



PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE

Paddle UK Sprint Racing Section Annual Consultative Meeting

Thursday 26th September 2024 On-Line via Zoom at 19.30

All documents referred to in the minutes can be found on the [SRC website, or by clicking this link.](#)

Minutes

Attending: a total of 42 people joined the on-line meeting

SRC: Nick Fowler-Rimell (Chair), Philip Miles (Secretary), Alice Murphy, Peter Gorman, Martin Hook, Adam Miles, Hannah Brown

RC: Phil Caisley

PUK: Richard Ward, Kier Worth, Ashley Metcalfe, Greg Spencer, Charlie Barwis

Non-voting attendees: Stella Barritt, Siobhan Urquhart, Graham Wood, Richard Ward, Emma Heard, Nigel Jones, Barney Wainwright, Kevin Smith, Matt Foulger, Connor Maloney, Jeanette Hall

Voting Representatives: A roll call confirmed that 18 voting representatives, including three SRC members, were present at the meeting. For a full list of voting representatives in attendance see Appendix A.

Nick Fowler-Rimell opened the meeting by thanking all who were present for attending this evening, as there had been some concerns that the meeting would not have been well attended. He highlighted that there would be lots to discuss in tonight's meeting, but invited anybody to offer him thoughts or opinions privately if they wished to share them outside of the meeting.

1 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Louise Clive, Cathy Wynne, and Margaret Chapman.

2 **Appointment of Tellers**

Alice Murphy and Phil Caisley were proposed by the Chair and the Secretary respectively to act as tellers at the meeting for matters that would be put to a show of hands vote.

3 **Approval of previous ACM minutes**

The minutes of last year's meeting held on 18th October 2023 are available to view on the SRC website, and were circulated in advance of the meeting. The Chair proposed that the minutes be accepted as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Agreed by a majority



4 Matters arising not covered by the agenda

Following his recent death, the Chair took the opportunity to recognise the immense contribution of Graham Campbell to the Sprint Racing community over many decades. The positive impact of Graham's influence and dedication will be remembered by many for years to come.

5 Chair's Report: Nick Fowler-Rimell

The Chair's report was circulated in advance of the meeting and is available on the SRC website.

Nick began his report by recognising the desire shared by many to improve the discipline of Sprint Canoeing at all levels, and also the optimism present in the community which is positive to see.

Nick thanked all who volunteer large amounts of their time in service to our support, from the volunteers who run national regattas to the coaches in clubs up and down the country.

Throughout 2024, the SRC have continued to offer more opportunities to race, and so thanks were also offered to the clubs who held local sprint regattas. The levy generated from these events goes towards assisting non-funded athletes, many of whom receive no funding, to represent Great Britain at international competitions. We aim to build on this in 2025, consolidating and growing our programme of local SRC supported events. The Chair recognised the dedication of those athletes who pursue the honour of representing Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the Olympic Games, and shared the frustration of many who found themselves watching rather than competing at the Paris olympiad. The SRC is behind all those who continue to aim towards the LA Olympics in 2028. The inspirational performances of the Paracanoe team in Paris was also highlighted, and Nick offered congratulations to all the athletes, coaches, and support staff who excelled in their increasingly competitive 200m disciplines.

Nick mentioned with pride the sense of togetherness in our small community, notably the diversity present in canoe sprint. He thanked those members of the community that have made a contribution to their clubs and the sport generally.

Nick also said that the SRC and RC are committed to listening to feedback and are currently focused on enhancing the racing experience at national regattas. Some of our ideas will be shared later in the meeting, and feedback from all is invited as we undertake the challenge of improving whilst remaining faithful to the discipline.

Finally, Nick offered his congratulations to those athletes who competed internationally at both Sprint and Marathon competitions, in all age groups from the Seniors right the way to those juniors racing at Olympic Hopes.

As the season closes and we look towards 2025, Nick hopes that you share the sense of optimism and progress and want to help move things in the right direction towards providing a more enjoyable, transparent, and exciting discipline that has space for



6 Treasurer's reports

The Sprint Racing Committee and Regatta Committee Treasurer's Reports were circulated with the agenda and are available on the SRC website.

Louise was absent, and so Phil Miles shared with the meeting some comments that were provided by Louise.

a) Sprint Racing Committee End of Year accounts for 31/10/22 to 30/10/2023

Phil gave a brief overview of the SRC's incomes and expenditures for 2023. The overspend for the year was just shy of £3,000 which will come out of reserves. For the first time, race levies were collected from 5 local events for the year. The main expenditure was the cost of supporting non-funded athletes to compete at the World Championships. No questions were raised.

The SRC accounts for 2023 were approved by a majority.

b) Regatta Committee End of Year accounts for 31/10/22 to 30/10/2023

Phil shared some comments on the RC accounts for 2023. For 2023, there was an overspend of around £6,500 which again will come out of reserves. It was noted that both the SRC and RC have healthy reserves of around £56,000 and £61,000 respectively, some of which is earmarked for planned upgrades to timing and computer systems.

The RC accounts for 2023 were approved by a majority.

c) Phil outlined the financial position as we near the end of 2024. Some of the money earmarked for South Cerney, which was mentioned at the last ACM, has been returned to the committee (£2,200). The racing handbook has returned a profit. £589 has been received from the local sprint event levy. The other notable expenses are, again, sending athletes to international competitions, costs for international technical officials to officiate at international competitions, and the recently agreed purchase of 2 Nelo K4s from the performance department. One question was raised regarding whether the philosophy of rewarding performances at international competitions by finish position is optimal, and the Chair said that this is something that is under continual review and that the committee would consider it.

