



## **PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Saturday 2nd November 2024  
**Time:** 13:00  
**Location:** Oxford Falcon Boat Club, Meadow Lane, OX4 4BJ

Committee members : Alice Murphy [AM] (Vice Chair), Louise Clive [LC] (Treasurer), Philip Miles [PM] (Secretary), Arthur Leech [AL], Adam Miles [AMi], Bev Hunter [BH], Joe Fitzpatrick [JF], Peter Gorman [PG], Roland Lawler [RL], Margaret Chapman [MC] SCA Rep, Hannah Brown [HB] from 14:55

Item No:

### **MINUTES**

AM assumed the chair for this meeting as Nick Fowler-Rimell was unable to join at short notice. She started the meeting by welcoming Joe to his first meeting on the committee.

#### **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Nick Fowler-Rimell and Martin Hook. Charlie Barwis, Ashley Metcalfe and Kier Worth also sent their apologies.

#### **2 Declaration of Interest Forms and Safeguarding**

Thanks were offered to those who have already returned their declaration of interest forms. PM will resend the forms following the meeting for those who have not yet completed them.

Three members are yet to complete the required safeguarding training. LC asked those to complete this course as soon as possible.

#### **3 Approval of SRC minutes from 9th September**

The chair asked for any comments regarding these minutes, and as none were raised, proposed that they be approved.

**Agreed**

#### **4 Matters arising from SRC Minutes not on the agenda**

- There was a query regarding the result of the election to the JTS steering group, and it was confirmed that Peter would sit as a representative of the SRC on the JTS Steering Group.
- The loan policy for SRC K4s was discussed, as it was previously suggested that a deposit be taken when boats are hired by other users. The figure of £250 for a deposit was agreed.
- It was suggested that regular meetings could be held with members of the PUK Performance Department and the SRC to increase engagement with the community.
- It was suggested that a summary of SRC minutes including main discussion points be shared across channels to improve engagement.



**5 Roles and Responsibilities** - Committee to consider the creation and allocation of roles such as event safety officer, Media officer, Junior reps etc.

- LC said she is able to take on the administration side of the commodore role from HB. PM will be the person to check boats in and out as he is based in Nottingham.
- It was suggested that the role of communications officer be created. PG has offered to fill this.
- David Rogers (PUK) now has full administrator permissions to the SRC website. He has been registering some events on the website over the summer.
- It was said that the committee should make an assessment how we use our social channels.
- The role of Event safety officer needs to be filled - their responsibilities include collating and maintaining a record of risk assessments for events e.g. local regattas. They would potentially offer guidance to those who are unfamiliar with writing risk assessments. There is an event management and safety course that the officer would need to do, and this role is more important now with the new standards of deployment. In his absence it was suggested that MH could fill this role.
- On the subject of junior representatives which were mentioned at the last meeting, it was agreed that these would not attend usual meetings. It was asked what would be the purpose of this group, and if we could decide this before we 'advertise' to juniors. **Action: BH to ask NF to put together a description**
- It was remarked that PC is stepping down as Chair of the Regatta Committee. It was discussed how there can be closer working between these committees like that which there has been recently on the changes to National Regattas.

**6 Local Regattas: AMi**

AMi was initially co-opted onto the SRC to work in this area and has now led in this area for two years. It is felt that another helper in this area would be desirable to share the task. This has already been highlighted as an area to grow and momentum should be kept up as this is still relatively new initiative. It was agreed that JF would offer assistance in this area.

**Action: PM** to ask Performance Department if they are willing to push high end paddlers to attend these events.

The idea was raised of holding a meeting to discuss running local events, similar to the recent town hall event where details of the National Regattas proposal were shared. It would be an opportunity to share experiences and knowledge between those who have run events already and those who are thinking about holding an event.



## **7 SRC Strategic Review**

Following his taking over as chair, it was agreed that NF would curate a new strategic review document as the previous strategic plan had too many foci. It is pressing that this document is finalised so that we are able to direct our aims and actions more precisely. Other committee members have offered to assist in putting this together.

**Action:** **NF** to share the strategy document with committee so that we can put our names down next to the areas we want to work in. **LC** to share the current document.

## **8 National Regattas**

### **a) Update to proposed changes for 2025: AM**

Earlier this week an open meeting was held to present this proposal, and we have received responses via the Google form. Most of this has been positive and constructive. LC has set up a group chat with key members from RC and SRC who are working in this area, to examine the feasibility of certain aspects. It was asked if there could be an option to pay a single fee for just one day for those who may wish to only attend one day of the regatta, or if there could be a separate fee for juniors. It does not sound like this is possible in our current entry system, and it was asked if the PUK entry system can be used.

AM has done some modelling of what the fixed fee would have to be to generate a similar revenue to what we currently have. The point was raised that if a fixed fee system is used, participants may over-enter races and lead to more scratches for officials to deal with. It was proposed that the single fee is £40 for 2025 regattas. **Agreed**

The fixed regatta identities are still to be agreed. In order to do this we need to ensure that there is enough time in the event schedule to run all National Championship events in one weekend. All distances would be offered in K1 classes, but the number of distances available to crew boats would be reduced. There was a question of how this would affect some selection events for juniors, and the committee were assured that this should not have an impact on junior selections.

It was noted that some changes to the competition rules would be required, and an expression of interest form so that paddlers could compete in selection events.

It was said that if the performance standards for D categories were going to be lowered, the other classes may want to be adjusted accordingly so that the D classes are not so large. **Action: PG, AL and JF** to look at changes to promotion times for classes.

A question was raised regarding how paddlers whose classes were reallocated would be promoted, and whether this should be done between seasons or following the first regatta next season.

It was also suggested that if only 200m was going to be available for division D K1 paddlers, then the promotion times for this category be reviewed.

### **b) Review proposed rule changes for handbook: PG**

This item was held over as the document was not circulated in advance of the meeting.



**9 Goal 5 - Financial Stability - 2025 Budget: LC**

- The committee have just spent £7000 on 2 new K4s, so the final position for the end of 2024 is an overspend of around £8000.
- Usually, the budget for ITOs has been around £2000 but if all of the nominations for 2025 are successful, this number could be higher. Assuming 8 nominations are successful this could cost £2800, or £5600 assuming 16 are successful. It was agreed that the SRC will support our ITOs whatever the cost.
- The invoice for filming at 2024 regattas has been filmed. It was suggested that the committee do not agree to any further work on this until we see the final video from this year.

**Action:** Ask NF to share videography contractor's finished marketing video.

- Last year in the budget there was a contribution of £600 to the JDS, and a contribution of £1000 to the JTS. They now want £2500 so that camps can be run over the winter.
- The cost to send non-funded Junior and U23 athletes to international competitions was around £24000. For 2025 a similar number will be budgeted.
- It was agreed that all team leaders would be given a digital copy of the handbook as we are expecting them to know the rules. It was suggested that a reduced quantity of 75 handbooks be ordered for 2025.
- The current reserves are £56000 in the SRC account and £61000 in the Regatta Committee account. For 2024 they incurred overspends of £8000 and £6000 respectively.

**10 Dates for Future SRC Meetings**

A document containing proposed dates for all meetings of this year's committee was circulated in advance, with roughly one every 6 weeks. There are 8 meetings proposed for this year, and it was also proposed that an in person ACM be held next September.

This was agreed in principle but will be subject to changes if required.

Next meeting - Monday 16th December 20:00 (Zoom).

**Meeting closed at 16:40**