

BC Marathon Racing Committee 2023 Annual Consultative Meeting

This meeting will be held online on 12 July 2023, commencing at 7.30pm for approx 1 hour,

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86700222940?pwd=UUN5UjczY1NTbVVuMkJXd1NhQk4vUT09>

Meeting ID: 867 0022 2940

Passcode: 510761

Dial by your location

- **+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom**
- **+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom**

Meeting details

We use a one club, one vote system.

Voting will be done by a show of hands/in the chat box on the night to approve the 2022 Minutes and for the election to the committee, as there are more vacancies than candidates. Every club should endeavour to send one nominated representative to the meeting, but it is open to all BC members and supporters.

All the papers for this meeting are contained within this document:

P2	Agenda
P 3-7	Appendix A – Draft Minutes of the 2022 MRC ACM
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MRC 2023 ACM - AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Consultative Meeting (Appendix A, p3)
3. Report from the Chairman, Stan Missen (Appendix B, p8)
4. Election of Committee Posts (Appendix C, p10)
 - a. Chair - Stan Missen retiring by annual rotation.
 - b. Committee – six candidates for seven committee places:
5. Finance - report from the Treasurer, David Enoch (Appendix D1, p13 and Appendix D2, p14)
6. Domestic Racing
 - a. Changes in number of races to count for clubs to reduce financial and environmental impact (Appendix E, p17)
7. Open to the membership to suggest issues to be considered by the MRC at future meetings

Appendix A – Minutes of the 2022 ACM

British Canoeing Marathon Racing Committee

Minutes of the Annual Consultative Meeting held on 13th July 2022 at 7.30pm via Zoom online meeting

Present at the meeting. *Names were taken by registering in the online chat function prior to the start of the meeting. As a result, names of those joining later may not have been collected:*

Stan Missen (Bradford on Avon)	Jo Bates (Falcon)
Evan Shephard (Reading)	Brian Chapman (Kirkcaldy)
Greg Spencer (Pennine/CRC)	Emma Riley (Fowey)
Julia Lawley (Solihull)	Simon Tilbury Clarke (RAFCA)
Steve Moule (Chelmsford)	Mick Nadal (Nottingham)
Nigel Chivers (Devizes)	Doug Pemble (Addlestone)
Bryn Price (Maidstone)	Holly Mobbs (Wey)
Clive Williams (Newbury)	Siobhan Urquhart (Banbury)
Dan Seaford (Reading)	David Enoch (Nottingham)
Scott Hynds (Elmbridge)	Kat Wilson (Reading)
Nanette North (Independent)	David Palfrey (Wokingham)
Peter Gorman (Wey)	Paul Thompson (Wey)
Simon Eskriett (Gailey)	Roland Lawler (Elmbridge)
Jason Toovey (Linlithgow)	Tim Scott (Norwich)
Bill Sharpe (Truro)	Chelsea Brookes (Gailey)
George Scammell (Windsor)	Simone Rook (Sutton Bingham)
Graham Simpkin (Glanford and Scunthorpe)	David Martyn (Wey)

1. Apologies for absence

Graham Warland (Banbury)	Chris Jones (Devizes)
Dave Sackman (Reading)	David Howie (Basingstoke)

2. Approval of 2021 ACM Minutes

The minutes of the 2021 Annual Consultative Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from the minutes that are not included in the discussion points below

3. Report from the Chair, Stan Missen

The Chairman, Stan Missen, delivered the following report:

My last report was presented in July 21 after a very successful National Championships had been held at Reading. Our first major event, post Covid. The future of regular events was however still somewhat uncertain but despite the gloom, racing has slowly returned, as our domestic programme was rekindled. The Hasler Club Championship resumed from 1st September and with some considerable enthusiasm from clubs and paddlers alike, despite the approaching dark nights and cooler weather.

The start of 2022 was quickly upon us, and we saw a good entry for the Waterside and associated events but, as our treasurer mentions in his report, a significant reduction in numbers racing

compared with pre Covid times. This decline has been apparent at a wide number of races, but thankfully not all. Your committee believed it important to limit any major competition or rule changes in 2022, as event organisers rebuild their races.

During this time we have been lucky, despite our reduced levy income, to maintain our financial position with prudent management and greater support from British Canoeing. This has enabled us to send representation to major events, as international competition restarts.

Domestic racing must however be our immediate focus and the ACM provides an opportunity for clubs and individuals to highlight areas of improvement or concerns; so that your committee can consider and take action where appropriate.

