

Regatta Committee Report to the SRC ACM on Wednesday, 18 October 2023

2023 Season

We delivered four events during the year. These four competitions included National Championship and Selection events, the Inter-Services 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, Paul Edwardes, Colette Johnson, and Martin Hook on the Regatta Committee
- Kari Martin and Sara Edwardes as Regatta Officials for their pre- and post-regatta support in a range of roles
- Tim Scott and the SRC for their support and guidance
- Rich Stacey-Chapman and Macauley Allen from the British Canoeing events team for their onsite help with event set-up and discussions with Serco
- Cindy Appleby, Events and Bookings Manager, and Craig Braham, at Serco
- Matej Kačić, Howard Smith, Trevor Kirkham, Graham Smith, and Gareth for IT support before, during, and after the events

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.** In 2023, with continued support from the clubs, we continued rebuilding our volunteer pool following the decline during the Covid period. The larger team makes an enormous difference but will still need more team members. A larger group of volunteers provides greater flexibility during events and allows volunteers to try different roles and take breaks during the competition. In 2024, we will formalize a new role of National Technical Official, giving our volunteers the opportunity to further develop their experience across a range of regatta functions and to a defined standard.

Thank you to the clubs for your support during the season. In nearly all cases, this is very positive and very supportive. Unfortunately, in 2023, we again experienced some inappropriate, unnecessary, and misdirected challenges from clubs during the season's last competition. These challenges frustrated many regatta officials, the event competition committee, and the event organisers. As with the statement I made in my 2021 report, **the event competition committee applies the rules set and approved by the SRC to ensure a fair competition.** Team Leaders need to understand the Sprint Racing Competition Rules and the Terms and Conditions of Participation at the start of the season and respect and uphold these during the competitions. Knowledge of the existing rules would have avoided issues escalating unnecessarily and causing significant frustration for officials and competitors.

On a lighter and positive note, thank you also to the clubs for supporting our trial of moving the cars, trailers, boats, and gazebos to the opposite side of the course for the September Regatta, and boat control, the information desk, and check, clean, dry to the end of the course. We circulated a post-event questionnaire to all Team Leaders and are currently reviewing the feedback we received from 11 clubs. The initial review indicates that the trial was well received and promoted a good atmosphere and improved community spirit. Nearly all clubs who responded were keen for this approach to continue for the 2024 season with a few minor tweaks.

Having increased the per-seat entry cost for the 2023 season, we were expecting some financial impact. Although we haven't yet completed the end-of-year accounts, the financial modelling we did seems to have played out as expected. Whilst there has been a small drop in overall entries, these entries are now less likely to be scratched pre-event.

2024 Season

Planning for the 2024 season has already started. The following dates have been finalized for the 2024 season

13-14 April + 15 April as contingency

8-9 June + 10 June as contingency

6-7 July

7-8 September

Phil Caisley, on behalf of the Regatta Committee