



PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE

Date: Saturday 8th March 2025
Venue: Cropredy Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Cropredy, OX17 1PA
Time: 12:50

Attending : Nick Fowler-Rimell [NF] (Chair), Philip Miles [PM] (Secretary), Arthur Leech [AL] until 2:30, Adam Miles [AMi], Bev Hunter [BH], Joe Fitzpatrick [JF], Martin Hook [MH], Paul Dimmock [PD], Peter Gorman [PG], Roland Lawler [RL], Margaret Chapman [MC] SCA Rep,

Others Keir Worth, [KW] (PUK), Ekaitz Saies [ES] (PD), James Train [JT] (PUK), Cathy Wynne [CW] (RC)

Item No:

MINUTES

Welcome

Nick welcomed everybody and thanked them for making the journey to join us. He thanked PG for organising the venue and the refreshments.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Louise Clive, Paul Dimmock, Collette Johnson, and also from Alice Murphy.

2 Approval of SRC minutes from 27th January

No comments were raised regarding these minutes, and the chair proposed that they be approved. **Agreed**

3 Matters arising from SRC Minutes not on the agenda

- It was requested that we have some clarification of the extra events coming in to the regatta programme. It was confirmed that the long distance events would be in the June regatta programme.
- Since the last meeting, there has been an amendment to the costs for late entries. Instead £40 for the first late entry and £10 for each subsequent late entry, a single late entry fee of £60 was agreed.
- K4 repairs - Nick Admit has been contacted to repair the damaged K4s. This is projected to be done in time for April as all of the K4s will be needed for then. Some of the fittings on commanders/rockets also need repairs carrying out as part of general maintenance. Nick Admit will be asked to look at these. Going forward the process for storing boats over winter and delegating responsibility will be refined.
- The promotional video recorded and edited by Dan James has still not been received in full. Several suggestions were raised but as the promotional material is wanted to be used imminently, it was requested that we ask for all of the material in its current stage.

4 2025 Budget Update: LC

LC was unable to attend in person but gave the committee an update over email. There are no major changes since the last meeting. PUK have allocated the SRC a grant of £24000 for 2025. The extra money ring fenced for JDS/JTS has not been received so this will need to come out of SRC funds for the time being. The requested money is the same as last year, which was £2000. 2025 racing handbooks have been delivered, at a cost of £629. £840 has been generated from advertising.

Sport England have given the same budget to make contributions to Junior and U23 international competitions for this year. The policy currently supports Olympic events (reasonably) fully, but with very little or nothing for non olympic events. The qualification process for LA28 is changing so this may need to be reviewed later in the Olympic cycle. It was questioned whether we wish to fund the same events as last year - the general consensus is that the performance awards are a strong positive and we will keep that for 2025. It was also noted that we would benefit from a broader base, giving more younger paddlers experiences of racing at 'entry level' international competitions, for example the Sobeka and Neerpelt regattas in Belgium.

5 Ways of Working across the Sprint Community

Developing a strategy for the future among key stakeholders (SRC, RC, PD) We are fortunate to have Keir, Ekaitz, and James joining us today and this is an opportunity to discuss relative roles within the community.

JT has taken on a brand new role as Head of Performance Development. This role involves closer working with the community, and is a link between the WCP and clubs/community. His focus is to share and build knowledge including technical paddling, crew boats, periodisation, and physical preparation. He is very willing to have open conversations and discussions. Scott Hynds remains in the coach development role, and activity within the Talent Club Partnership and the budgetary ability to support other projects also exists. James has an open offer to visit clubs and understand challenges faced within the community across the country.

Under the new TCP programme we will have more coaches in the clubs. Ekaitz Saies is new to the organisation, and is focused on athletes and coaches, and Keir is taking on some of the administrative burden within the Performance Department.

It was highlighted that communication with the community is integral, and that we should focus on what matters most to the athlete.

A suggestion was raised to continue having one face to face meeting between the SRC and the PD per year, and two SRC and RC meetings (f2f or online) to improve cohesion. There was a suggestion of a yearly conference in October at the end of the competition season, where all stakeholders meet to review the previous year and work out a way forward.

The question of coaching qualifications was raised as these don't necessarily seem specific to sprint racing/coaching.



5 ES shared some ambitions for the programme for the LA Olympic cycle and said
(cont'd) that with the introduction of a new qualification system, this presents more opportunities for qualification. There is the opportunity for periodisation and funnelling towards desired sprint events, and of more careful coordination of the sprint calendar with the marathon and international calendar to prevent clashes. There was a discussion of how the competition calendar could evolve and involve other types of events.

6 Competition Structure

a) Update to proposed changes for 2025: AM

Alice was unfortunately unable to attend due to illness but sent an update over email.

The time of 20:00 on the evening of 13th March was proposed for a meeting to update the clubs on changes for 2025. Phil Caisley can inform the team leaders this evening when he sends out a regatta bulletin. **Agreed: Action - PM**

The April regatta event schedule is agreed as it needs to be circulated the evening of this meeting. There was a miscommunication which meant that some Boys C and D races were not as they wished but the planning is too far along to make any changes. **Agreed**

b) Local Regattas update: AMi

Five local events are confirmed for 2025 at this stage. Three more clubs are intending to run an event. AMi mentioned that he has been fighting against the tide with scheduling these in an already busy racing calendar, and it is difficult to share and publicise events to paddlers.

The Sprint Racing website has a calendar where information can be shared, but this is a hugely underutilised platform which isn't viewed by lots of people. David Rogers has been putting events on the Canoe Sprint racing calendar but we need to make sure that the PUK events calendar also mirrors this.

As Sundays are often busy with Hasler events, it was suggested that Saturdays are used for local events as then paddlers are able to do both if they want to. It was noted that large clubs seem reluctant to run events.

It was raised whether the committee could distribute a format/template to the clubs or are organisers as some may not know what a club regatta looks like.

The idea of a points system being expanded to local events was suggested, like the MacGregor competition, to encourage participation at this level.

Action: Make a link between those who volunteer at regattas and clubs who want to run local events.

c) Venues for Sprint Competitions - Update on South Cerney: NF

There are now six toilets and pontoons for access at South Cerney. Cotswold Lakes are advertising for somebody to take on the role of sorting bookings for using the lakes. There have also been problems with weed growing in the lake, and it is in parts very shallow. BH has been attempting to get in touch and would like to go back and visit and meet with somebody from the lakes. The costs to access the site are also quite high which restricts smaller groups, and there are currently also no safety boats there which is a hinderance to running events.



7 SRC Strategic Plan

Working groups to be decided

Prior to the meeting, the strategic plan spreadsheet was circulated for committee members to list their preference for working groups but many have still not completed this. NF will assign individuals to groups based on responses that have been received to be agreed at a later date.

Action: NF

8 Review funding strategy for non-funded athletes in 2025

There is a potential to change the funding strategy, and support different competitions, changing the current distribution. It was suggested that the committee review a number of different proposals as to how we can do this.

Action: PM to share the breakdown of funding from last year with JT so that team sizes and costs for 2025 can be estimated.

9 AOB

It was noted that the committee currently have large cash reserves and the question of what should be done with this was raised. This was held over to be reviewed at a later date when LC is present and more time is available.

Date for Future SRC Meetings

To be confirmed via a Doodle poll

Meeting closed at 16:45