



Minutes for Approval

British Canoeing – Sprint Racing Section Annual Consultative Meeting



Wednesday 18th October 2023

On-Line via Zoom

at 19.30

Minutes for Approval

Attending: a total of 43 people joined the on-line meeting.

SRC: Tim Scott (Chair), Louise Clive (Treasurer), Philip Miles (Secretary), Peter Gorman, Roland Lawler, Nick Fowler-Rimell, Alice Murphy

RC: Phil Caisley

SCA: Margaret Chapman

BC: Ashley Metcalfe, Kier Worth

Non-Voting attendees: Bea Clark, Greg Spencer, Cathy Wynne, Mo Moule, Adam Miles, Bev Hunter, Arthur Leech, Nick Poole, Collette Johnson, Deborah Wilkes, Paul Brookes, Ivan Lawler, Stuart Fisher.

Voting Reps: the roll call confirmed 21 Voting Representatives (which included 2 SRC members named above), were in attendance to vote on behalf of their clubs for the start of the meeting at 19.30. See Addendum A for the full list of the 21 voting clubs.

1 Apologies for absence

Finn O'Brien and Paul Dimmock sent their apologies in advance of the meeting

2 Appointment of Teller

Cathy Wynne and Charlie Barwis were proposed to act as the tellers for the meeting and seconded by Louise Clive. A show of hands was requested via the 'zoom poll' function to approve the appointment.

Agreed by a majority

3 The 28th September 2022 Annual Consultative Meeting Minutes

The Minutes, circulated with the agenda and on the SRC website.

The approval of the minutes as circulated was proposed by the Chair. A show of hands vote was requested via the 'zoom poll' function to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting

Agreed by a majority

4 Matters arising not covered by the agenda

At the last meeting it was requested whether the SRC arrange for the return of the £5,000 committed to a welfare block at South Cerney. Louise Clive reported that only £2,500 of this figure has been given, and after some inquiry can confirm that this money is sat in a ring fenced fund in the bank account of Wiltshire Youth Canoe Club. This return of this money has been requested with the assurance from Louise that it will be returned. The chair thanked Louise for her work on this subject.

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5 Chairman's Report: Tim Scott

Written report, circulated with the agenda and on the SRC website

Tim started his final chair's report after three years by offering his thanks to all the members of the Sprint Racing Committee, the Regatta Committee, and all the officials, volunteers and helpers who have lent their time and expertise to run and develop the sport over this period. He also thanked those who support within the clubs and at a grass roots level, including the coaches and parents of junior paddlers whose commitment is quite considerable. Tim thanked those at British Canoeing who have offered him support during his tenure and wished the incoming chair well.

Tim highlighted that progress within committees such as the SRC can be slow at times, but wanted to demonstrate three areas in which there has been progress in reflecting the wishes of the sprint racing community.

- Firstly, in the local sprint regattas with have run this year under the umbrella of the SRC. This is a huge achievement which extends the opportunities of sprint racing to more people. This is a key way in which we can grow a love for sprinting whilst developing skills and friendships. Tim offered his thanks and congratulations to all of the clubs involved so far and said that the SRC are going to continue their support in the coming year to clubs who wish to hold local events.
- There is now a talent group run jointly by the MRC, SRC, and BC Talent Department, which has helped young paddlers who now do not have to choose between sprint or marathon training days. Also, there is a jointly run Junior Training Squad, run by the SRC and Home Nations. While in its infancy, this aims to bring together the fastest juniors to make friendships and train together for weekends.
- The SRC continues to subsidise elite level athletes selected for GB trips at a junior and under 23 level who do not receive funding from the BC Performance Department. It is a strongly held belief that international selection should be open to all of those selected.
- This year, the first British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Sprint Regattas has been held, there was a BC stand at the annual Boat Show in Southampton, and there has been a drive to support more K4 and C4 boats being loaned out to clubs.

Tim expressed his regret that we are still a long way away from the ambitions that he held when he began in this role. He is frustrated with the state of the management of the performance department of British Canoeing and that few of those have a specific background in canoeing. The cultural gulf between BC's performance department and the clubs is alarming. It is the clubs, paddlers, coaches and volunteers who will flourish or suffer as a result of this managements' decision, and so Tim expressed the need for co-operation and development between clubs. The SRC can play an important role in this by continuing to develop and promote its initiatives, and create environments for learning, fun, and hard racing. The potential is here to build long lasting friendships between clubs and paddlers of all ages that will strengthen the grass roots foundation of the sport for years to come.

Tim did not add any comments to his written report, other than to ask if anyone had any questions or comments. No comments or questions were raised regarding the report.

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6 Treasurer's Reports: Louise Clive

The Sprint Racing Committee & Regatta Committee Treasurer's End of Year Reports were circulated with the agenda and on the SRC website

a) **Sprint Racing Committee** End of Year accounts for 31/10/2021 to 31/10/2022 Louise gave a brief explanation of the accounts and asked for any questions. It was remarked that the reserves currently held by the SRC and RC are very substantial, and Louise indicated that the committee intends to use these funds for projects in the future and not to cover day-to-day activities. It was asked whether the reserves currently include the £2,500 mentioned above that is being held by Wiltshire Youth Canoe Club and Louise confirmed that this figure is not included in the reserve figure.

