

Regatta Committee Report to the SRC ACM on Wednesday, 26 October 2024

2024 Season

We delivered four National events during the year. These four competitions included National Championship and Selection events for sprint and paracanoe, the Inter-Services Championship, and the National Inter-Club MacGregor competition, along with five smaller competitions, the Mini-Sprints Series, the Intermediate Sprint Kayak (U14) Event Series, the Paddle-Ability Series, the GBSUP National Championships, and the Andrew Bonham Memorial C4 Race.

I want 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, Louise Clive, John Hoile, Ann Hoile, Wendy Dodson, 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
- Nick Fowler Rimell 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 Kačič, Howard Smith, Trevor Kirkham, and Gareth Smith for IT support before, during, and after the events
- Liz McGown, for standing in as Chief Official while Paul was officiating at this year's Paralympics

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 2024, with excellent club support, we continued to rebuild our volunteer pool. Thank you to all our new volunteers. The larger team makes an enormous difference. A larger group of volunteers provides greater flexibility during events. It allows volunteers to try different roles, enabling them to understand how the various roles interact to produce the regatta. It also allows time for an occasional break during the competition.

The feedback we received from clubs, in general, supports the move for clubs to be on the Scoreboard side of the lake. There are a few points that still need tweaking, but on the whole, the change is proving successful in increasing the 'club' atmosphere and vocal support for competitors as they finish their races. We plan to continue with this arrangement for 2025.

Thank you to the clubs for your support during the season. In nearly all cases, this is very positive and very supportive. As with my statement in last year's report, **the event competition committee and officials apply the rules set and approved by the SRC to ensure the same conditions and a fair competition for all paddlers.** Team Leaders must 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.

The number of paddlers and clubs continues to increase, and we are nearly back at our pre-covid levels. For the inter-club regatta, we had 70 more paddlers than last year, and several new clubs participated. As a result, our financial position is looking positive, although we're still awaiting end-of-year accounts.

The Regatta Committee is working closely with the SRC to review various proposals to change the format for National Regattas for the 2025 season and implement them when logistically feasible within our operational constraints.

2025 Season

Planning for the 2025 season has already started. The following dates have been finalized for the 2025 season

12-13 April

31 May-1 June

July tbc

6-7 September

Phil Caisley, on behalf of the Regatta Committee