We welcome these comments as we all have the collective interest in improving our sport and our enjoyment derived from competing. Sometimes individual suggestions look interesting on their own but the knock-on effect for the wider region, club or individual can be difficult to deal with and this is when the enormous experience of your committee is then vital, in examining such issues, before making potentially damaging changes.

The committee will meet again in early September and as normal also have a full day looking at the format of our clubs, regions and competition, in November. Necessary rule changes would then be ready to phase in and implement if felt appropriate and realistic.

Your committee welcomes comment and observations *at any time*, not just at this annual ACM.

As always, I would like to thank the committee for all the hard work put in during the year.

And finally, I must mention the hugely successful inaugural National Short Course Championships, that took place early in 2022 - a great success, but tinged with some sadness that James Smythe, a long term and substantial contributor to our sport, and instigator of this new competition, passed away only days before the event.

4. Election of Committee Posts

The MRC elects committee places on a rolling basis, for a period of two years with the election of the Chair taking place annually. Seven ordinary places were up for election, with seven candidates.

Under its Terms of Reference, the MRC operates a one club, one vote policy for Committee elections. Voting took place online,

a) Election of Chair

Stan Missen (Bradford on Avon) was re-elected unanimously as Chair of the MRC for the forthcoming year.

b) Election of Committee Posts

Mick Nadal (Nottingham), Dave Sackman (Reading), Scott Hynds (Elmbridge), Siobhan Urquhart (Banbury), Kat Wilson (Reading), Roland Lawler (Elmbridge) and Bryn Price (Maidstone) were elected unanimously to stand as members of the MRC for the next two years.

5. Finance Report

David Enoch (MRC Treasurer) presented the committee's audited accounts and the following report:-

Our financial year runs to 31st October so the last set of fully audited accounts are up to 31st Oct. 2021. You will see that we carried forward reserves of £59,617.

With the decline of Covid there has been a general return to domestic racing this year although a steady decline of about 20% in race levy income from the last "normal" year. This is probably due to a hangover from Covid and the increased cost of travel. This means our income from race levies is likely to be down to £24k.

There has also been a return to international racing with us sending teams to Prague, USA, Denmark and Portugal as well as development teams to Germany, Spain and France. The cost of these has increased substantially in the last couple of years and now, due to Brexit, we have to purchase a carnet for each trip with the bus and trailer. Despite this we have managed to keep the athlete contributions to GB team trips at the same level.

We have also been able to invest £5k in supporting race coach courses and to underwrite the new Short Course Nationals by £2k which were a fitting tribute to James Smyth who devised them.

With an increase in our central grant from British Canoeing to £40k I anticipate that we will make an overall "loss" this year of about £7.5k reducing our reserves to £52k.

Bill Sharpe expressed the view that he hoped athletes would not have to bear the brunt of increased costs for international events. David Enoch confirmed that all would be done to make it as affordable as possible. Kat Wilson said we would need to look into sponsorship opportunities.

6. Domestic Racing

The Changes to Rules for Quorate in National Classes was clarified, as below. There were no comments from the membership.

In order to avoid penalising those who take part, the requirement for a class to have a minimum number of starters has been removed. As a result, all classes will take place where there are entries for them, and team points and prizes will be awarded in all classes that take place. If there are low entries in a class, it will be started with other appropriate classes of the same distance where possible, but the results will be separated.

Where there are high entries in a class, the start may be seeded.

All decisions about combined starts or seeding will be made by the MRC Major Events Sub-committee in partnership with the organising committee, and will be appropriate to venue/conditions.

7. Issues Raised for Committee consideration at future meetings

- a) *The committee had been asked to consider the issue of distances that some clubs need to travel within their regions to qualify for the Hasler Finals, and the associated burden of fuel costs and the environmental impact.*

Bill Sharpe commented that this was particularly an issue in the south-west region, where there are great distances between clubs and races, and travelling is also impacted during the holiday season.

The committee will consider if there are options that, enable competitors to reduce travelling costs and times, without having a negative impact on those clubs at the edges of regions

b) The committee was asked to consider if the distance gap between Divisions 4 and 3 is too great a challenge for some. With fewer entries in Div 3 races than in Div 4, some paddlers, of different ages, have suggested that the large step up in distance is an issue, and that Division 3 could be shorter, with Divisions 1 and 2 kept at the longer distance.

