



PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 16th December 2024 and Tuesday 7th January 2025 - Zoom
Online Meeting Time: 20:00

Committee members 16th Dec Nick Fowler-Rimell [NF] (Chair), Philip Miles [PM] (Secretary), Alice Murphy [AM], Arthur Leech [AL], Adam Miles [AMi], Martin Hook [MH], Paul Dimmock [PD] until 21:00, Peter Gorman [PG], Roland Lawler [RL] until 21:00, Margaret Chapman [MC] SCA Rep

Others 16th Dec Charlie Barwis [CB]

Committee Members 7th Jan Nick Fowler-Rimell [NF] (Chair), Louise Clive [LC] (Treasurer), Philip Miles [PM] (Secretary), Alice Murphy [AM], Adam Miles [AMi], Martin Hook [MH] until 21:30, Peter Gorman [PG], Roland Lawler [RL] until 20:40, Bev Hunter [BH], Joe Fitzpatrick [JF]

Item No:

MINUTES

1 Apologies

16th December: Apologies were received from Bev Hunter and Louise Clive.
7th January: Apologies were received from Paul Dimmock, Arthur Leech, and Margaret Chapman.

2 Declaration of Interest Forms and Safeguarding

NF nudged those members who have not submitted their DoI forms to please do so as soon as possible.

3 Approval of SRC minutes from 2nd November

There were no comments raised on these minutes and NF proposed that they be accepted as an accurate reflection of the meeting. **Agreed**

4 Matters arising from SRC Minutes not on the agenda

No points were raised that were not covered by this agenda.

5 2025 Budget Update: LC

LC was unable to attend the meeting, but she informed the committee that there have been no changes since the meeting in November. All accounts for 2024 have been submitted to PUK and there have been no queries yet. The handbook is currently being compiled, and there are one or two more potential handbook advertisers for 2025.

NF mentioned at this point that there is an agreement between the SRC and PUK that the two Sete K4s recently purchased can be used for the JDS days held at Nottingham, and that they would not have to pay the deposit as these funds are all managed by PUK. There are also some paddlers at Norwich that are interested in hiring a C2 over the winter. **Action: AL**



6 SRC Strategic Review

Following the last meeting, AL has formatted the strategic plan in a spreadsheet and asked that committee members declare their preference for which group they want to be part of. PM has shared this on Google Drive so that all can edit the same document and the committee's responses can be collated centrally. A key target for 2025 is to have a group that meets regularly to share knowledge for coaches and volunteers, in a similar way to the passionate coaches group that ran a few years ago. It was suggested that Scott Hynds be contacted in relation to this area. This would also provide a subgroup to continue to focus on the programme of national and regional events run by the SRC. NF also said that one target could be to encourage clubs to attend international sprint regattas in the same way that the MRC run development trips, for example the regattas run by Ghent, Neerpelt and Sobeka in Belgium, and Piestany in Slovakia.

Action: ALL to list their preferred areas, NF to contact Scott Hynds

7 National Regattas

a) Update to proposed changes for 2025: AM

AM gave an update to the committee on the further work that has been done towards 2025.

- Following further discussions with members of the Regatta Committee there are some changes that we hoped would be possible but won't be workable for 2025. She suggested that we publish a statement in the New Year to say what we will be changing for 2025 compared to our initial targets, so that the community are aware of these areas.
- Under the current regatta entry system only one fee can be charged which raises the question of what we wish to do about the concessionary fee for some groups (paddlability, paracanoe, minisprints, volunteers who wish to race). There were lots of different opinions, one suggestion that was made was to not offer concessions but to gather feedback midway through the season.
- Tendering for the new regatta management software has started and two companies have currently bid. This does not look like it will be ready for 2025 and is part of the long term changes, and will allow greater ease when implementing further changes.
- It was suggested that we publish new promotion times at the beginning of the season but do not reassign paddlers to their new divisions under the revised entry times until after the April regatta.
- At the moment, Hannah is working on a schedule for the National Championships which is planned to be held for everybody in the same regatta.



- PG, AL and JF have considered the promotion times and have suggested some updates which have been circulated. It was suggested that 500m be used to determine divisions as this is the one event which is consistent at all levels. The times that the group has come up with aims to reduce the number of races run with empty lanes and make the distribution among divisions more even. There was some concern about reassigning paddlers into higher divisions. It was recognised that this process would take some tweaking to get the times may need to be adjusted. The general feeling is that the new times will be published at the beginning of the year and paddlers will be promoted gradually. It was also suggested that team leaders could suggest paddlers for promotion based on the times that they have been achieving.

