

Developing Club Run Regattas - 2023

Local and Regional Regattas 2023

The SRC are excited to support and drive the expansion of local and regional sprint regattas in 2023. It's a widely held ambition that as a sport we need to increase the opportunities for paddlers to learn sprint skills and gather exciting sprint paddling experiences outside of the National Regattas held at HPP, Nottingham.

An initial idea around connecting qualification for the MacGregor paddle and participation in a local sprint event has been shelved and will not go ahead. (Thank you all for your feedback). The MacGregor competition in 2023 will be run as it has been in previous years.

A number of Clubs have been running Club based regattas for many years and the SRC are hoping to engage the support of these existing events as well as entice new club run regattas to come together under the umbrella of the SRC which will sow the seeds of a new local and regional sprint structure with its own identity. For many paddlers only having four opportunities a year at HPP to practice sprint skills in a race environment simply isn't enough. During the consultation the SRC were thankful to have received so many expressions of interest and support from Clubs keen to host new local regattas.

Why Become Involved?

Becoming a part of this new venture is about buying into the SRC philosophy of offering more local sprint events for paddlers. To get this new culture off the ground the Community will need to come together and with the will of large and small clubs, we can begin to develop something new and exciting.

Content and Race Schedule of Local Club Run Regattas

The running of a local regatta does not require a rigid format of marked lanes, timing systems and the other facilities offered at HPP. Events can be relatively informal and run on all kinds of water. The SRC is encouraging new host clubs to create their own individual schedule of events with imaginative race formats to suit their home water and their paddlers. There are no prescriptive rules and there's no need for timing systems (first past the post if there are heats is fine) or for clubs to be constricted by traditional formats. There can be as few as two lanes if that's all that is available to a host club. Relay races, elimination races, races where paddlers start at opposite ends of course, 2K K2 races, sprints over a distance as short as 50m which could be K1, K2 or K4, even surf ski sprints at sea around a buoy are all formats that have been proposed by Clubs and all fit the broad and inclusive criteria that help develop sprint skills. The SRC are keen to stimulate a development of adaptable skills as well as a deep long lasting love of paddling and racing with friends that is likely to sustain paddlers through any thin times in their competitive journey or coaching life.

The Committee will do all it can to support Clubs to overcome individual challenges. For example, twinning smaller clubs with a larger club may give them the guaranteed entry and draw to make the event successful and the SRC will help with pairing clubs like this where it is useful. Our support can also take the form of helping with risk assessments or if you are short of officials seeing if we can put you in touch with new sources - Universities for example have student volunteers. The SRC will also make promotional videos (at zero cost through voluntary help) to showcase the different forms local regattas take in 2023 to give those aspiring to putting on an event ideas of what is going on around the country. Do please get in touch if you require any kind of help.

Finding Time in the Calendar

The SRC acknowledge that the calendar is already very busy. It believes these events could be held on a weekday summer evening with a barbecue, a Saturday afternoon or even over a series of evenings. The SRC will publish a full calendar of local, regional and national sprint events for 2023 and publicise these through all of its channels.

SRC Support

The SRC can offer a wide range of support to clubs who run events for the first time. This might include help with putting together a Risk Assessment, finding more volunteer staff, practical help with a race schedule, or utilising the extremely generous support offered by some of our larger clubs to be paired with smaller clubs and guarantee their attendance.

SRC Financial Support

The SRC is open to support local club run events financially particularly those that are new or in the early stages of development. The Committee ask that any clubs seeking financial support prior to their event put forward their case in writing and send to: canoesprint.chair@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk at least four weeks in advance. Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis and a subjective decision reached by the SRC. The more detail and the more persuasive the argument the more chance the application will have in succeeding. The long term ambition is that events attract enough paddlers to be self supporting but the SRC understands that initially financial support may be needed.

Levy

An SRC levy of £3 per adult and £2 per junior athlete (this is the same as the MRC levy for Hasler racing) is going to be charged per paddler for events that choose to come under the SRC umbrella. These funds will be invested directly back into Sprint racing by supporting those running regattas and also to support unfunded athletes to attend International trips. While the sums raised will be relatively small it is one of the pre-requisites set by British Canoeing that the SRC should create its own funding streams in order to continue to receive centralised funding.

Both the SRC and the MRC receive similar levels of funding from BC - but the MRC clearly has a sizeable additional income from the Hasler levy system.

Retrospective Financial Support (After the Event)

The SRC appreciates the levy may seem daunting. If a club finds it is struggling to pay the levy after the event then please get in touch. The Committee wishes to ensure the levy is not a barrier to putting on an event and will look sympathetically on Clubs who have put on an event but find the finances make paying the levy a challenge while still establishing a new local regatta. Please get in touch after the event in writing: canoesprint.chair@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk

SRC Chair Tim Scott comments, "It's worth noting the SRC have helped establish several new ventures in the last two years. British Universities and Colleges Sprint is now part of the BUCS calendar for 2023 (something that has been talked about for 20 years), the JDS is the first time ever that the MRC, SRC and Talent department have worked together (something else that has been talked about for a long time). New changes are happening. Local regattas and bringing them under a unified calendar has also been talked about for years - we've shown we can change things - but we need your support and help to achieve this. With your help we're hoping to develop a new long term culture."

Adam Miles has been specifically co-opted onto the SRC to liaise with clubs who are running local regattas. He's there to help. Please contact him!
adfmiles@gmail.com

The Sprint Racing Committee January 2023

Summary:

To come under the SRC banner of the New Local and Regional Sprint Racing Events:

- 1) Contact Adam Miles with the date of your event and any support you need.
 - 2) Ensure your event is open to other clubs.
 - 3) At least two weeks prior to the event send a Risk Assessment to the SRC via: canoesprint.chair@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk
 - 4) After the event send the levy to the SRC (£3 for Senior £2 for juniors). Contact Louise Clive for payment details: canoesprint.treasurer@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk
 - 5) If you wish - send in the results which the SRC will publish and record.
 - 6) Let us know if you'd like us to make a promotional video about your event.
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