

**British Canoeing Marathon Racing Committee
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held online at 7.30
on Wednesday 10 May 2023,**

Present:

Stan Missen (SM) (Chair)
Graham Warland (GW)
Evan Shephard (ES)
Anoushka Freeman (AF)
Scott Hynds (SH)
Bryn Price (BP)
Rachel Lovell (RLo)

Kat Wilson (KW)
Mick Nadal (MN)
Jim Rossiter (JR)
Joe Fitzpatrick (JF)
David Sackman (DJS)
Holly Mobbs (HM)
Siobhan Urquhart (SU)

These people are referred to by their initials hereafter in the Minutes.

If your initials are down for action, please ensure that you follow up the matter concerned and report the outcome back to the Secretary well before our next meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Enoch (DE), Roland Lawler (RLa), Dan Seaford (DMS), Brian Chapman (BC) and Dyson Pendle (DP)

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 18 February

The minutes of the meeting of 11 September 2022 were approved by the committee.

3. Acknowledgements

- a) SM commended Tom Sharpe and Keith Moule on their record-breaking Devises to Westminster race, and Kat Wilson and Dan Palmer on both their race success and their fund-raising efforts in memory of James Smythe.
- b) SM thanked ES and HM for their work in running the very successful Short Course National Championships the previous weekend
- c) SM thanked SH and Elmbridge for hosting the recent Assessment Race.

4. Matters Arising

- a) *MRC Trailer*
RL expressed an interest in the trailer
Action: KW and RLo to discuss

b) *ITO nominations*

BC had sent the following email prior to the meeting:

BRITISH CANOEING, NATIONAL WATER SPORTS CENTRE

Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, NG12 2LU

T 08453 709500 F 08453 709501 E info@britishcanoeing.org.uk W www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

The process for candidates qualifying as new ITOs is being updated to make the initial stages available online rather than in person at the international events. Most of this process is set up for 2023 candidates and the final details will be ironed out during the World Cups in Bulgaria when all the people involved in setting it up will be present.

There are 3 main stages to the qualification process:-

- 1) An online test on the ICF statutes. This is a standard test for all disciplines and only needs to be completed once by any person, so if someone is already a qualified ITO in Sprint then they would not need to do this again for Marathon.
- 2) An online test on the Marathon rules. This is a number of questions in a variety of formats which need to be answered within a time limit which is set to allow plenty of time to answer the questions if candidates know the rules, but not enough time to look everything up.
- 3) If a candidate successfully complete these first 2 stages then they will attend at the international event where their assessment will be completed. This will involve:-
 - i) A discussion with members of the ICF Marathon Committee about a number of racing scenarios to test for uniform interpretation of the rules. This involves review of video clips taken from the livestreams of recent events.
 - ii) Working alongside current ITOs in a variety of roles during the course of the event which is designed to expose candidates to all responsibilities that ITOs may be expected to cover. The current ITOs will provide feedback on the candidates who will also be asked for reflections with a final discussion towards the end of the competition which will conclude the process. Successful candidates will be informed at the end of the championships.

The only confirmed exam for 2023 is scheduled for the World Championships in Denmark. This process does require that candidates are able to complete the online tests in advance of the competition and then be available to attend from 30th August to 3rd September inclusive (which may involve arriving on 29th August)

There will be a maximum of 6 candidate places in Denmark and if there are enough candidates these will be split equally between males and females.

Dan Seaford has confirmed his interest in becoming an ITO, but BC has not yet tested him on availability for the championships. Tom Sharpe and Anoushka Freeman have also indicated an interest. (Anoushka did say that she still aspires to competing so this may be a longer term interest)

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BC's intention is to provide details to these 3, in the order of Dan, Tom and then Anoushka to check their interest and availability for Denmark once the arrangements have been confirmed.

Applications need to be submitted by British Canoeing (Gemma) not less than 30 days before the competition (by 31st July) but earlier would be better as order of receipt may be important if there are too many candidates. Accommodation will be made available by the organization, but the cost of this needs to be met by the candidate(s) or British Canoeing.

Going forward, if there are sufficient volunteers for each event ITOs will be limited to one per country and split equally male/female if possible. ICF Committee members do not count so there would be an opportunity for 1 other ITO from UK while I am on the committee but probably not more to each event.

Action: BC to discuss with DMS, AF and Tom Sharpe

c) Accessibility matrix

BP has sent the draft to Jenny Warren at BC. The advice is each club has an Accessibility Officer named for each event. This does not imply race organisers need to change anything to increase accessibility, but to provide a point of contact for those who require more information eg on wheelchair access/parking etc

GW advised this requirement has been added to the calendar request that will go out in August 2023.

d) Athlete Feedback Update

HM reported that, despite offering Div 1 K2 races, no one had entered this at the first event. This will be monitored at future events.

HM has negotiated a partnership with Precision Hydration, which will provide a discount on products for senior team members, and nutrition/hydration advice for athletes.

SM asked that the other issues raised in the questionnaire are also monitored.

Action: HM/SH to follow up the other issues raised, and monitor response to Div 1 K2 classes

5. Finance

There was nothing to report, other than the unknown (increasing) costs of the international trips, which are already proving to be more expensive than anticipated.

