**British Canoeing Marathon Racing Committee
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 7.30am on 25 May 2022**

*Meeting via Zoom.*

***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. Present**

Stan Missen (SM) (Chair)

Siobhan Urquhart (SU)

Graham Warland (GW)

Bryn Price (BP)
Dan Seaford (DMS)
Mick Nadal (MN)

Brian Chapman (BC)

Roland Lawler (RL)
Jim Rossiter (JR)
Scott Hynds (SH)
Evan Shepherd (ES)
Holly Mobbs (HM)
Kat Wilson (KW)

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

David Enoch (DE) David Sackman (DJS)

1. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting 26 March 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of 20 November were approved by the committee.

1. **Matters Arising (covered in Appendix B)**
2. *MRC Trailer* – this is still for sale

**Action: KW, DE**

b) *IT Agreement with Will Abson* – this is still outstanding. It has been verbally sorted.

**Action: DMS to resolve**

c)Strategic Plan – there have been no changed to the draft that was sent to BC.

**5. Finance – updated budget was circulated**

There have been some complaints re payments through the race entry system. DMS advised Wey had had problems, but these had been resolved by the time he was made aware of them.

BP queried if VAT should be charged if clubs

**6. Domestic Racing**

a) It was agreed that paddlers may count *EITHER* the Short Course or the Long Course National Championships as one of their qualification races for the Hasler Finals, but not both.

**Action: MN to add to rules**

b) There was a request for clarification regarding demotion from Division 3 to Division 4. It was agreed that no change was needed to the existing system – a request can be put to the Rankings Officer via their RMA, however this should generally not be done more than once a season.

**Action: MN to reply**

c) The proposal to change the distance for Div 4 K2 to 12 miles was discussed, but it was agreed to leave it as is.

d) The proposed restriction of paddlers to their ranking distance was discussed. Although generally thought to be a good idea, it was agreed to leave it for this year as the focus for 2022 was to get people racing again.

e) A request to include the option of a double ski was agreed, and the rules will be changed to reflect the use of skis generally, rather than specifying K1, but the situation would be monitored.

**Action: MN to amend the rules**

f) SM reported that British Canoeing’s digital event ticket system would not be in place by their target of March 2022, so race organisers will need to continue to produce them manually.

g) A request to include a O74 class at the National Marathon Championships was agreed, with effect from this year.

**Action: DMS to advise Worcester CC, SU to reply to Mike Purchas and to advise Neil Urquhart re additional medals**

f) A paper from James Hinves covering BC insurance coverage with regard to Associate Members was circulated. It was stressed that clubs MUST keep their British Canoeing portal updated with new members, or they will not show up on the database. James Hinves is happy to discuss this process with clubs. It was suggested that all clubs hosting an event have their risk assessment easily available as a digital download alongside the entry process.

**Action: SU to put the paper and a reminder to clubs on the MRC website.**

SM reported there is a raft of compliance coming down from British Canoeing, and it is likely they will want to make the MRC responsible for all marathon races. It has always been the view of the MRC that they cannot take responsibility for all races, and this must lie with the host club, as the MRC would not have the local knowledge required.

**7. Coaching & Development**

a) HM reported that the JDS (a joint venture between MRC, SRC and the Talent Department) is working well. There have been 3 very successful training days, with an average of 60 athletes at each. HM is working on the long-term strategy of the JDS with Imogen Collins from the Talent Dept.

There will be a training camp at Norwich in August, aimed at those below French Nationals selection. The fees for this will be kept as low as possible (currently looking at under £25/day). A request for the MRC to fund the payment for the campsite (£600) was agreed, plus possibly a further contribution if required.

b) SH reported that the BC coaching department are aware of their lack of knowledge regarding race coaching and have asked for a list of suggestions of what is needed for less experienced club coaches - what support is needed, and how that is best delivered. The digital library has few resources for racing, and some is dated although still relevant. They are aiming to do a series of podcasts on racing skills for coaches and athletes in April, but no details yet. There are also plans to produce some rescue videos by August.

