

BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE

Pen Portraits for Nominated Candidates for SRC Membership at 2023 ACM

Eight (8) candidates nominated for five (5) positions

Adam Miles

As a latecomer to our sport, I only discovered Canoeing as a parent of a child who, despite trying lots of alternative sports, settled on racing canoes at age 9. Since then, I have followed my family members into a boat myself - mainly recreationally, but I have raced a number of times too.

I found that I have developed a huge passion for our Sport and I have since become somewhat of a 'volunteer canoeing junkie'.

As well as coaching beginners and intermediate youngsters at RLSCC, I am Treasurer at the club, support the team of Club coaches administratively, officiate at National and International Canoe Sprint Regatta's and support the Sprint performance squads by driving trailers to/from international trips and events. I have been a co-opted member of the SRC during 2023 and have tried to support the development of the current SRC local regatta initiative.

Put simply, I value our sport so highly that I just want to do all I can to support it and the great people I have met through my involvement with it. Young and not so young, it is my view that our sport attracts and helps develop special people.

If elected as an SRC member, I intend to work to try to represent the best interests of those involved with Canoe Sprint racing and to try to contribute to its positive development.

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Alice Murphy

I am standing for my second term on the SRC to continue with my aims of increasing female participation in sprint racing and to ensure that clubs, big and small, are fully represented.

Now in my early 30s, I have been involved in canoeing for almost my whole life, competing regularly in sprint and marathon as well as doing some WWR in my teens. Having trained at Banbury Canoe Club for most of my life, progressing as a paddler, coach and committee member, I moved to Nottingham Kayak Club 5 years ago and therefore have experience in both large and small clubs.

I played a key role in the campaign to make sprint racing fairer between male and female athletes, presenting the motion at the ACM in 2017 to adjust the promotion standards and ensuring that a change was made. I believe we still have much to do in order to increase female participation in paddling and aim to work towards this during my time on the SRC.

Throughout the last three years on the SRC, I have been on steering groups for the Junior Development Squad (JDS) and Great Britain Junior Training Squad (GBJTS). These are groups that provide skills-based training for junior athletes that meet the appropriate standards, ensuring they all have access to coaches regardless of which club they're from, and enabling them to meet others of similar standard to encourage crew boat partnerships and friendships to develop. These groups have run successfully in their current formats for 1 (GBJTS) to 3 (JDS) years and I aim to continue developing the paddling pathway in collaboration with the MRC and BC Talent department if I am re-elected.

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Arthur Leech

Clubs:

- Richmond Canoe Club (2013 – Present)
- Nottingham Kayak Club (2018 – 2022)



Background

I started paddling 10 years ago at the age of 13 having been inspired to try more sports following the London 2012 Olympics. I found high kneeling canoeing and never looked back. I started racing the same year and have continued to compete at local, national and international level throughout school, university and now working life. This has included involvement with British Canoeing performance department and talent programs, and training at a number of different clubs (e.g. Addlestone, Wey, Norwich) during training camps and to escape the Thames in flood over the winter.

Racing

I have raced at all levels, in both sprint and marathon events. My first racing experience was a local regatta at Littleton Lake run by Richmond. Following this I continued racing at local events, such as Wey sprints and Hasler Marathons, until my first national regatta in (a very windy) Nottingham in September 2014. I had my first opportunity to represent my country at Olympic Hopes regatta in 2017 and have since raced at European and World Championships for both sprint and marathon.

Coaching

I have become involved with coaching younger athletes as I have developed as a paddler. Initially this was during the school/university holidays, and I now coach junior canoe and kayak athletes on a regular basis. I find this incredibly rewarding and important as it is an opportunity to give back to the sport and club that has supported me throughout my paddling career.

Application to the Sprint Racing Committee

As with my coaching I am keen to give back to the sport and ensure it is in a good place for future generations. I believe I have a broad range of experiences within the sport that I can use well to apply to the current issues that face canoeing.



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Bea Clark

My name is Bea Clark and I have been a member of Royal Canoe Club for as long as I can remember. I have been racing sprint canoeing at our national regattas since the age of 8. More recently I have been a member at Nottingham Kayak Club during my university studies.

The volunteering work I have done in the sport ranges from coaching/beginner work at my canoe club, to being involved in British Canoeings Female Development Group to sitting on my canoe clubs committee for 3 years. This has allowed me to see different areas of the sport and helped me gauge what the sprint world is all about. I have also been able to coach junior athletes within their early sprinting careers including taking a group of young athletes out to their first international of Olympic Hopes.