The Chair requested that these accounts be approved by a show of hands.

Agreed by a majority

b) **Regatta Committee** End of Year accounts up to 31/10/2020 to 31/10/2021

Louise gave a breakdown of the Regatta Committee accounts, and highlighted that the running of the regattas for that year incurred an overspend of around £10,000. The only regatta that turned a surplus was the September regatta.

A question was asked concerning whether the regattas always run at a loss and if that was expected, and if there was a reason for the overspend. Louise said that there is not usually as much of an overspend; most regattas make a slight loss or break even but this is counteracted by September regatta which is usually very well attended. She said that a large part of the reason for this overspend is due to the increase in the costs of running the events, and that the RC has taken on the costs of setting up and putting away the start buckets.

The Chair asked that these accounts be approved by a show of hands

Agreed by a majority

c) Louise gave an outline of the expected financial position at the end of the current financial year (up to 31/10/2023). The SRC are currently expecting to overspend by around £3,000. It was positive to see around £450 made through the local sprint events levy which is new for this year.

The Regatta Committee are expecting an overspend of a £1,000, which is an improvement in the previous year's position due to the increase in the entry fee from £7.50 per seat to £10 per seat.

Both overspends will reduce each committee's reserves. No questions were raised.

Tim thanked Louise for her hard work compiling these accounts.

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7 Election of Committee Chair: for a 2-year term with 1 candidate.

A Pen Portrait of the candidate was circulated with the agenda and on the SRC website

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Nick Fowler- Rimell	Bev Hunter	Hannah Brown

The Chair asked for the voting representatives to cast their votes using a show of hands.

Agreed by a majority

At this point Tim Scott, the outgoing chair, congratulated Nick Fowler-Rimell on his election and passed the Chair to him for the remainder of the meeting. Nick expressed his gratitude to Tim on behalf of all present for his dedication to the whole canoe sprint community during the three years of his tenure. Nick said that it was clear that the athletes and coaches were a main priority of Tim's and that he hopes to continue this, and lots of the good initiatives started under Tim's tenure as chair, during his term.

8 Election of Committee Treasurer: for a 3-year term with two candidates

A pen portrait of each of the candidates was circulated with the agenda on the SRC website

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Joe Fitzpatrick	Matthew Lodge	Katherine Wilson
Louise Clive	Cathy Wynne	Hannah Brown

The Chair asked for the voting representatives to cast their votes using the Google Form circulated with the agenda. The tellers confirmed that Louise received 11 votes and Joe received 8 votes, therefore Louise was re-elected to the position of committee Treasurer.

9 Election of Committee Members: eight candidates for five positions; three for a 3-year term, one for a 2-year term and one for a 1-year term. Voting representatives to cast their vote using the Google form, with up to five votes being available to each representative.

Pen portraits of each of the candidates were circulated with the agenda on the SRC website

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Adam Miles	Louise Clive	Martin Hook
Alice Murphy	Graham Warland	Philip Miles
Arthur Leech	Ben Phillips	Alice Murphy
Bea Clark	Philip Miles	Zoe Clark
Bev Hunter	Peter Gorman	Trevor Hunter
Finn O'Brien	Tim Chamberlin	Owen Shephard-Wyatt
Peter Gorman	Graham Warland	Philip Miles
Tim Chamberlin	John Avery	Owen Shephard-Wyatt

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The tellers confirmed that the votes were cast as follows: Adam and Alice each received 17 votes, Peter received 14 votes. These candidates are thus each elected for 3-year terms. Bev received 13 votes and Arthur received 12, therefore they were elected to 2-year and 1-year terms respectively. The Chair congratulated the successful nominees and thanked all of those who voted.

10 Regatta Committee 2023 Report: Phil Caisley

Written report was circulated with the agenda and on the SRC website.

Four national regattas have been delivered in 2023, which included multiple GB team selections, National Championships, Inter-services Championships, the Inter-Club MacGregor competition, the Mini-Sprint Series, the Intermediate Sprint Kayak (U14) K1 series, the Paddle-Ability series, and the Andrew Bonham Memorial C4 Race.

The Regatta Committee give a massive thank you to our wonderful band of volunteers, officials, and the British Canoeing event staff, we appreciate your support and the significant input you all made throughout the season, the regattas, could not have happened without you.

Also, thanks to the clubs for your support during the year, in nearly all cases this is very positive and supportive. However there have been some occurrences of inappropriate, unnecessary, and misdirected challenges from clubs during the season's last competition. IT is the responsibility of the club team leaders to understand the Sprint Racing Competition Rules and the Terms and Conditions of Participation. This would have avoided issues escalating unnecessarily and causing frustration on all sides.

