

## **Sprint Racing Committee Chairman's Report 2025**

Over the past 12 months, Canoe Sprint in the UK has continued to grow, and I would like to begin by offering my sincere thanks to the volunteers, coaches, parents, and members of the Sprint Racing Committee. You have inspired, challenged, and motivated me in equal measure. A special mention must go to those stepping down from their roles – you know who you are. Your contributions have been vital to the progress we have achieved this year, and the sport is stronger because of your dedication.

### **Regional and Local Regatta Development**

Hosting a regatta is never an easy task, and I want to extend our gratitude to those who have taken this on. We fully recognise the challenges, and your efforts have made a huge difference to the sprinting community. The Committee is committed to increasing the provision of sprint racing across the UK. Work is underway on plans to provide more opportunities at regional and local levels, with the aim of encouraging a wider group of athletes to participate in our discipline.

### **Performance Highlights**

- **Juniors:** Our juniors have been exceptional this year. Their performances included multiple A finals at the European Championships, followed by a healthy reality check at the World Championships. This is a young team with enormous potential, and we are confident they will return even stronger in 2026.
- **U23s:** The U23 squad delivered a series of exciting results, including A finals in the men's K4 500m, women's K2 500m, and women's K1. These results are hugely promising for the future and put pressure on the senior team in the best possible way.
- **Seniors:** Our senior athletes produced an outstanding World Cup series, particularly the women's kayak team, with medals in the C1 and K1 5km events. At the European Championships, a small but determined team achieved A finals, underlining their steady progress. The World Championships brought a mix of rising young talent and outstanding moments – not least the women's K4 reaction to beating Olympic medallists to secure their A final spot, a truly iconic moment for the team.
- **Para Canoe:** The para canoe team continues to dominate on the world stage. With more athletes now joining the programme, the depth of talent is increasing, reinforcing their position as the best team in the world – a status that looks set to continue for years to come.

### **Pathway and Staffing**

The appointment of new personnel, together with the reassignment of key roles, has strengthened the sense of connection across the performance pathway. This renewed structure is creating a more aligned system and giving athletes and coaches alike confidence in a bright future.

**Domestic Regattas**

This year has seen exciting developments within our domestic racing calendar. New events, including the Raffle K4, have expanded opportunities for crewboat racing and opened participation to athletes who may not otherwise have had the chance. Division expansions have allowed more athletes to compete, resulting in closer, harder-fought races across a range of age categories.

**Looking Ahead**

As we look forward, the Committee is focused on creating further opportunities at local and regional levels. These plans will help strengthen the performance pathway while also broadening participation in sprint racing. Our goal remains clear: to make this sport more accessible, competitive, and enjoyable for all who take part.

Nick Fowler-Rimell  
Chair, PUK SRC