

## PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE

### Pen Portraits for Nominated Candidates for SRC Membership at the 2024 ACM

*Three (3) candidates for three (3) positions*

#### **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.

## **Joe Fitzpatrick**

I am joe, I am starting for the Sprint Racing Committee.

I paddle and coach at Stortford Canoe Club, I have been on the committee at Stortford since I was 16 years old, I am also the current treasure of the Marathon Racing Committee. I have been paddling for 20+ years and have been a coach for 15+ years.



# Paul Dimmock

## Profile

With over 30 years of senior management experience, successfully leading a range of organisations in change management programmes, specialising in performance sport and sport development. I develop effective multi-agency partnership working, achieving mutually inclusive objectives. I provide leadership, advocacy, and strategic direction. I established Brunel University as a leading sports academy including Sprint Kayak as well as Athletics, Olympic Weightlifting, Netball and Badminton. I was a member of the British Canoe Team competing in over 50 International events. I was formerly the chair of the Sprint and Para Canoe Selection Panel establishing a transparent and objective selection process. I have been a member of the Sprint Racing Committee for some 6 years and support the MRC as a member of the Marathon Selection Panel.

I have and continue to provide coaching frameworks to best support athletes to achieve world class performances. As Liam Heath's coach, I was able to establish the K2 partnership with Jon Schofield, this remains the only GB crew boat to secure Olympic medals.

### Specialist skills and experience:

- Implementation of high-performance sports academies and programmes for a range of sports including sprint kayaking
- Experienced in relationship management with key strategic stakeholders, coaches and athletes, including Sport England and UK Sport
- Partnerships with several NGB's, funding agencies integrated with club structures
- Project management, developing coaching programmes and delivering capital builds
- Embed a culture of continuous improvement in all aspects of the organisation
- Line management and mentoring of large and diverse teams.