

**British Canoeing Marathon Racing Committee
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 8.30am on 11 September 2022 at
Adventure Dolphin, Pangbourne.**

1. Present

Stan Missen (SM) (Chair)
Siobhan Urquhart (SU)
David Sackman (DJS)
Graham Warland (GW)
Bryn Price (BP)
Dan Seaford (DMS)
Roland Lawler (RL)
David Enoch (DE)
Scott Hynds (SH)
Evan Shepherd (ES)
Holly Mobbs (HM)
Kat Wilson (KW)

Attending via zoom: Brian Chapman (BC), Mick Nadal (MN) Nettie North (NN),
Dyson Pendle (DP)

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. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 25 May

The minutes of the meeting of 25 May 2022 were approved by the committee.

2. Matters Arising

a) *MRC Trailer* – ongoing - but there is some significant interest. DE has asked BC to service the trailer.

Action: KW, DE

b) *IT Agreement with Will Abson* – still agreed verbally, but not in writing. SM advised this needed to be done by the November meeting, including any financial implications for the budget.

Action: DMS/ES to resolve by November meeting

c) Website – the new website has been launched – with thanks to Holly Mobbs and Trevor Kirkham.

d) Space for sale on the MRC trailer to internationals – BP advised that no masters athletes need space for the World Championships. DJS advised that there is one extra boat being carried.

DE proposed the charge should be raised to £100/boat for non-team members – this was agreed with immediate effect.

e) Advice re ensuring paddlers noted their promotions and raced in the correct division – done.

f) South Cerney – Craig Hill (Marsport) is now responsible for bookings onto the lake. KW will discuss the possibility of an assessment race there – probably a short-course one.

ES/SM – to visit the lake

g) Packers CC and Cardiff Bay – still awaiting responses

h) Clubs having responsibility for their own promotions/demotions. RL advised he was getting more requests for demotions, so felt this was happening naturally. KW suggested more communication encouraging paddlers to race up a division. The proposal will be discussed further at the November meeting.

MN to advise RMAs and get their views

All – to discuss with other paddlers for their views

3. Governance

a) ACM and Elections

Stan Missen was re-elected as Chair, and the following were re-elected to the committee – Mick Nadal, Kat Wilson, David Sackman, Roland Lawler, Bryn Price and Siobhan Urquhart. In addition, Scott Hynds was elected to the committee, having previously been co-opted. Nettie North and Dan Seaford continue to be co-opted.

b) Committee Roles for 2022/23

- Chair – Stan Missen
- Secretary – Siobhan Urquhart
- Treasurer – David Enoch (future replacement to be sourced)
- Communications/Website – Holly Mobbs (Siobhan Urquhart)
- Safeguarding – Holly Mobbs, Kat Wilson
- Rules – Mick Nadal (Evan Shephard, Bryn Price)
- Equality/Diversity/Inclusivity – Siobhan Urquhart
- Environmental – Bryn Price

- Major Events – Dan Seaford, Kat Wilson, Holly Mobbs, Evan Shephard
- RMA Liaison – Mick Nadal
- Race Records – Graham Warland
- Race Management – Dan Seaford, Evan Shephard
- Calendar – Graham Warland
- Rankings – Roland Lawler (Scott Hynds, Evan Shephard)
- Event Safety – Mick Nadal
- Trophies – Siobhan Urquhart (Neil Urquhart)
- Senior Athlete Development – Scott Hynds (Dyson Pendle)
- Junior Athlete Development – Nettie North, Holly Mobbs
- International Logistics – David Sackman, Graham Warland (?)
- Masters Racing – Bryn Price
- International Event Planning – Brian Chapman
- Selection Committee – Chair, Nettie North, Secretary, Kat Wilson, Committee members TBA

4. Finance

a) Budget

DE advised the projected £6,000 loss for the year had increased to around £11,000, partly due to the confusion over costs for Sanabria this year. It is thus anticipated the final balance will be around £48,000.

