

## Regatta Committee Report to the SRC ACM on Wednesday, 28 September 2022

### 2022 Season

We delivered four events during the year. These four competitions included National Championship and Selection events, the Inter-Services Championship, the SUP British National Championship, and the Inter-Club MacGregor competition, along with four smaller competitions, the Mini-Sprints Series, the Intermediate Sprint Kayak (U14) K1 Event Series, the Paddle-Ability Series, and the Andrew Bonham Memorial C4 Race.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the following people for their significant input and support throughout the season in preparing for and running this year's events.

- Cathy Wynne, John Hoile, Ann Hoile, Wendy Dodson, Louise Clive, and Paul Edwardes on the Regatta Committee
- Martin Hook, Kari Martin, and Sara Edwardes as Regatta Officials for their pre- and post-regatta support in a range of roles
- Rich Stacey-Chapman and Macauley Allen from the British Canoeing events team for their onsite help with event set-up and discussions with Serco
- Tim Scott and the SRC for their support and guidance
- Matej Kačič, Howard Smith, Trevor Kirkham, and Graham Smith for IT support before, during, and after the events
- Cindy Appleby, Events and Bookings Manager at Serco

Thank you so much to the Regatta Officials and helpers who supported this year's events! **Everyone is a volunteer. Without these wonderful people giving their time, we cannot run these events.** During the 2020 and 2021 lockdowns, our pool of volunteers was reduced to just over half our usual numbers. In 2022, with support from the clubs, we have started to rebuild the size of our volunteer pool. This has made an enormous difference. We will continue recruitment during 2023 to further build this group. A larger group of volunteers provides greater flexibility during events and allows volunteers to try different roles and take breaks during the competition.

Thank you to the clubs, too, for your support during the season. In nearly all cases, this is very positive and very supportive. We did, however, experience some inappropriate, unnecessary, and misdirected challenges from a club during two events this season. These challenges frustrated the event competition committee and organisers and had to be escalated to the SRC. The event competition committee applies the rules approved by the SRC; we don't set them. Requests for the reconsideration of existing rules should be directed to the SRC.

Behind the scenes, we had to relearn processes and knowledge lost by John Ball's untimely death in 2021. John provided incredible onsite technical support during our regattas over many years, and we relied on him. We had to document and re-allocate processes and source equipment that John had previously supplied. We also had to outsource his timing system-related work to the software vendor at a significantly increased cost.

Following their introduction during the Covid period, we continued to run the online Team Leaders' Meeting; not support late entries; use Online Forms in place of the Secretary's Desk; and use WhatsApp groups for broadcast comms with Team Leaders, Regatta Participants, and interactive comms with Regatta Officials. From a regatta management perspective, these worked well for the organisers.

Financially, the early regattas ran at a loss, impacting our reserves. For the September regatta, we experienced a high number of entries. These entry revenues, along with the additional Inter-Services and SUP revenues, will help recoup some of this loss.

Congratulations are due to Adam Miles, one of our Regatta Officials, who achieved his International Technical Official (ITO) qualification at the ICF World Cup 2 event in Poznan earlier in the year. With eight of our Regatta Officials now being ITOs, the quality of our National officiating matches that of International events.

### **2023 Season**

Planning for the 2023 season has already started. The following dates have been finalized for the 2023 season

15-16 April with a contingency on 17 April

3-4 June with a contingency on 5 June

1-2 July with selections on 3 July and a contingency on 4 July

2-3 September

Phil Caisley, on behalf of the Regatta Committee