

**British Canoeing Marathon Racing Committee
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19:30pm
on Monday 8th April 2024 Online**

Present:

Stan Missen (SM) (Chair)	Holly Mobbs (HM)
Evan Shephard (ES)	Dave Enoch (DE)
Joe Fitzpatrick (JF)	Dan Seaford (DMS)
Roland Lawler (RL)	Kat Wilson (KW)
Graham Warland (GW)	Brian Chapman (BC)
Scott Hynds (SH)	Bryn Price (BP)
Mick Nadal (MN)	Anoushka Freeman (AF)
James Hives (JH)	

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 Sackman (DS).

2. Approval of minutes Nov MRC Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 18 Nov 2023 were approved by the committee.

3. Matters arising from MRC meeting of 18.11.23

a. Appointment of National Team Coach

This item will be moved forward to the next meeting.

Action: HM & DMS

a. Trailer loading video

SH hopes to make this video at the April regatta in Nottingham, to be shared at the next meeting.

Action: SH & DS

b. Collating of club chair email address list to email regarding ACM

HM & AF to draft email text to share with clubs regarding ACM. JH to share this with club Chairs and pop into 'Club News'. RMAs will also be asked to forward to their clubs.

Action: HM, AF, JH

c. Grant support for marathon racing paper to be shared with BC

JF confirmed that the MRC have received a £50,000 grant from PUK.

d. Awareness about PUK Athlete Support Scheme

HM confirmed having shared information regarding the Athlete Support Scheme in the MRC Facebook Group. It has also been included in the selection policy. HM to also include post on the MRC website.

Action: HM

e. Updating of rule book to include time penalties & disqualification

MN confirmed that the rule book has been updated.

ES provided an update on the progress of enabling Racman to facilitate the changes, by addition of notes. ES is in the final stages of testing a system whereby Racman will have a specific column in the finishers sheet for time allowances & penalties and a dropdown box to select the reason. It is hoped that this will be tested at a Hasler soon, perhaps Wey Hasler.

Action: ES

f. Updating of rule book to reflect K2 racing divisions

MN confirmed that the rule book has been updated.

g. Other changes to handbook

MN asked the committee whether there may be a need to update the rule book to mandate that Hasler hosts include all classes at their events and that they do not become selective. It was concluded that at this point the existing wording in the rule book is strong enough.

Action: MN to remind the club(s) involved about what their commitment is.

i. New proposed schedule for nationals including different distances

ES confirmed that the schedule could accommodate the requested changes to distances however there will not be a suitable 10km course in Reading in 2024 (there are only 8km and 13km courses available). The 2025 host will be encouraged to offer a 10km course if possible.

h. Hasler finals qualification paper

DS, MN, DMS, JF met. It was ultimately concluded that potential changes discussed at the November meeting will not take effect for the upcoming season. The committee is aware that new solutions, to increase participation and ensure qualifying clubs do send reasonable team sizes will need to be considered for the following season.

Action: JF, MN, DMS, ES to meet again and consider the problem again

i. ICF & ECA ITO Nominations

BC confirmed that both nominations were put forward and accepted for assessment at the World Championships. The committee will need to arrange transport for these nominees (Dan and Maddie) and ensure they are adequately prepared for assessment.

Action: DS & BC

j. ICF Rule Change

BC updated the committee on proposed ICF rule changes from 2025. These include: Junior Short Course racing and Para racing acquiring World Championship status, doubles classes in masters changing to 10 year age groups rather than 5 year age groups, electronic devices (e.g. GPS) being explicitly permitted. A proposal from Hungary has been made to increase boat weight to sprint weight but this has not been accepted by the ICF.

BC also confirmed having fed back the MRC's desire for paddlers to be given

an explanation regarding the outcome of their appeal, so that they can learn for future.

k. Minibus

SM posed the question to the committee about whether keeping the minibus at Lea Valley may be beneficial. The committee preferred for the minibus to be kept in Nottingham as it was felt this would be easier to get to for drivers.

Action: SM

l. DS's document offering guidance on taking minibus abroad to be shared publicly

HM confirmed having shared this.

m. Welfare plan

This item has been moved forward to the next meeting.

Action: HM

4. Finance

a. Donation to DW

SM updated the committee on the MRC's decision to donate to the DW committee.

AF & KW were nominated as representatives from the MRC that would liaise with the DW committee to share ideas for the event for 2025 onwards.

BP gave a safety update on one major problem that occurred during the early hours of the morning and the need for a Critical Incident Plan at MRC events as apparently that was lacking.

