Leaders rather than enforced.

c) Suggestion to remove Women's Masters classes except for Masters Championships.

There was no further information on this issue given and no discussion.

Generally, Clubs were not in favour.

14 Proposed by T Gregory. To look at the Terms of Reference

British Canoeing are still finalising these for all committees and SRC have it on their agenda.

No one had any further comments

Clubs happy to leave it to the SRC to finalise their Terms of Reference once British Canoeing have given final instructions.

15 Proposed and presented by S Moule

a) Discriminations against Women's Masters.

This item had mainly been discussed earlier in the meeting and the consensus was to ask for Standards for women, juniors and masters to be looked at again.

Straw poll showed: 12 Clubs for, 2 against and 4 abstained.

b) Penalty Points offences:

SM had researched the various penalty points and when they had last been used etc. He spoke about discrepancies in rules about when a penalty point would be used or when a disqualification was needed. The racing handbook isn't clear on these issues. It was noted that just because a point hadn't been used for years it didn't seem a good enough reason to get rid of the penalty but there should be a clarity of consequences.

It was requested that the penalty points system and their use be looked at again.

c) MacGregor Paddle Inclusivity:

SM thought that Paddle-Ability didn't have their own 'series' but they do and therefore shouldn't be included in the MacGregor challenge. However, that isn't clear in the handbook.

It was requested the handbook be made clearer about the different competitions and who could take part in them.



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Items of Discussion Cont.

15 Proposed and presented by S Moule Cont.

d) Protest/Appeal Costs:

There was concern about the costs rising from £5 to £15 for Protest fees and £20 to £70 for Appeals. The Fees hadn't risen for well over 20yrs. It was explained that this was to bring them in line with ICF fees and that if the appeal or protest was upheld then the fee was repaid.

Club Members seemed confused on this issue, but most wished the fees to be reduced to the original costs. SRC will look further into it.

e) Seniors and Juniors Racing Masters races:

It was requested that Juniors should be allowed to race in Masters races.

Members felt that it was not in the best interest of juniors to race in Masters. Masters events are age related. Masters can race in Senior Men's races. If everyone could race in all races it would just be repeating all the same races with the same paddlers. Part of the social aspect is when juniors are paired with ones from other clubs, possibly forming future friendships or crew boats.

Most Clubs were against letting Juniors race in Masters races.

f) Transparency

It was noted that SRC and competition committee minutes are not published publicly.

This is something already noted by the SRC. Precis of SRC meeting minutes have been posted on the website. Sprint Regional reps are sent the approved Minutes. CW explained the competition committee do not have 'minutes' but do keep records on the progress of events to their completion. The phrasing follows the ICF sprint rules but the word 'minutes' had been translated into English and is not as we would use the word.

Clubs requested that a precis of the SRC meetings be published within 2 weeks and then once the Minutes are approved those to be published.

16 Closing remarks

David Joy thanked the SRC for their work and all club representatives for their work. He was encouraged by the thought put into the questions asked at the meeting. He said that the committee had a lot of work to do over the next 2 years or so. He hopes we can have consistency across all the disciplines regarding a number of issues, including transparency, protest fees., rules tidied up and competition structure, etc., then governance would come next. He wants clubs to consider how they can get more people involved in canoeing.

AL was pleased to see the amount of questions for the meeting, it showed a real interest in the sport. He thanked everyone for coming and their input.

The meeting closed at 21:40