



## **PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Monday 30th June 2025  
**Time:** 20:00 Zoom online meeting

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 21:10, Peter Gorman [PG], Roland Lawler [RL], Margaret Chapman [MC] SCA Rep,

Others: James Hinvies (PUK)

Item No: **MINUTES**

### **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Arthur Leech and Ashley Metcalfe who were both unable to attend the meeting.

### **2 Approval of SRC minutes from 12th May**

No comments were raised by members of the committee and it was proposed that they be approved. **Agreed**

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

There were no matters arising concerning any discussions previously held by the committee.

### **4 2025 Budget Update: LC**

LC circulated an update via email in advance of the meeting. Since the last meeting there has been a £200 expenditure for the RYA level 2 powerboat course for Jane Lamb that was approved previously. Payment has been made for the first set of K4 repairs, and LC asked NF to give Tom from Panda Sports a nudge for the second bill. LC expects expenditures for sending Junior/U23 athletes to international competitions to come through soon.

**Action:** NF to follow up with Tom Butt

### **5 National competitions**

In advance of the meeting RL indicated that he wished to discuss the inclusion of the portages in the 5k event at the recent June regatta. This is a decision that was taken so that the course layout with a portage can be trialled in advance of the July regatta. At least one committee member felt that the inclusion of the portage into this event is a negative change and that they were not able to voice their opposition as the decision was not taken by the SRC as a whole. This matter was raised under item 3) matters arising at the committee meeting on 12th May when it was stated that the 5k events would be run with the inclusion of portages.



**5 (cont'd)** The chair clarified that this change was requested by the IP prior to the April regatta and was taken in conjunction with the RC, as the ICF have stated that all 5k events in the LA 2028 Olympic cycle will contain portages. As the Sprint Racing Competition Rules account for the inclusion of a portage in the 5k, it was stated that the decision to have a portage in the event is at the discretion of the Regatta Committee who apply the rules rather than the SRC.

It was noted that while there were six kayak ladies entered for this event, there were withdrawals due to the adverse weather conditions on the day of the competition.

NF will ensure that conversations with the IP will be more clearly relayed to the SRC as a whole in future.

**6 Competition - Strategic Plan**

A report from the competition subgroup was circulated prior to the meeting. Since the SRC meeting in May, the subcommittee have met twice and discussed their objectives and evaluated the current position of the SRC in relation to these aims.

One of the items that was discussed was the need to improve the communication links, and this is a shared objective with the community subgroup.

There has been discussion of how live-streaming can work at regattas in a cost effective way, for example having a stationary camera pointed at the last 200m of the course.

There was a suggestion of giving the SRC login to a small number of U23 athletes at a regatta to generate content and raise the profile of sprint.

There was a suggestion of how local events could be linked to national events, for example giving a prize for competing at a specific number of sprint events. It was suggested that results from local events could contribute in some way towards the MacGregor Interclubs competition.

Balint Nagy is a parent of a Reading paddler who has a web platform that publishes results in a different format. There was a question of how this could be made more official, or how results could be presented in a way that generates a ranking list such as in other sports.

It was recognised how well the 'Raffle K4' event went at the June regatta and thanks were offered to Alice who delivered this. It was asked whether this could be replicated for K2s for paddlers who have not been able to find a partner but would still like to race the event.

**7 Coaching - Strategic Plan**

Some of the subcommittee met to gather some initial thoughts in this area. It was recognised that many club coaches, particularly in smaller clubs, are often parents of paddlers and have no formal qualifications. Some are discouraged from taking qualifications and courses as they take a lot of time commitment, so it was suggested that there could be a coaching-specific course for these types of volunteers, and with a safety/first aid course specific to the type of water at different clubs.



**7 (cont'd)** The idea of webinars was brought up as a way of disseminating knowledge throughout the community. These have successfully been arranged in the near past by Tim Scott, and others have interviewed high level athletes and coaches and this is a great way of inspiring paddlers and coaches in the community. Another idea was that our elite athletes could be given a nominal expense fee of around £100 to visit clubs and speak to athletes, parents, and coaches, as this is something that would be really valuable.

It was suggested that there could be a bursary targeted towards smaller clubs that might not have a coaching business model in their club. JH said that coaching bursaries are already available through PUK and that £250,000 has gone towards this in recent years.

JH also mentioned that when the new standards of deployment come into force in 2027, all coaches in leadership roles will be required to have formal qualifications. However the specific level is not defined for the various involvement of club coaches.

**Action:** Subgroup to arrange meeting with James Train/James Hives/PUK

## **8 Community - Strategic Plan**

A report from this subgroup was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was asked which staff members are employed by PUK to support in this area, David Rogers and Barry Wade are key contacts.

It was stated that we should publicise the level of support given by the SRC to athletes racing at international competitions. For example a boat sticker.

Ideas were built around the open sessions for the community/club coaches, and an annual community driven coaching get together.

It was asked whether there are any opportunities for sponsorship, and it was recognised that it is a tough climate to ask for money. To begin with this could be done on a small scale, for example a wheel of cheese as a prize for National Champions.

The chair requested that the subgroups keep the suggestions coming, and if there are any ideas that require a committee action these can be approved at subsequent meetings.

**Action:** Subgroups to meet before next full SRC meeting.

## **9 AOB**

- Correspondence - it was asked if the committee correspondence could be formalised in some way, for example we now use a WhatsApp group that provides the ability to make decisions quickly but these sometimes get lost. It was also asked if AI note taking could be used for our meetings to generate an instantaneous summary of the meeting before the full minutes are released. JH mentioned that Google Meet has this feature. **Action:** anybody who requests a decision over WhatsApp to contact PM who will add these to the minutes of the following meeting. PM to circulate minutes closer to the meeting, or a brief list of action points.
- AM informed the committee that she has sent out the feedback form from the June regatta. The numbers and statistics look overwhelmingly positive, however the comments left were more constructive. **Action:** All to read regatta feedback.



- 9**  
**(cont'd)**
- BH mentioned that the Bristol Harbour Regatta, which she attended last year, is running again on Saturday 19th July. Last year some young paddlers did a couple of races, and the public were impressed and had lots of questions about canoe sprint. This is a good way to raise our profile. NF said that he is talking to Ekaitz Saies in the coming week about the prospect of having some senior athletes attend this. **Action:** NF
  - There was a query about the minimum standards for racing for lightnings and whether these are fair between boys and girls. It was noted that the differences in physiology between sexes contributes to a difference between times achieved in races. It was suggested that this be revisited at a later date.

**Dates for Future SRC Meetings**

To be confirmed via a Doodle poll.

APPROVED