

Item 8) Committee Member Pen portraits - three (3) candidates for four (4) open positions

Bev Hunter

I have been involved in canoeing from the age of 12, been part of the GB team at sprint and marathon and even completed DW

I have coached juniors to international level at both Royal canoe Club and Devizes. I have taken teams to international events as coach and team manager and also towed GB team trailers, so I have a good working knowledge of our sport.

My role in the SRC is to highlight the needs of the smaller clubs and to make the sport as inclusive as possible for them

I want to see our sport develop and grow and I believe that the work over the last year of the SRC is helping it to achieve that, I would like to continue to contribute to that development.

David Martyn

I joined the sport when I was 14 and since then:

- I was GB's first junior to reach 2 K1 finals at Junior World Championships
- I was a member of GB teams for 10 years.
- I have coached paddlers up to international level in both sprint and marathon.
- My family have become involved in the sport through racing at all levels, coaching and enjoying the paddling community. Our children now give back to the sport and compete for fun predominantly in marathon.
- I have been head coach at Wey, during which we won the Macgregor paddle twice, had the highest club membership ever, ran club overseas training camps and employed paid coaches.

I recently took early retirement from a major energy company where I was a senior leader. I was best known for:

- Creating simple solutions to complex problems
- Calmly getting the best out of people through collaboration, respect and support.
- Leading teams, both locally and globally to find and fix underlying problems.
- Chairing groups for the chemical engineering national institute.

My leadership style is all about finding out what people do well and enjoy doing, then supporting them to have fun, collaboratively creating great solutions. If those organising, coaching and volunteering are having fun then it's hard to create an event which competitors don't enjoy too.

Current situation. There are many positive things happening in the sport but in sprint racing we have falling numbers of clubs engaged in the sport

	2017-2022	2024-2025
Average number of clubs attending the Macgregor paddle regatta	50	40

Continued...

To have a vibrant, growing sport we need to turn this trend around. Growing the number of clubs and paddlers to create a vibrant sport at the grass roots level is imperative for the success of the sport in the UK. Other sports using Holme Pierrepont bring thousands of people to their events, this is unachievable for us today, but we need to go from loss making to profit making to enable investment in the sport.

Making change is essential. A real start on this has been made and those involved should be commended for doing so, but the effort required to achieve this has taken a toll on the volunteers. Some of the most valued and proactive committee members have recently stood down at least in part because of the divided and antagonistic meetings. I hope this is where my skills can really help. Being new to the committee with fresh ideas and approaches I hope I can unify the strong characters already on the committee and bring out the quieter voices.

Diversity is key. The composition of the SRC and regatta committees need to represent the people of the sport we aspire to be. Engaging with people with different ideas, backgrounds and experience to create an environment where everyone feels involved and empowered to contribute.

The Clubs – the SRC serves the clubs. You elect who you think is going to represent you and further the sport in a positive, dynamic way. Ensure your club discusses the SRC and who you would like to work with in developing the sport. **Vote** at the ACM. Give **your** club a voice, choose who will bring forward **your** ideas for improvement and growth. Always give volunteers respect for their efforts and support them as we build a truly great sport that everybody enjoys.

Martin Hook

Hi,

I'd like to introduce myself and give you some background on why I would like to be re-elected to the Sprint Racing Committee.

I have been involved in canoeing for many years as a paddler, coach, Regatta Official, member of the SRC and an International Technical Official. I currently hold the position of Chair on the Regatta Committee.

Our sport relies on the input of volunteers at all levels to provide a fun, safe and interesting environment for paddlers to develop their skills and to provide a framework to test themselves against others. As a parent of a squad paddler I firmly believe in giving back to the discipline to allow others to enjoy the same opportunities my family has had.

As a member of the SRC I will continue to support the interests of the paddlers, the sport, sprint racing and clubs. As a club coach I understand the requirements of individual paddlers and what they need from the sport. As a Regatta Official I understand the requirements of running national events and as an International Technical Official I understand the context in which those requirements exist.

Many sports are facing difficult times at present. I support initiatives that reach out to paddlers and offer them opportunities to engage in sprint racing, such as the local regattas and work to implement changes as requested by the SRC.

In summary, my experience across different roles enables me to effectively represent our community.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Martin Hook