Action: KW & AF

b. We have been notified by PUK that if we need additional funding to send marathon paddlers to 5km events with the sprint team then we should ask
KW informed the committee of her conversations with the SRC, whereby it was agreed that the SRC would select and organise logistics for those racing the 5km event as has traditionally been the case. This will be reviewed for next season as it was felt that an assessment with a portage may be more appropriate and not necessarily possible at HPP.

Incidentally, BC informed the committee that expenses for the Super Cup in China will be paid for by the organisation. Athletes will be invited based on their World Championship results so the MRC does not need to consider selecting or budgeting.

Action: HM to post on social media/website to encourage paddlers to race the 5k event

c. FYI a new process will be laid down regarding budgets and ongoing funding from BC. More to come in due course.

SM made the committee aware of the upcoming new processes. It is not thought that this will affect greatly the MRC current timescales and information that we provide.

5. Domestic Racing

a. Acknowledgment of Paddle UK annual safety report ([Appendix B](#)) & need

to reinforce the awareness of the rule to marathon paddlers and clubs
JH informed the committee that the report has now been shared with clubs.

6. International

a. Update on sending teams to World University Games and Senior Worlds in Samarkand (Uzbekistan)

As above (4b), the MRC will be sending a team to the World University Games. The SRC will take care of sending a team to the Senior World Championships.

b. New racing kit available from Apr 24, happy for old kit to be used this season but must change for 2025 season

The committee were informed about the above timelines.

7. Any other business

a. PUK Marathon specific logo incoming

It was agreed that the committee is happy for the discipline-specific logo to have the single word 'Marathon', rather than 'Canoe Marathon'. HM will share discipline-specific logo in due course.

HM will also share the PUK branding kit with the committee.

Action: HM

b. Regulations and Administration document to be updated (ref co-opting of selection committee) and rebranded to Paddle UK – MN

MN to update the online version of the Regulations & Administration document to reflect being able to co-opt all members of the selection committee. MN to also rebrand document with PUK branding. HM to update on website.

Action: MN & HM

c. PUK will soon add disciplines linked websites through to it & are keen to promote competition; so they don't appear too leisure focussed

The committee were informed about the above.

c. PUK need two MRC volunteers to sit on another disciplines' complaint panel

AF has agreed to volunteer. SM to put forward the nomination.

Action: AF & SM

d. New coaching assessment system including two versions of the assessment: one on placid water ie canals and the other on moderate rivers and big lakes (Appendix C)

SH informed the committee on the above & also confirmed the need for the 2-day first aid course regardless of whether the assessment is taken on 'placid' or 'moderate' water.

e. Whether coach course assessors should run an assessment in sit and switch marathon canoes

SH confirmed that assessors can run an assessment in sit and switch marathon canoes. The candidate will still have to meet all the same requirements in terms of rescues and such like. The need for more people to

become assessors/deliverers was discussed and HM will share this on the website/social media.

Action: HM

f. Standards of deployment paper

JH informed the committee that the standards of deployment will shortly be ready for circulation. This paper will suggest that everyone involved in formal club coaching needs to be qualified. JH reassured the committee that this is based around formal arrangements and not applicable to informal coaching arrangements. JH also offered to run a briefing course on this matter after the paper is ready. JH also noted that the paper will announce another round of the club coaches bursary and the 'stronger together' fund. **Action JH**

g. How to work with clubs to qualify more coaches

The committee discussed whether there are specific people in clubs that our committee can identify and work with to get them coaching to the next level. The committee discussed potentially asking each club whether they have any coaches that they'd like to qualify formally. The committee is aware that while the bursary may help the financial barriers to coaching qualifications, many volunteers simply do not have the time. It was agreed that we would wait until the Standards of Deployment paper was published as it was felt that this may offer incentives to qualifying coaches.

h. Update on entry system

ES informed the committee that the entry system has now been set up such that any event on our entry system will automatically go on the calendar on the Paddle UK website.

i. Short course nationals

HM & ES asked MRC members to complete the form to volunteer their time at the Short Course Nationals.

ES encouraged the committee to encourage Veteran Women to enter the event, a class often poorly represented.

Action: All

j. ACM

The need to publish who is retiring by rotation and who will be re-standing at the ACM was discussed.

Action: AF to put together information, HM to share

8. Future Meeting Dates 2024 - To be discussed:

- a. ACM - Monday 10th June @ 8pm?
- b. 'New Committee' Meeting – Online. Date 24th June before holiday season starts.
- c. 'All day' meeting 16th November 2024.

The meeting closed at 21:15pm.

