



PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 27th January 2025 - 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], Arthur Leech [AL], Adam Miles [AMi], Bev Hunter [BH], Joe Fitzpatrick [JF], Martin Hook [MH], Paul Dimmock [PD] until 20:20, Peter Gorman [PG], Roland Lawler [RL], Margaret Chapman [MC] SCA Rep

Copies to Ashley Metcalfe [AM] (CEO), Charmaine Collins (BC), Keir Worth, [KW] (BC), Chris Furber (PD), Justine Lucas (PD), Richard Ramsdale (BC), Charlie Barwis (BC) & RDT

Item No:

MINUTES

1 Apologies

Ashley Metcalfe gave his apologies as he wished to attend but was unable to.

2 Approval of SRC minutes from 16th December and 7th January

No comments were raised regarding the previous meeting minutes and it was proposed that they be accepted. **Approved**

3 Matters arising from SRC Minutes not on the agenda

- A number of K4s sustained damage during the recent flooding at HPP. Fortunately this was only minor damage to 4 boats and these will be repaired before they are needed at the April regatta. It was requested that we review winter storage to avoid similar problems in future.
- Since the last meeting the question of SUPs having their National Championships at the July regatta. This will already be a busy competition, but the consensus of the committee is that we will accommodate these races.
- The venue and time of the May in person meeting

4 2025 Budget Update: LC

PUK are currently auditing last year's accounts, and the preliminary budget for this year has been sent to PUK for review. The one key area that we are continuing to support is the support for non-funded athletes. We have budgeted more than last year despite there not being a couple of events that we supported last year. It was noted that lots of things in the budget do not result in a cost being incurred.



4 (cont'd) There was a question about the promotional video from Dan James which used footage from regattas in 2024. The committee have currently paid £2000 and have not received the final cut yet, NF has been nudging Dan on this. NF mentioned that some parents suggested the idea of an athlete support fund which could also be used for the purpose of sending athletes abroad to compete, and can be topped up by charitable donations.

5 National Regattas

a) Update to proposed changes for 2025: AM

AM met Cathy Wynne and Phil Caisley recently and spoke about the rule changes agreed by the SRC. They have come back with a few points for clarification and some things for the committee to consider.

- The main things still to be decided are the standards for racing and the promotion times.
- It was suggested that since the intermediate category is being removed, buoyancy aids be made mandatory for division D, junior and potentially seniors too. Race vests would still need to be visible. We would need to communicate this change very clearly before April. **Agreed for Junior D**
- It was agreed that the rule about masters paddlers racing in Senior categories could be removed.
- It was clarified that if there are enough canoes to run their own event then they can, otherwise they will be combined with similar Kayak races.
- There was concern over the relaxation of crew boat standards rule (changing the requirement of crew boats to only needing 25% of paddlers to be from the class of the race), that this may lead to races taking more time. The SRC felt that this would not create a significant problem due to the comparatively shorter length of time taken for K4s to cover 500m. There is also the expectation that entered boats will be competitive in the terms of participation.
- Late entry fees: the committee considered the scenario where somebody might late enter and only want to race one race, and were asked what the late fee should be. It was agreed that the first late entry will be £40, and subsequent late entries £10. In the case of an injured or ill crew paddler, no late fee will be charged for a substitute for a crew if they are not paid an entry fee for a regatta. An exceptional circumstance clause for illness or injury was suggested.
- It was asked if Minisprints should continue to race 500m while Junior D paddlers will only be able to race 200m. It was suggested that Junior D could still do crew boats for the longer distances, and that Minisprints could race 200m as in poor conditions a 500m is a long way for those paddlers.
- Update on whether paddlers will be able to enter selection races and divisional races. They will be able to enter both but there will be no mechanism for finding out clashes. Paddlers will be expected to scratch themselves by the time of the Team Leaders' meeting.



5
(cont'd)

- Allocation of Plastex K4s - this could cause problems when discretion is used and may result in officials facing lots of protests. It was suggested that we conduct a survey of clubs to find out which clubs are bringing their own K4s to regattas. There were lots of thoughts on this matter and lots of potential problems to relaxing the rule. It was suggested that at the team leader's meeting the number of required boats could be checked and any spare skinny boats allocated then.
- Fun events - it is being considered what is feasible, whether this is a 'random' crew event or K4 long distance events.
- Standards - masters will be incorporated into senior categories to give them a more exciting race.
- Nationals - it is impossible to know if all of the events will fit into one weekend. The proposal now is to have Masters at June and everyone else in July. Masters would still be able to race in the senior races if they wish.

Agreed

Standards for Racing - MC circulated a spreadsheet before the meeting showing the updated standards for racing. This was undertaken as the intermediate classes are being removed and the standards for division D are being lowered. This could necessitate boundary changes for the other categories for a more even distribution.

There was some feedback from some individuals in the community regarding the possibility of not having a K4 selection race at the April regatta. It is thought that paddlers will form and enter their own boats and then be reluctant to give up places in these boats, and this could create barriers to paddlers from smaller clubs getting into a K4. It was suggested that another format e.g. a mixed K4 could be run at the April regatta. It was noted that the reasons for this decision would need to be communicated clearly.

6 SRC Strategic Plan

It was requested that all submit their preferences for the working groups on the shared spreadsheet so that these can be decided. This would take some of the work out of whole committee meetings and enable some of the more detailed discussions to be done in smaller groups. **Action: All**

Future working relationship between SRC and WCP to be discussed - this is following the recent appointments of Ekaitz Saies, and James Train's new role looking after the development pathway. It was suggested that the in-person meeting planned for May be brought forwards to March, so that these key staff members can be invited. PG has kindly offered to find a venue in the Banbury area which is central.

7 Handbook 2025

The rules finalised in the discussion above will be added to the handbook draft for 2025.



8 Review funding strategy for non-funded athletes in 2025

This strategy is reviewed yearly, and it has been mentioned that due to the reduced levels of support being offered by the WCP, our support may need to be offered to more athletes. PM will find out what level of support will be offered by the WCP so then the SRC can have a discussion about filling in other areas left without support. **Action: PM**

9 AOB

There was no other business raised.

Date for Future SRC Meetings

Face to Face meeting in March - details to be decided via a Doodle poll.

Meeting finished at 22:15