It was agreed that the para athletes would be asked to pay the same athlete contribution as all other athletes.

DJS suggested that inclusion of para athletes at future events will need to be factored into the costs and planning, as this will include additional bus hire, as well as leading to longer events, with the associated implications for team staff.

DP reported the stock of team kit had been run down during 2022, and new kit would be required for 2023.

Action:

All – to advise DE of any budget requirements for 2023

DP – advise DE of proposed kit requirements and costs for 2023

b) MRC Minibus

DE proposed selling the MRC minibus, and not replacing it. The current income is primarily from the MRC, and costs are around £4,000 pa. Following discussions with BC, they have advised they have sufficient other buses and, when needed, would hire in additional buses via a rolling contract with a local company in Bingham. The costs to the MRC for the hire would be similar to those charged by BC (around £100/day).

The risks and merits of selling the bus were discussed, as was the possibility of keeping it for one more year.

Action: DE to get formal confirmation from BC that they would ensure there will always be a bus available for the MRC, and to ascertain costs of cosmetically tidying up the current bus and keeping it for one more year.

c) Squad K2s

DE proposed selling the 2 Vajda K2s (one L, one M/L) that the MRC owns, and which have been unused and in storage at Nottingham for some time. It was agreed to sell these

Action: DJS to collect the boats. DMS to arrange publicity with HM, and to invite sealed bids, with a view to them being collected at the Hasler Finals.

5. Domestic Racing

a) Cost of entries

The apparent increase in the cost of entering Hasler races had been raised with the committee. It was agreed the MRC cannot set a figure but can give guidance. The suggested entry price is around £12 for seniors, but with the understanding that, for some races (particularly the Nationals and Hasler finals) organising costs are higher than average. However, entry prices should not be inflated just to make additional profits for a club. Our sport needs lifting in profile and additional entry fees levels can be justified where better facilities or infrastructure is being provided.

b) Closing Date for Entries

A question had been raised about the earlier closing date for entries, and the cost of late entries.

Late entries – it was agreed that these are up to individual clubs – whether they are prepared to accept them, or if they wish to charge for them.

Closing dates – the risk of early closing dates was raised, as this can cause problems with promotions/demotions from the previous weekend not having been ratified. MN to ensure RMAs understand that an early closing date will likely lead to changes being required for race day. Ideally late Thursday/early Friday would be the *earliest* closing date.

Action: MN to ensure RMAs understand this. The advice should be on the website – HM to check

c) Average of K2 Divisions at Hasler Finals

Duddon CC had asked for a rule change to allow a K2 could run in the division of the average of the two paddlers (as in usual Hasler races) rather than that of the highest-ranked paddler – currently the situation at the Hasler Finals. It was agreed that, whilst it is understood to be an issue for some smaller clubs, it could be open to abuse by the bigger ones, and there would be no change at this stage.

d) Portage Time Allowance

A request had been made from Norwich CC that, where there is no option of a paddle-through portage, there should be a time allowance/adjustment for

paddlers medically unable to run the portage. It was agreed that this would be very difficult to implement, and that marathon racing poses different challenges for different people at different locations. RL advised that, if clubs were to do their own rankings, it would be possible for a paddler to race in a lower division at a location where they were truly seen to have a disadvantage.

Action: SU to reply to Norwich CC

6. Major Events

a) National Championships Worcester 2022

It was agreed that, overall, it was a very successful event but, in the interests of time, a full report and review will be presented at the November meeting. It was suggested that MRC members should be more visible at such events (MRC kit?), and a different process will be included for potential disqualifications. RL asked that the National championships should not be an Assessment Race in future years.