6. Domestic Racing

a) Short Course National Championships

ES advised this had been a successful event, and noted that HM had done as much, if not more, during the last couple of months.

The carpet that had been bought for the portage is reusable, and has now gone to Norwich CC for use at the National Championships. If it can be used after that, it will need to be stored somewhere.

BP asked that there be a Masters' Class as well as a Veterans' one. BC had advised that the SCN rules referred to time penalties, which are in ICF rules, but not in MRC rules, which need to be reviewed.

SM suggested a larger working group to run the event next year, to avoid so much work landing on just two people.

Action: MN/ES/BP to review and ensure the rules are aligned, and ES, HM, KW and others to review the event and proposals for next year

b) Distances travelled by clubs to in-region races

A proposal, to count a club's top 7 results only, will be put to the ACM. Some areas have fewer races, so all will still have to count, but for others this will allow them to drop those races at the furthest point. When introduced in the Midlands, it did not lead to a significant drop in participation at races.

The information for members at the ACM to include MN's workings. If agreed at the ACM, it is hoped to introduce this from September 2023.

Action: SU to produce paper for ACM with MN

c) Hasler Finals Participation

SM, MN and BP have discussed how to encourage qualified clubs to send a significant sized team, and also how to support smaller clubs who are unable to ever qualify.

MN proposed this be discussed with RMAs for their views, but that qualification should not be made too easy, and thus take away from the regional competition. BP suggested that clubs which host a Hasler race, but do not qualify as a club, could send 3 boats, and MN suggested a suggested a parallel competition for the smaller clubs attending.

Action: JF offered to lead a working party to develop a proposal for the ACM

d) Nationals/Hasler Finals Update

The 2023 Hasler Finals have been confirmed at Worcester CC. KW was due to be at Worcester a few days later, and will discuss plans with the organisers.

HM and DMS have been in regular contact with Norwich CC regarding the Nationals, and are happy that all is under control.

7. International Racing

a) Code of Conduct for athletes and supporters

GW advised this had been discussed at an international logistics meeting. There will be a briefing for all prior to each international event, including expected behavior.

Action: KW/NN to respond to GW's draft Code of Conduct

b) *Logistics*

DJS advised the entries had been submitted for the German Nationals, and the carnets were with NN. Carnets were being raised for the World Cup this week, and generally everything was running smoothly.

Action: KW to publish the updated German Nationals entries

KW questioned if she was able to select 4 para athletes, based on the additional £5,000 from BC. This was agreed subject to the budget constraint but if more money is needed, then she should go back to BC for the additional funding.

c) *Application of rules at Assessment Races*

The question has been raised as to why no action was taken regarding a number of apparently clear cases of wash-hanging other races, at the recent assessment race.

It was agreed that this rule had not been reiterated at the briefing, although athletes should already know. Also, with the race starts close together and short laps, it was not easy to ensure wash-hanging was always deliberate. It was also felt that it did not have an impact on the results in this race, but that it did need reinforcing at future events.

GW advised that a statement clarifying that the rule re wash-hanging will be added to the Availability Form, and athletes must sign to say they have read and understood this.

It was agreed any wording should clarify that “blatant displays of wash hanging other race boats which are witnessed by a marshall/official may lead to disqualification” Some flexibility has to be included as the wash-hanging needs to be seen to be *sustained and deliberate*, and can only be deemed to be so where visible by an official. The wording on the form should match what is written in the MRC rules, and assessment race rules should be the same as international race rules.

Action: KW/NN to produce the guidance to athletes, and to do a draft response to the complaint raised, for SM to reply.

8. Transgender Competition Policy

Following a discussion on transgender athletes competing in MRC races, it was agreed that, at this stage, the MRC proposes that all **Group A races** fall under the **Competition Policy**, as set out by BC.

Action: SM to reply to BC

9. ACM

SU advised there had still only been two people expressing an interest in joining the MRC, and three people were standing down.

The ACM will be held online. MN agreed to chair it if SM is unavailable

Action: All those standing for election to provide their nominations by 18 May. SU to liaise with DMS re the online organization.

10. AOB

- a) SM advised Alan Laws would like to pay for a new perpetual trophy to be presented in memory of Dave Green and Kirton Kayaks, but would like suggestions from the MRC as to which race/class it could be awarded.
Action: All to consider options, KW suggested the junior classes at the SCN.
- b) JR advised it was taking a week or so to get payments from Stripe to the club following a race. ES said the entry system now supports both Stripe and SumUp. Stripe automatically bundles the payments into one, but he thought it might be possible to change this and to collect the monies quicker.
Action: DMS to advise
- c) Sanabria – the date has now been published. GW/DJS will speak to Paul Dimmock and agree logistics and how the tickets will be paid for this year.
Action: GW/DJS to liaise with Paul Dimmock
- d) HM has provisional contract with Precision Hydration to be approved
- e) KW looking for a venue for the 10/11 June Assessment races.

11. Future meeting Dates

- 2023 ACM, June 28 at 7.30 pm - to be held **online**.
- 10 September - 8.30 – 11.00 am ahead of the Pangbourne Hasler. At The Dolphin Centre, Pangbourne. This will be the first ‘new committee’ meeting following the ACM
- 18 November - 9.00 – 3.00 pm. All day meeting at Cropredy Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.