



PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday 11th March 2024
TIME: 20:00 Zoom On-line meeting

Committee members: Nick Fowler-Rimell [NF] (Chair), Louise Clive [LC] (Treasurer), Philip Miles [PM] (Secretary) until 21:30, Alice Murphy [AM], Arthur Leech [AL], Adam Miles [AMi], Bev Hunter [BH], Hannah Brown [HB] until 21:00, Martin Hook [MH], Paul Dimmock [PD], Peter Gorman [PG], Roland Lawler [RL], Margaret Chapman [MC] SCA Rep

Others Attending: Ashley Metcalfe (BC) [CEO] Charlie Barwis (BC) [CB]

Item No:

MINUTES

1 Apologies

No apologies were received in advance of this meeting.

2 Approval of SRC minutes from 15th January 2024

No comments were raised regarding previous meeting minutes. NF proposed that they be accepted. **Approved.**

3 Matters arising from SRC Minutes not on the agenda

- Following the previous meeting, the outcome of an vote undertaken by email confirms that NF will sit as a representative of the SRC on the JTS Steering Group.
- Since last SRC meeting, the committee was invited to give feedback on changes to the IP Terms of Reference. Several of the committee voiced their reticence towards the decision of the casting vote to be given to the Performance Director, but there was optimism that these changes would positively impact selection decisions.
- The April Regatta event schedule was approved via email so that it could be circulated in advance of the regatta.
- Wiltshire Youth South Cerney Welfare Block money has been returned. £300 has been used, and £2200 has been returned to the SRC.
- NF stated that interviews for independent members of the IP had been conducted earlier in the afternoon. NF and PG were involved with the interview process and were positive that there were three strong candidates. The final decision will be taken by the Board of BC.

4 Goal 5 - Financial Stability

2024 Budget: LC

The only changes from last meeting has been confirmation from BC that £23000 would be available to support sending non-funded paddlers to international competitions for 2024, and £1000 would be made available as a contribution to the JDS. It was noted that perhaps some of this money could be split to be used towards the JTS, as this could generate a higher impact, although as the money has been ring-fenced the committee would need to seek approval from BC Finance.

Action: LC request alteration to division of £1000 from BC Finance.



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5 Goal 6 - Develop Paddlers

Review SRC funding policy for non-funded international athletes in 2024

For the past 2 competition seasons, the SRC have offered their subsidies to non-funded international athletes in a new format, comprising a baseline level of funding and an additional level of funding based on meeting a performance standard. As it is relatively new, the conditions were tweaked slightly last year.

The SRC's approval of this policy was requested so that it can be circulated to athletes who make teams following the April Regatta.

Approved.

6 Goal 1 - Expand the Competition Structure

a) Local Regattas Update: AMi

There are currently 6 Local Regattas in the calendar for 2024. AMi is keen for the larger clubs such as Richmond and Reading to hold events as these could attract greater numbers. Around 30 other small clubs are still to be contacted. AMi has requested that the SRC put their weight fully behind the clubs holding these events as the levy will benefit international athletes in the same way that the MRC levy operates.

b) Local Sprint Events toolkit - resource pack for event organisers

This document was circulated prior to the meeting and has been put together by David Rogers at British Canoeing. It is designed to walk event organisers through the process of holding a local sprint regatta, specifically for those without experience of holding events before. AMi has invited feedback from the SRC before this is circulated, and is keen for this document to include information about support the SRC is able to offer.

7 Goal 2 - National Regattas

a) Proposal to introduce divisional racing at National Regattas: RL

A proposal was shared prior to the meeting which would migrate the national regattas run at HPP to a divisional system similar to the one used for Hasler marathon racing in the UK. It was noted that in recent years, there have been undertaken reviews of our competition structure culminating in a working group giving a report to the SRC in 2021. This document was also circulated prior to the meeting.

Below ensues a summary of the further discussions in list form:

- Divisional racing has the potential to reduce the number of empty lanes in races at National Regattas.
- This format was trialled in 2018/19 May regattas, at what is usually the lowest attended regatta in the calendar.
- Another suggestion of 'open' racing was also suggested, where different abilities are filtered into finals where all can race against people of similar abilities.
- It was noted that National championship/international selection regattas would be harder to run under a divisional system.
- The differences in physiology between genders and ages was discussed as a possible barrier to cross-category racing, for example the differential between maximal velocity and this impact on the outcome of racing.
- It was remarked that the reason there are some races with small numbers of competitors is because racing is offered to a wide variety of competitors in different classes.
- It was noted that previous objections to changes to the racing format have been raised due to limitations of the computer software used to run and manage regattas. However these computer systems are in the process of being modernised.



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- It was suggested that athletes should be consulted before implementing any changes to the competition structure.
- There was a desire to include key national officials and Regatta Committee members in further discussions as vital persons for the delivery of national competitions.

It was agreed that this topic would be reviewed in more detail at the next meeting of the committee in May.

Actions: Review data from 2018/19 band together regattas (**MH**), collect information on time/distance taken for competitors to be washed out (**AL**), review alternative options to change racing format to open (**NF**), obtain historical data about national regatta entry numbers (**PM**).

8 Review of SRC Strategic Plan

It was agreed that this item would be held over until a further meeting.

Action: **NF** to send an updated strategic plan to the committee via email.

9 AOB

- It was noted that the SRC have been sent the event schedules for the June, July and September regattas and the RC are awaiting approval of these so that they can be distributed. **NF** requested that he receive any comments by this Friday, on which date he will indicate the SRC's satisfaction.
- It was suggested that key RC and PD members would be invited to the SRC meeting on 4th May.

10 Date for future SRC Committee Meetings

Agreed: Saturday 4th May 2024
Venue to be confirmed

Meeting finished at 21:45