**Action: Encourage club coaches to input suggestions to Scott via the website/Facebook page. SH/SU**

1. The coaching dept have also requested help with advice for new bank-based coaches, and would also like a list of coaches with specific skills and willing to share their knowledge.

e) Coaching bursary – there is funding in the budget. In order to help smaller clubs who cannot put together enough candidates for a full course, it was agreed the MRC should set up courses and advertise the dates. The cost to the aspiring coach is only £20/head. BP reported Sport England are offering £100/person for qualifications up to Level 2 (discipline award equivalent).

**Action: SH to set some course dates and communicate with the clubs**

f) Coach Development – SH reported that Pete Catterall has left BC, and they are recruiting a replacement. However, it will be a different role, and initially only a short-term contract for £10,000/pa. The appointee will be covering all non-Olympic disciplines, and is supposed to meet with each one once a month.

g) SU reported the first pilot day for introducing female paddlers to racing had been postponed due to lack of interest. Norwich CC are holding one on 2 May, and the intent is to run more during the year. There is a clear lack of knowledge about the sport even within the paddling (but non-racing) community, and more work can be done via the #shepaddles group.

**Action: SU to progress**

**8. Major Events**

 a) *Short Course Nationals* – ES reported numbers are rising (125 plus at time of meeting). Whilst they are due to close on 1 April, they will stay open for non-quorate classes. Although the event will not break even, the MRC will not be required to pay the full £5,000 it had agreed to underwrite.

It was agreed the club competition would be based on participation and points.

b) DS reported all is going well for the National Marathon Championships to be held at Worcester CC. Para classes added to the programme.

**Action: DS to confirm number of medals required to SU**

c) HM reported all is going well for the Hasler Finals, being hosted by Wey KC at Runnymede. Addlestone CC are covering the safety and entertainment for spectators. There will be a strong green/environmental emphasis to the day, which will be a no plastic event. Car parking has been arranged and will be paid via an app direct to the council.

e) Proposal for the MRC to choose a venue for Nationals and Hasler Finals, and invite clubs associated with that venue to participate in the organisation with the MRC being fully responsible for entries and results – postponed to next meeting

**Action: SU to put on future agenda**

**9. Internationals**

a) A paper from KW was read out to the meeting and subsequently circulated. In particular, this referenced a clash between the Long Course Assessment race and the Junior/U23 Wildwater Selection event, the possible inclusion of para classes at the marathon world championships, and additions to the selection policy to reflect these.

**Action: Any concerns to be sent to KW**

b) Athlete squad training – at present there is nothing specifically organised. It is recognised that many of the senior men are training together at Nottingham KC, but there is no official provision for others.

c) Hosting a major international in 2027 – referred to next meeting.

**10. AOB**

* It was agreed that the 2022 ACM would be online

**Action: DMS to set up means of doing so with the provision for voting.**

* SM proposed the MRC should have its own logo. This was agreed

**Action: ?? to ask Liam Heath**

* SM is attending a Discipline Chairs meeting and requested any issues likely to affect marathon racing in the coming years to be sent to him as a matter of urgency.
* BP reported that a crew boat with paddlers from different countries will not be recognised at the Masters’ World Championships, but would be downgraded to a World Cup standard. BP is organising a masters’ training day.
* JR asked if an order for SE region race numbers could be put through the MRC, and then paid back – agreed.
* DJS and GW said timings for athlete paperwork etc for the World Cup were very tight from the selection point. All athletes and staff also need to do the drugs awareness course in time.
* RL would like the proposal of a joint competition committee to be raised again, and feels British Canoeing is not promoting or supporting the competition clubs and needs to promote the “sport” of canoeing, rather than just the recreational side. SH said BC’s imagery should be more reflective of this too.
* HM raised the issue of aggressive behaviour by some paddlers in the recent Waterside and Thameside races, and ES reported an incident as starter of being sworn at by a paddler for not starting the race before the allotted time.

**Action: wording about behaviour to go on website, and behaviour at future races to be monitored. SM/SU**

**12. Meeting Dates 2022**

* May meeting – tbc
* ACM – July 13 2022 at 7.30 – online
* 11 September 2022, 8.30 – 11am at The Dolphin Centre, Pangbourne (ahead of the Pangbourne Hasler)
* 19 November 2022 – 9.00 – 3.00 at Cropredy Village Hall. All day meeting.