



PADDLE UK SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE

Date: Saturday 1st November 2025
Time: 13:00
Venue: PUK Offices, National Watersports Centre, NG12 2LU (Google meet also available)

Committee members : Dave Martyn [DM] (Chair), Louise Clive [LC] (Treasurer), Philip Miles [PM] (Secretary) from 15:00, Adam Miles [AMi], Bev Hunter [BH], Joe Fitzpatrick [JF], Martin Hook [MH], Peter Gorman [PG], Margaret Chapman [MC] SCA Rep

Item No:

MINUTES

1 Apologies

Paul Dimmock sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

2 Approval of SRC minutes from 15th September

There was one correction made to these minutes; it was asked that item 9 be updated to state that the coaching subgroup did not choose to meet because they had nothing to be discussed.

Approved

3 Matters arising from SRC Minutes not on the agenda

- It was raised that some communications to regatta officials and volunteers were not being received by everybody, and suggested that Ann Hoile be supported by somebody with IT skills to ensure effective communication.
- MH is in the process of compiling a survey to understand why volunteers at national competitions choose to stop volunteering.
- The topic of trophy presentations was raised, and it was queried what the status of these are so that successes can be shared with the paddling community.

Action: PM to contact prizewinners to arrange presentations

4 Safety

There have been no incidents recorded from sprint in the last 2 years. The last recorded events are of a Gazebo blowing off the roof of the NWSC in 2022 and a K2 sinking in 2023. Examples of other recent incidents were discussed. As an organisation incidents at all SRC organised events (eg Regattas, training days, trips etc) should be recorded on the PUK system. This will enable us to demonstrate that we have good risk assessments and care when things do go wrong so we can learn. Risk assessments for local regattas were discussed, and it was confirmed that if a safety incident occurs at an SRC event the committee should check the RA and if they do have incidents these should also be recorded in the PUK database.

Action: All event organisers should ensure incidents are recorded
Safety Officer to complete a yearly summary of sprint related safety incidents.



5 Subgroup structure

A discussion of the objectives of the wider committee concluded that near term aims are:

- Increase participation and the opportunities to compete in canoe sprint
- Have a balanced budget (breakeven position)
- Update the strategy document

Competition - the aims of the subgroup are well defined. Aims are to expand the competition structure, support and embed competition at all levels nationwide (local, regional, national), increase the number and diversity of opportunities to take part in sprint racing.

Community - Aims are to create better engagement with the paddling community, increase the profile of sprint racing to the wider community. The communication part felt weak, Alice was talking to PUK on this.

Action: follow up on engagement with the clubs and paddlers.

Coaching - there is a concern regarding coaching qualifications which aren't being addressed by PUK. There needs to be a stronger beginner structure, and it was asked if we can have a paddlesport instructor for flat water racing. It was asked if there is an opportunity for the group to work with PUK, as Slalom have just overseen a renewal of their qualifications.

Makeup of the subgroups was not discussed.

Action: anyone who wishes to move between groups please talk to DM.

6 External Relations

Item held over

Action: at a future meeting or over email the committee will formulate a list of key customers and connections.

7 Updates from any other meetings that SRC members have attended

- DM - met with James Train and Ekaitz Saies. They are very supportive of us and are open to giving help wherever they can.
- DM - met with Richard Stacey-Chapman and discussed new regatta management software. If the committee is able to confirm regatta formats very soon, then there is the possibility to update the software for next year. SRC supports this as a priority for 2026.
- DM - met with James Hives, discussed the SRC budget.
- DM - met Mark Healey, discussed how to market sprint racing. The committee needs to explore this topic in depth, to look at future growth strategies. Markis prepared to assist the committee.
- PG - visited a possible alternative competition venue near to Worcester and Gloucester that could be functional by 2027.



- 7** (cont'd)
- PG - Performance lead team meeting last week. (between Board and IP/ SRC). Coaching identified as needing work across the full range. Both beginner and top level. Talent club pathways. Southampton having landlord issues, Royal lost main coach new appointment due very soon. So no funds paid over yet.
 - AM - Owen Shepherd has requested support with a potential multiple sport event at the Olympic park event. SRC all agreed.