Action: All - any comments on the Nationals to DMS for the November meeting.

b) Hasler Finals- Runnymede, Wey CC hosting

HM reported that plans were all in hand. A decision is still due on whether or not there is to be a portage, as it will only be in place if it can be done safely with the floating pontoon. Due to the use of National Trust land, to secure this new venue, a parking fee will be payable.

c) MRC medals

As the current stock of National medals has been depleted, DE suggested this was time to review if the MRC wished to carry on with the usual boxed & engraved medals (at a cost of around £6/medal) or whether there was a desire to change to the standard BC ones, with an associated cost saving.

It was agreed the MRC should order sufficient quantities to continue to award the boxed medals for another two years but that the levy for the major events (Nationals, Short Course Nationals and Hasler Finals) would then need to be increased by an additional £1/head. The MRC is increasingly incurring considerable running costs and providing additional services for these major events. How this matter is dealt with in future years needs some further consideration.

d) 2023 Major Events

Following the meeting, DP confirmed Norwich have agreed to host the 2023 National Championships, and their preferred dates are 15/16 July.

As yet there is no location/date for the 2023 Hasler Finals, but possible locations for future major events include:

- Longridge (new race location)
- Wokingham
- Reading (potentially hosting the Nationals in 2024)

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- Nottingham (if the MRC can undertake additional IT responsibilities)

SH advised spectator/entertainment level should be considered when looking at a venue.

SM proposed that the major events revolve around the regions, and it would be the combined responsibility of the clubs in each region to co-host the event, thus encouraging clubs to work together, and to find new venues and share profits made.

NN reported that, at a recent cycling event, competitors raced for the clubs to qualify, but at the National championships raced *for their region*, and so regions ran the event.

Action: all to consider options for clubs and regions to work together, and discuss further at the November meeting, with a view to introducing this from 2024

7. International Events

a) Selection

KW had produced a brief statement at the conclusion of selections for the year. Due to an increase in funding from BC, it had been possible to select 4 rather than 2 para-athletes, and the MRC budget had also stretched to take 14 to the World Championships. Two selected paddlers had declined their places at the French Nationals, but these were taken up by the named reserves.

One review had been requested against the World Championship selections – this has now progressed to Stage 2 (with BC becoming involved) and should be reported upon later in the week. KW was confident that the selection process had been robust but if it had not then we will learn from the outcome.

It was agreed that there had been difficulties with logistics this year, partly due to changes in the programme such as the introduction of the World Games, and the inclusion of a para event at the World Championships, with very late information coming from ICF. There had also been difficulties with a new selection committee, following the loss of James Smythe and his extensive knowledge. It was agreed that there needed to be better communication next year, and more time allowed between assessment dates and the international races – the difficulties of arranging these around major marathon and sprint events, and sprint selections was recognised and it was questioned whether the Nationals are appropriate as a selection race.

SH suggested someone (athlete or staff) should formally report back to the selection committee following an international event, to help with future planning.

BP reported on successes for masters athletes at the European Championships, and that there is a large team going to the World Championships.

Action: KW to bring forward the names of the 2023 selection committee and the 2023 selection process to the November meeting.

b) Hosting an International Event

BC advised that, due to funding requirements, the only venue that can now be considered as anywhere near viable to host the World Championships in 2027 is Strathclyde Park. He also advised that the MRC needed to make an immediate decision to either discount hosting an event in 2027, or to agree in principle to proceed to the next step with Strathclyde Park. A further non-binding commitment will be needed by 1 November. SH asked if, should Scotland become independent in the meantime, would that pose a problem – it was thought not. The MRC agreed in principle to be considered to host the World Championships in 2027 at Strathclyde Park, and BC will now invite Ruud Heijnselaar (ICF) to The Hooley to assess the venue.

Action: BC to advise Gemma Wiggs that the MRC agreed in principle, and to circulate his proposal paper on the event.

8. Communications

HM asked that anything to go on the website be sent to both her and SU to ensure timely postings. SM asked again that information is posted on the website first, prior to going onto social media.

Action: All

The meeting closed at 10.34.

Future Meetings:

- 19 November 2022 – 9.00 – 3.00 at Cropredy Village Hall. All day meeting.