At this point, the meeting was adjourned to reconvene on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 20:00 to discuss the remaining items on the agenda.

8 Handbook 2025

a) Review proposed rule changes for 2025 Handbook: PG

A document containing the proposed changes to the Sprint Racing Competition Rules and Terms of Participation was circulated in advance of the meeting. These changes had already been shared with Phil and Cathy from the Regatta Committee to get their opinion as they have specific knowledge of the needs for some of these rules. The specific rules are listed below with the consensus reached by the committee for each of them.

- Rule 7.3 regarding Masters entries: rule change would allow Masters racing in senior races to be eligible for prizes. Consensus: further justification sought from RC before changes made.
- Rule 15.1f late entry fees: change the rules to allow late entries in normal circumstances. Consensus: £10 late entry fee per seat to be confirmed.
- Rule 17.1 number of entries needed for a race to be held: Cathy noted that this gives the authority to the organisers to cancel a race if there are low entry numbers. This rule gives organisers leeway, but it was suggested the wording be changed. Consensus: change 'must' to 'should'.
- Rule 21 rules regarding layout of 5km race courses. These rules are very specific and follow the ICF rules, it has been suggested that these rules be changes to allow a different course layout and give more flexibility to the organisers. Consensus: this course layout could be put into a standard operating procedure which could also be in the handbook. This gives more flexibility in the event that a different course is desired.
- Rule 26.3 regarding boats which leave a lane must be disqualified. If there is a rare situation where a paddler needs to leave their lane to avoid an obstacle this would mean that they would be disqualified. Phil Caisley noted that the chief official has final discretion over this. Consensus: is it stated anywhere that final decisions rest with the competition committee?
- Rule 26.5 paddlers who capsize must be disqualified: it was suggested this rule be removed for 5k races, but it was clarified that this rule only related to races of 1000m or less.



- Page B5 Classes 6c) We will canoe paddlers with most appropriate kayak category. We will examine what impacts this may have on draws for finals. These will still be separate for NC competitions and separate results will still be produced. **Action** AL+AM to determine appropriate classes.
- 6d) Promotions and demotions: If junior division D are only racing 200m, it was questioned whether they should submit a 200m time. Otherwise 500m to be used as it is the most consistent distance. Consensus: use 500m for promotions, option to use 500 or 200 for registration.
- 6i) Rule requiring 50% of crew boat paddlers to be ranked in the designated class. The committee want to remove this rule so that e.g. a K4 with 1 C division paddler and 3 D division paddlers can race in a C division race. Under current rules this crew would not be allowed to enter a C or a D division race. Consensus: swap the 50% to 25% (or 1 paddler in the crew).
- 6h): It was suggested that this rule be removed so that team leaders can enter their paddlers into higher categories. Consensus: Keep this rule and make the contact details of National Coaches widely available.
- 12h) Allocation of SRC K4s: There was a question of this being changed to allow lower division paddlers to use them if the boats are available. Consensus: while it is accepted that use of the boats needs to be rationed, could this be amended so that boats can be used by request at the discretion of officials when it is known that there are spares available.
- Page B10 point 17 Tiddlywinks: suggestion that they should be available for anybody. Consensus: remove specific cost, and remove specific categories so that anybody can get them.
- B13-B14 Intermediates: remove this as intermediates won't exist.
- B15 Minisprint series: There was a question over what distances they should be allowed to race, seeing as Div D won't be racing 500m in Ks.

9 AOB

- LC gave a message that event themes for the regattas need to be decided by the end of January, and content for the handbook needs to be confirmed at the same time. **Action:** Promotion times need to be finalised (PG), plan for NC competitions need to be completed (AM and HB).
- AM asked if anybody would be available for the JDS day on 1st Feb to give a presentation on the different roles of officials at regattas for the parents.
- We have had a request from the SUP community that wish to have their National Championships at the July regatta. SUP races are only over 200m and are good 'filler' events in the programme. **Action:** AM to check if there will be space from the programme.

Date for Future SRC Meetings

Monday 27th January 2025 20:00
Monday 17th March 2025 20:00

Meeting finished at 22:10 (16th December)
22:15 (7th January)