Thank you also to the clubs for supporting the trial of moving cars, trailers, boats and gazebos to the opposite side of the course in a new layout. A post-event questionnaire circulated to all team leaders has drawn some positive responses, and that the new layout promoted a good atmosphere and community spirit. Nearly all who responded are keen for this approach to continue in 2024 with a few minor tweaks.

Having increased the per-seat entry cost in this season there is some financial impact to be expected, but this is roughly in line with our expectations.

We are all looking forward to 2024, planning the Regattas has already started with the confirmation of the National Regatta weekend dates as: 13-14 April: 8-9 June: 6-7 July and 7-8 September.

No questions were raised by anybody in attendance.

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11 Announcement of the Results of National Sprint Competitions and Awards

Following the final National Regatta of the season, Nick announced, that after clubs had checked their own scores, the winning club is confirmed for the **MacGregor National Inter Club Challenge** as **Richmond Canoe Club** with 496 points. In second were Reading Canoe Club with 442 points, and in third place were Wey Kayak Club with 441 points. The **Andrew Bonham Memorial Trophy** was also contested at the September regatta and was won by the Richmond Canoe Club crew of C. Faria, O. Chisholm, O. Laws and A. Elliott.

The **Junior Canoeist of the Year**, which is voted for by other members of the Juice European and World Championships teams is **Greta Roeser** from Wey Kayak Club.

A full list of all of the awards presented can be found on the [Canoe Sprint Racing UK Website](#).

12 Local Sprint Events Report for 2023: Adam Miles

At this point Adam Miles, who was co-opted onto the SRC for this year to co-ordinate the organisation of local events, gave a brief presentation.

In 2023, 65 clubs or organisations affiliated British Canoeing were contacted with a view to them holding local sprint events. 14 of these clubs were interested in being part of the initiative and in hosting event of their own. 7 clubs successfully held events, and more would have liked to but struggled to amass the number of entries required to justify running an event. Adam was pleased to say that the 7 clubs that held their events successfully would like to hold their events in 2024 with additional club keen to hold a local sprint event. The general response from clubs was very positive which was promising, even if there was a lack of some cohesion between some clubs who may not have co-ordinated in sending their paddlers to local events in their areas. Adam expressed his thanks to those volunteers who ran events, to the British Canoeing Staff Members who offered assistance, and lastly to Elmbridge Canoe Club, who have successfully held a sprint regatta for many years but have come under the SRC's local events programme and paid the associated levy.

A question was raised as to whether this initiative is limited to England and excludes Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Adam expressed his view that this was not the case, and that representatives of the SCA were contacted as part of his role.

Some other comments were raised expressing frustration with the lack of numbers attending their regattas despite publicising them widely. Unfortunately as the first year with this scale of events being offered this can sometimes be the case but there is hope in this changing as events become more established.

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13 Chair's Closing comments:

At this point Nick expressed that while some may view him in the mould of a former British Canoeing employee, he gave assurances that he is firmly rooted in the clubs that are the backbone of our community, first at Fladbury as a junior, at Royal Canoe Club while as a junior and at Worcester Canoe Club where he is a volunteer coach.. He is lucky to have held a variety of different roles within British Canoeing and hopes to continue the very good work of Tim and the committee. He hopes that others will share his passion and his desire to see the discipline succeed, and he also believes that there are the people within the community to work towards this goal of improving canoe sprint for everyone from the beginners to the elite performance athletes. Nick says he looks forwards to working with everyone over the coming years and is looking forward to the change and the challenge of this new role.

Margaret Chapman took this opportunity to inform all present that there is a high likelihood of the Hooley 5K this weekend being cancelled due both to storms and also to the poor water quality which is forecast. Everybody who has entered will be informed of this over email.

Nick thanked all for their attendance this evening.

Annual Consultative Meeting closed at 20:50

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Addendum A: Full List of Voting Clubs in Attendance

Representative	Club	Present at meeting	
Margaret Chapman	Kirkcaldy	x	<i>SRC Member</i>
Emma Miles	Royal Leamington Spa	x	
Steven Green	Worcester	x	
Adam Want	Norwich	x	
Chris Jones	Devizes	x	
Caroline Pemble	Addlestone	x	
Derek Marshall	Linlithgow Kayak Racing	x	
Simon Eskriett	Gailey	x	
Andy Train	Fladbury	x	
Joe Fitzpatrick	Bishop Stortford	x	
Linda Clark	Royal	x	
Jo Bates	Falcon (Oxford)	x	
Mags Dilai	Nottingham	x	
Graham Warland	Banbury & District	x	
Muhammad Kabeer	Wokingham	x	
Bill Lawrenson	Burton Phoenix	x	
Domas Malinauskas	Barking and Dagenham	x	
Peter Gorman	Wey	x	<i>SRC Member</i>
Ivan Lawler	Elmbridge	x	
Tim Chamberlin	Chelmsford	x	
James Hives	Southampton	x	

48 Clubs were eligible to vote at the 2023 ACM.
21 representatives were all present with no proxy votes.