



## **PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday 9th September 2024 Zoom Online Meeting  
**TIME:** 20:00

**To:**

Committee members : Nick Fowler-Rimell [NF] (Chair), Louise Clive [LC] (Treasurer), Philip Miles [PM] (Secretary), Alice Murphy [AM], Adam Miles [AMi], Bev Hunter [BH], Martin Hook [MH], Paul Dimmock [PD] until 21:00, Peter Gorman [PG], Roland Lawler [RL] until 20:40, Margaret Chapman [MC] SCA Rep

Others : Charlie Barwis [CB]

Item No:

### **MINUTES**

**1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Arthur Leech and Hannah Brown.

**2 Approval of SRC minutes from 17th June and 1st July**

No questions or comments were raised on the minutes of the previous meeting. The chair proposed that they be accepted.

**Approved**

**3 Matters arising from SRC Minutes not on the agenda**

At the previous meeting, two committee members put themselves forwards to be a representative on the JTS steering group, it was agreed that a ballot will be arranged for the benefit of those not at the meeting. PM apologised and said he would do this presently.

**Action: PM**

**4 SRC Roles and Responsibilities**

This item has been included as there are a number of extra officers that the committee may wish to appoint such as an Event Safety Officer, which would assist in the organisation of local events. CB has provided NF with a role description that can be edited to suit our requirements. There could also be other roles such as Junior representative(s) or a Media officer which could be helpful to have.

There is strong consensus within the committee for more junior representation, however it was stated that for a Junior to attend all meetings might not be appropriate and suggested that they might only join for parts of discussions. In terms of content and media being posted to the website, David Rogers has been given an administrator login so he is able to post articles and media on the SRC website. It was agreed that David has the assent of the committee to do this.



**5 2024 ACM**

Phil has circulated a draft agenda of the ACM on Thursday 26th September which needs to be approved by the committee. The one agenda item which the committee may wish to change is the discussion point which has been used for the local regattas in previous years. It was proposed that for this year we present the proposed changes to National Regattas that the SRC have been considering recently. This would allow us to clearly communicate our strategy and vision with the sprint community and invite discussions.

**Approved**

**6 Goal 2 - National Regattas**

a) Feedback on discussion of National Regattas proposal to RC: AM & HB

The proposal which was presented at the last committee meeting was shown to members of the Regatta Committee as their practical expertise is a necessity when considering any changes. They offered their support to this proposal, and had a number of comments to feedback relating to the impacts on some of the changes which the committee should consider:

- What does 'open' mean for selection race? It was suggested that open classes have a minimum age of 15 as this is the ICF requirement to race at international competitions.
- It was suggested that staggered starts could be used in crew boat 5k races, with boats being set off at 30 second increments using a handicap system.
- If the D category times are adjusted, would the other division times also be adjusted?
- Senior D paddlers may not like only racing 200m.
- The optimum single fee was discussed and a figure of around £30 was agreed upon. A number of different pricing strategies within this model was discussed, for example charging more on some regattas, charging juniors a different rate to seniors. It was noted that smaller clubs may feel hard done by in paying more for MacGregor.
- Offering more crew boat opportunities to younger paddlers. Allow those who have not met a qualification time to race as part of a crew boat to give them race experience.
- Distance racing: there was a discussion as to if there could be changes to allow concurrent 5k races. A long lap with first turn at 1000m would allow paddlers to spread out on the course. There would need to be 5 separate starts.

AM has drafted a timetable for April regatta with some of these changes and sent them back to Phil and Cathy. AM said that another meeting would be arranged with Phil and Cathy after some of these points were discussed with the committee.

The question was raised regarding how admission to the open selection races would be filtered. Making a time or having an 'opt-in' option were suggested.



a) Feedback on meeting with Phil Paisley and Paul Edwardes: NF & LC  
This meeting took place on Saturday 31st August to encourage cohesion between the committees. These are some of the points provided.

- Some clubs aren't aware of the structural differences in responsibilities between the SRC and the RC.
- It was noted that if we expect participants to follow the rules then we should make the rules more accessible i.e. remove the need to pay for the handbook to access them.
- It was suggested that if we propose special projects to PUK then we may be able to ask for some extra funding. E.g. making a big screen available to show the starts or middle part of races at regattas.
- More close liaison between the RC and SRC would be desirable.
- How can we address negativity? Suggestion of a town hall meeting where members of the community can come and talk to committee members and raise some of their questions or concerns.
- MH commented on the questions that had been raised recently concerning participants being able to race across categories rather than 'up' or 'down'. Cathy has said that the regatta entry system doesn't allow for this because this could lead to timetable clashes for races being very close to each other. It was suggested that if this were to be allowed in future then a disclaimer could be issued to paddlers which says that they run the risk of highly unfavourable timetabling should they choose to race in a different class.
- Some LTB paddlers have been using Mini K1s rather than lightning which they are not permitted to do and this needs to be addressed.

## **7 Goal 5 - Financial Stability**

Louise is not available for the ACM, so she has sent the accounts for the SRC and the RC for the year ending 2023 to all of the committee. She will include a section on this year's finances as people are interested in knowing about this. We were able to support 50 non-funded athletes going to international competitions this year including the University Games, and so LC raised the question of whether the SRC want to continue supporting this. Do the committee want to put some amount of money in a small pot to support clubs who want to go to smaller internationals?

The SRC have been offered the purchase of the 2 Nelo Sete K4s owned by the performance department for £3,500 each. This was agreed by the committee.

## **8 AOB**

Burton Phoenix Sprint Event is on Saturday and Bishops Sortford on Sunday. Please can committee members help to publicise this.

PM will put together a schedule of the meetings for the next year to be agreed at the next in person meeting.

## **9 Date for future SRC Committee Meetings**

Annual Consultative Meeting: Thursday 26th September 19:30

First meeting of new committee: Saturday 2nd November 12:00 F2F - Oxford

Meeting finished at: 22:20