During the discussion on this, the following points were raised:

- Some masters athletes feel they are on the boundary of Divisions 3 and 4, but when promoted to 3, do not have the time/fitness to race 12 miles on a regular basis.
- It was felt the current system may prevent some Division 3 parents racing K2 with their children, who may not be ready for a 12 mile race.
- It was highlighted that, with so few junior women in Division 3, reducing the distance to 8 miles would give them even fewer opportunities to prepare for international racing. It was suggested that those wanting to race 12 miles could race up in Divisions 2 and 1 - but for junior women in Division 4, this would mean racing up two divisions.
- There was concern that those wanting to avoid a 12 mile race might deliberately slow down the front of a Division 4 race to avoid promotion, thus impacting others in their race and distorting the promotion times.
- Evan Shephard has done some analysis of divisional speeds over the years. His initial view is the gap between Divisions 4 and 3 has increased, possibly with a decrease in Division 4 speed, thus causing some of the problem.
- It was clarified that paddlers can always elect to race up in a higher division. They cannot race down however, without having been demoted through the system.

The committee will consider these views and continue to look for the best solution.

c) The committee was asked to consider a proposal that races for older (masters) paddlers are kept to around an hour in length (eg 8 mile races), and those who want a longer race can enter a higher division.

It was also suggested that requiring older paddlers to take unnecessary portages is not inspiring for younger paddlers or spectators.

- Keeping races to one hour was covered in the discussion above.
- A number of people suggested having portages in a race was an important aspect of the sport that should not be lost.

- It was confirmed that, at the National Championships, portages are not required for the older age categories (O54 and above).
- d) *A concern has been raised that marathon racing has become a bit bland and predictable – can the MRC help clubs run some other racing – eg descent races, that will provide more variety and interest, as well as helping develop better paddling and racing skills?*
- Bill Sharpe commented in the South West there were a number of successful time trial races in the winter which add some variety to the programme. Although Newbury CC are not holding a summer Waterside race this year, Clive Williams said there had been some interest in one, and agreed that time trials are proving popular.
 - Emma Riley said the Camel race has had to be reduced to smaller laps, due to health and safety pressure from the Harbour Master. Bill Sharpe agreed with the increasing push from Harbour Masters, who do not do anything with regards to safety, but are increasing charges for paddlers to get on the water.
- e) *Further Issues Raised*
- Jo Bates asked that the committee review after the National Championships if 4 miles is a sensible distance for the U12s, as most are only racing over 2 miles in the Geoff Sanders series. Kat Wilson said this could be reviewed before the championships, but added there is also an open mini event, which is not a championships race, which would be over a shorter distance. Evan Shephard said there were a number of U12s already racing in the divisional races, including a 9 year old in Division 8.
 - Greg Spencer asked if it was worth having standing item to identify who is doing other types of races. Stan Missen said the MRC had recently submitted a report to BC which had included other types of races, and greater awareness of these could be generated.
 - Brian Chapman asked the committee to acknowledge the good results from the World Games by the GB team of Sam Rees-Clark (Nottingham) and James Russell (Chelmsford). Despite some equipment issues, they raced successfully in small but very high quality fields. He also acknowledged the work of Tracy Rees-Clark as team manager, enabling the athletes to get on the water at the event.
 - Simone Rooks asked that the committee consider whether the mixed K2 class at the Nationals should now be in age categories due to the high number of entries. Stan Missen said this would be reviewed for 2023. Kat Wilson reported the feedback on the one class was overwhelmingly positive, as it is the only race open to everyone, and the nearest we have to the Sella race. Tim Scott agreed with Kat, as did Evan Shephard who will look at the age profile of those taking part.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm, with the Chairman thanking the Committee for their efforts in the past year, as well as all those who joined.

The next meetings of the MRC are on Sunday 11 September (at Pangbourne, prior to the Hasler race) and Saturday 19 November (all day meeting in Cropredy). Clubs are welcome to submit items for discussion to the Secretary, Siobhan Urquhart, two weeks in advance of these meetings

Appendix B – Chair’s Report 2023 from Stan Missen

I last reported in July 2022 at the ACM. We were still in a period of rebuilding our calendar and participant numbers following the previous interruptions caused by Covid. Progress has continued but we are still seeing some drops in entry numbers, at some races. This is possibly due to financial pressures that exist nationally but might also be merely as a result of less opportunities during Covid for people to join our sport but there has probably been some loss to other sports during that period too.