8 Roles and responsibilities

The current delegation of roles was discussed. The following roles and positions were agreed by the committee:

- Safety officer - MH (ideally short term)
- Safeguarding officer - LC
- SRC Representative to the International Panel - DM
- SRC Representative on JDS Steering group - JF (it was asked if the committee find somebody to co-opt to take this on)
- Regatta Committee Chair - MH
- a) SRC Vice Chair - MH (interim)

It was discussed whether the committee still needs a representative on the JTS steering group, as we have been given conflicting information.

Actions: DM to check requirement for JTS rep.

All to consider opportunities to co-opt others to the committee and inform DM of any potential candidates.

Seek another person in Nottingham to provide stewardship of SRC K4s
PM to update Roles and Responsibilities document.

9 Budget Update

a) Current financial position/key updates

In the financial year just finished, we have an overspend of £5827. The cash reserves of the SRC currently are around £50000, and this has been reduced by this overspend and also by the purchase of 2 Nelo K4s. The question was raised concerning whether the committee should list the value or replacement value of assets e.g. K4s on a balance sheet.

It was queried whether it would be worthwhile for the committee to have a minibus of their own as there are plenty of ways in which we would utilise this resource.

It was asked whether the film commissioned from Dan James had ever materialised, Nick was chasing this but none of the committee recalled seeing the final product.

Action: DM to follow up with Dan James.

b) Implications and assumptions for 25/26 budget

PUK have told us that for the 25/26 financial year they will give us £24000 in support. The consensus of the committee is that we should continue to support the athletes traveling to international competitions. Last year, only £750 in performance awards were paid for results at the World Championships, it was asked whether we need to change the way these rewards are given.

Facilities and logistics could be a key area in the budget.



9 (cont'd) ITO Nominations - for the last year we have had £2000 in the budget for ITO expenses. Last year, if all of the applications were successful, the cost would have been £5600. LC asked if the committee would be prepared to pay the full cost for the officials travelling to other continents as this would represent an increase in cost. It was proposed that a best and worst case scenario be proposed, with the committee capping total expenses at £3000 with all expenses for World Cups covered.

Both committee's reserves are in a good place, albeit dwindling. More of the RC reserves are likely to be used up on IT upgrades.

Action: LC to propose a new distribution based on previous results.

BH to explore the possibility of hiring a facility to run K4 event

10 Competition

a) Proposed rule changes for 2026 competition season

MC circulated a document with the current competition rules and terms of participation, with some annotations concerning possible changes for the 2026 season. Most of these were discussed with minor changes made to the syntax of some rules.

Action: JF create a document detailing standard operating procedures

MH follow up on discussion regarding racing across classes

b) Themes for next year's regattas

There was a significant discussion around the clash between Junior and U23 World Championships with the July regatta, which was planned as the National Championship competition. The decision was taken to maintain the clash with all National Championships held in July.

April regatta - Class-based racing, with selection races (in classes) and Paracanoe National Championships

May/June regatta - Class-based racing

July regatta - age group National Championships for all including Masters

September regatta - Macgregor interclub competition in classes.

Action: MH to invite the SUP racers to the May/June regatta where there is little less going on.

c) Planning for 2026 SRC supported international trips

BH has been planning a development trip to the Ghent regatta in May next year. A cost estimate stands at around £300 but some support will need to be given to arrange for coaches to attend. It was agreed to make this an SRC trip with paddlers given a place on a first come first served basis.

Action: BH engage PUK to set up a fair application process.



10 d) Local events strategy

(cont'd) This year there have been 5 local events. None of the organising clubs have paid the levy. AM has not communicated with the clubs and has previously said that we need to review our offering. LC has offered to get in touch to ask about a payment of the levy as AM feels uncomfortable doing this. It was agreed that there needs to be a longer term plan implemented that connects local and national regattas and more time needs to be devoted to a discussion surrounding this.

Action: DM to communicate with competition subgroup to understand the work that has been done in this area.

11 **Community**

Item held over

12 **Coaching**

Item held over

13 **AOB**

None raised

14 **Dates for Future SRC Meetings**

Action: PM to circulate dates for December to discuss items that were held over from this meeting.

Meeting closed at 17:35

APPROVED