7 Election of Committee Secretary - for a three-year term with one candidate

A pen portrait of the candidate was circulated with the agenda and on the SRC website.

Nominated Candidate

Philip Miles

Proposed by

Cathy Wynne

Seconded by

Linda Clark

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

Agreed by a majority



8 Election of Committee Members - for a three year term, with three candidates for three available positions.

Pen Portraits of the candidates were circulated on the SRC website.

Nominated Candidate	Proposed by	Seconded by
Arthur Leech	Ben Phillips	Alice Murphy
Joe Fitzpatrick	Ivan Lawler	Kieth Moule
Paul Dimmock	Liam Heath	Greta Roeser

The Chair asked for a show of hands for the election of each of the three candidates.

Each candidate was approved by a majority

9 Regatta Committee 2024 report

A written report was circulated in advance of the meeting and can be found on the SRC website.

Four national regattas were delivered in 2024, including National Championships, Selection events, and many other events. The Regatta Committee gave thanks to many individuals for their significant input and support throughout the season in preparing for and running the year's events. Everybody is a volunteer, and without volunteers we cannot run these events. In 2024, our volunteer pool continues to grow which allow for more flexibility during events.

The RC have received mostly positive feedback regarding the move to clubs being on the scoreboard side of the lake. Some tweaks are required, but on the whole this change is proving successful in increasing the 'club' atmosphere. This is planned to remain in 2025.

Thank you also to the clubs this season, who are on the whole very positive and supportive. As per last year, the RC enforce the sprint racing competition rules set by the SRC, and it is the responsibility of the team leaders to be aware of these rules.

The number of participants is increasing, and are almost at pre-pandemic levels. At the Inter-clubs regatta, there were 70 more paddlers than last year, with the addition of several new clubs. As a result, our financial position looks positive.

The Regatta Committee is working closely with the SRC to review various proposals to change the format of regattas for the 2025 season and implement them when logistically feasible within operational constraints. Planning for the 2025 season has already started, with three out of four regattas' dates already being finalised.

The chair took this opportunity to thank the Regatta Committee, National Officials and Volunteers. Until we have walked in people's shoes it is difficult to understand everything that goes on in this space, and the quantity of things taken on is mind blowing. This is not helped by the many practical and operational limitations, so a heartfelt thanks must be given to all who help.

Phil Caisley thanked the chair, and said that all thanks that are received by him and the



10 Announcement of National Sprint Competitions Results and Awards

Following the September Regatta, the chair was able to announce the recipients of some of the perpetual trophies. For a full list of trophies and awards awarded in 2024, please visit the [SRC website](#).

11 National Regattas Future Strategy - Presented by Alice Muphy

During recent months, the SRC has been discussing a future strategy for their programme of National Regattas. This has been in response to many comments raised within the community and also as a way to ensure that the regattas remain financially viable. Following a number of different proposals, and meetings with key members of the Regatta Committee, Alice gave a brief outline of the proposal as it currently stands, firstly as an opportunity to show the community our plans to improve the discipline, but also as a way of stimulating discussion and inviting feedback.

A link to the slides, and also to a Google form to give feedback, can be found on the SRC website. It has already been proposed to have a more open-ended discussion with all who wish to share their thoughts at a later date. The SRC are grateful for all present who voiced their support or further suggestions relating to this proposal, and give assurances that we will carefully consider all comments that were raised.

12 Chair's Closing Comments

Nick closed the meeting by saying he is very fortunate to be able to connect and engage with so many different members of the sprint community. He shares the sense of optimism that exists in our discipline, and invited all to continue the positive dialogue about how we continue to shape the future of our discipline. The chair thanked all for attending. If you wish to share any comments or get in touch following the meeting, please feel free to email either Nick (canoesprint.chair@vol.paddleuk.org.uk) or Phil (canoesprint.secretary@vol.paddleuk.org.uk)

Meeting closed at 20:55



Appendix A: Full list of Voting Clubs in Attendance

Representative	Club	Present at meeting	
Chris Jones	Devizes	x	
James Hives	Southampton	x	
Adam Miles	Royal Leamington Spa	x	<i>SRC Member</i>
Simon Eskriett	Gailey	x	
Adam Want	Norwich	x	
Richard Bullock	Exeter	x	
Howard Blackman	Burton Phoenix	x	
Rich Winstanley	Bishops Stortford	x	
Jo Bates	Oxford Falcon	x	
Peter Gorman	Banbury	x	<i>SRC Member</i>
Claire Lambert	Lincoln	x	
Owen Shephard-Wyatt	Chelmsford	x	
Louise Maloney	Nottingham	x	
Doug Pemble	Addlestone	x	
Adam Rzepinski	Glasgow	x	
Derek Marshall	Linlithgow	x	
Rachel Lovell	Worcester	x	
Martin Hook	Ealing	x	<i>SRC Member</i>
	Gloucester		Proxy
	Solihull		Proxy
	Newbury		Proxy

50 Clubs were eligible to vote at the 2024 ACM.

18 representatives were all present with 3 proxy votes held by the Chair.