

Pen Portrait - Phil Miles - Committee Secretary

My name is Phil, and I'm seeking re-election for a second term on the Sprint Racing Committee.

I came onto the committee as an ordinary member in 2021, and in autumn of 2022, I filled the post of Secretary after Cathy stepped down following an immense 18 years in the post. To say that she has left some big shoes to fill is a bit of an understatement (!!) but I find the many tasks involved in this role fulfilling and enjoyable, and view it as a way to give back to a community from which I have benefitted a great deal.

Since starting canoe racing at Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club at the tender age of nine, I have raced at pretty much every level - Hasler marathons, National Regattas, and a range of international competitions from the Neerpelt Regatta to the Senior World Championships. I am still a member of RLSCC, and also of Nottingham Kayak Club which is now my local club, and as such I understand the environment in which the vast majority of canoeing takes place in the UK.

Being an active competitor, I provide an athlete's view in SRC discussions and ensure that our priority is ensuring a good experience for all who come to the National Regattas each year. I have the necessary organisational skills for the secretary position to ensure that the committee functions effectively, and the knowledge to contribute meaningfully to strategic discussions about the future of canoe sprint in the UK. It's safe to say there are some challenges to navigate ahead, and I believe that the voice of young competitors such as myself is vital in the continuing discussions that we have when it comes to improving the experience of sprint racing for all.