I believe that as a sprint racing community, outreach is vital for the sports progression. For example, utilising the school system to increase engagement and participation. If elected on the SRC, I would want to represent young female athletes. In our sport, a lot of girls and boys tend to struggle in racing participation past the age of 16; usually this is more girl drop-out heavy which results in a huge gender gap. I would want to make sure this gap is closed through initiatives that keeps girls and boys actively engaged in the sport throughout teenage years.

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Bev Hunter

I have been involved in canoeing since I was 12. I represented GB as a junior and u23 at both sprint and marathon.

I have coached both juniors and seniors to international standard and was involved in the original JDS back in the 90s before world class.

I have run training camps and taken juniors to internationals and now coach at Devizes Canoe Club where I work with the juniors and organise events.

I am passionate about our sport but my primary goal is to help young people reach their potential in a fair and inclusive environment.

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Finn O'Brien

I started my kayaking journey, like many others, whilst I was still at school. An email mentioning free sessions at the local club, Leaside, was sent around my year and I thought I might as well give it a go as I had yet to find a sport I enjoyed. It only took one, rather wobbly, session to realise that I had found a sport that I would love for the rest of my life. Those casual Saturday sessions eventually turned more competitive as the groups skills developed and I soon found myself competing in the Winter Series marathons up and down the country, something which I truly loved. I began to volunteer at Leaside regularly, as a way to give back to my home club and foster a love of the sport to others.

When Leaside's flatwater sector dissolved I trained under Owen Shephard, who both honed my passion into a more focused objective by racing at Nottingham, and also taught me how enjoyable the sport could be even while training hard. I joined Chelmsford canoe club not long after, engaging in the welcoming community there, before moving to university and paddling at Norwich Canoe Club.

I have raced, competed and paddled with a whole host of clubs and it has given me a wonderful insight into the incredible sport that is kayaking and I believe my varied experiences, both on the water and off, has given me a unique outlook on the needs and wants of the community. I would love nothing more than to share my passion for this sport with every club and individual up and down the country. I believe that the chance to be member of the SRC would give me this opportunity and that I can make a real difference in our wonderful community.

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Peter Gorman

Wey Kayak Club, Banbury & District Canoe Club, Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club. Canoeing has been and still is a big part of my life. My first experience of canoeing was in 1967 with Pulborough Sea Scouts using canvas kayaks, and I saw the early days of GRP kayaks. My first race was in 1968, and I was hooked from then. Subsequently I joined Worthing Canoe Club, Pangbourne River Training Centre, Royal Canoe Club and in 1982 I became a member of Wey Kayak Club where

I was Club Coach. I competed at the first regatta at HPP watch the age group racing in Esparda's, been a member of the OTS for 12 years, racing internationally for GB in marathon and sprint, I am still actively coaching at Wey and more recently at Banbury. Its been interesting seeing the differences between urban and rural clubs and there approach to racing, and look forward to sharing these experiences..

A reason for putting myself up for re-election to the SRC is I am keen to develop and see closer connection between racing clubs and British Canoeing coaching and management schemes and see the SRC as an import part of those connections. Getting support to developing clubs and paddlers is

something I am keen to be involved with.

Our sport of Sprint Racing connects with other disciplines such as Marathon Racing, WhiteWater Racing and Ocean Racing with many competitors racing in a combination of these disciplines successfully, and I feel we could all benefit by working closer together.

I am involved in the coaching at Banbury and Wey, I am still racing and paddling 4 or 5 times a week and feel I bring to the SRC a connection of an active paddler and club member/coach.

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Tim Chamberlin

I started my journey as a paddler 2008 with my local Scouts group & I joined Chelmsford Canoe Club in 2013. I have 3 boys, that have been coached at Chelmsford too.

I am also a race coach for paddlers aged 12-17, that want to develop their racing technique & progress through the divisions/classes. Whenever possible, I race K1, K2 & K4 for hasler & sprint races, the Broads Ultra Marathon & the Sella Descent.

I have also been the team leader for Chelmsford at the sprint regatta's at Nottingham for over 6 years.

Why do I want to join the SRC? As clubs & individuals, we all have various & differing opinions on the best way to progress with making racing accessible & inclusive to all. I feel that I can bring a "fresh set of eyes" so to speak and offer a voice of opinion from one of the larger canoe clubs. Looking at the future, who knows the challenges that may face the SRC & us as clubs, but I feel that my experience across different disciplines of canoe/kayak racing, race coaching & being a committee member at Chelmsford would be a benefit to the SRC.