However Marathon is still in a good shape and not suffering from some of the problems of other disciplines and I am confident that we will see number rising as club activity continues to grow and a new generation of paddlers come through or return to participate.

In the meantime, we have continued to be supported generously by British Canoeing, as our grant application based upon a reasonable budget was approved, with the addition of some additional provision to enable Para representation at major internationals.

Our racing calendar is packed and we have encouraged organisers to try and reintroduce and build some of the more ‘Classic’ challenging courses of old, in an attempt to bring in more verity and broaden help boat skills. We would encourage this to continue and for paddlers to support clubs that run classis courses. There are a lot of old over stern rudder boats out there, in garages and clubs that need to be hauled out!

Your committee sought to make only minor changes in the racing rules in 2022 but we believe some are now due and the time is right.

The proposal to reduce the number of qualifying Hasler races needed in each region to seven follows from a review of racing in the Midlands but more importantly to address the environmental impact of our travel. Something that all sports are now having to consider.

Proposals are being discussed to increase the ability of individuals and clubs to qualify for the Hasler finals, as well as encourage clubs that easily qualify into fielding a strong number in their team attending. These proposals are discussed later in this meeting.

It has been apparent that getting clubs to take on the considerable work of running our major annual events, The National Championships and Hasler Finals, has not been easy and we particularly struggled this year, until Worcester came forward to host the Hasler finalks. We hope that we have already secured venues for 2024, well in advance. We would however like more clubs to consider joining forces in the own regions and find suitable venues to submit for consideration. This would enable smaller clubs to become involved and also benefit from the financial rewards of hosting.

It would not be right if I did not mention the tremendous results from our GB Teams at last years major events, particularly the World Championships. Congratulations to all those who were selected and a huge thank you to the coaches and MRC staff who make the selection process possible and organise of testing travel arrangements. They are all volunteers and spend a considerable amount of time on this work.

The Short Corse Nationals proved to be a huge success, which we will continue to build upon. Again, your committee members showed their worth in organising a fantastic days racing, all able to be watched at close quarters.

Finally, there are some retirements from the MRC that will see a number of your committee, who have been hugely committed in their work over many years, retiring and not restanding this year. We would like to thank them all for the commitment and work they have put in over many years. Dave Enoch is standing down from his role as treasurer, which has lasted for well over a decade and kept our modest income balanced with our considerable costs! We are grateful however that he has agreed to stand again for the committee, which will ensure a smooth transition. Of those not re-standing, Siobhan will be missed in her secretarial role and Dyson and Kat for their long-standing contributions and in their many athlete facing roles.

Stan Missen

June 2023

Appendix C – Nominations for the 2023/24 Committee

The following have volunteered to stand for election to the MRC at the ACM.

CHAIR - One Candidate.

Stan Missen, Bradford on Avon CC

Proposer: Mick Nadal Seconder: Siobhan Urquhart

I believe that our sport needs openness and clarity, and I have tried to bring that during my past few years as Chairman of the MRC. Having been involved in Marathon for many years and being from one of the smaller regional clubs myself, I have also tried to ensure that everyone's concerns and opinions are brought to, and are shown equal importance, in the work of the MRC. I am willing to stand for another term if required.

MEMBERS – Six candidates for seven positions:

- David Enoch (NKC)
- Joe Fitzpatrick (BSC)
- Anoushka Freeman (RCC)
- Holly Mobbs (WEY)
- Evan Shephard (RDG)
- Graham Warland (BAN)

David Enoch, Nottingham Kayak Club

Proposer: Norman Mason Seconder: Cathy Howell

I have been a member of the MRC for many years, and fulfilled a number of posts such as Secretary, Nationals co-ordinator and International Logistics Manager. I see serving on the committee as a way of putting something back into the sport that has given and my family so much pleasure, and I feel that my organisation skills are helpful in the running of our discipline.

I have been Treasurer for the last 12 years and, although I intend to stand down from that position, if re-elected I am committed to helping my successor to ensure a smooth transition.

Joe Fitzpatrick, Bishops Stortford Canoe Club

Proposer: Kat Wilson Seconder: Holly Mobbs

I have paddled since I was 8 years old and am a dedicated club paddler and a club coach.

I would like to join the MRC, as I believe marathon is the heartbeat of the flat-water world, and I would bring passion, energy, and different way of thinking.

My ambition, if I am elected, is to increase participation across all elements of the sport and to build up the Hasler numbers.

Anoushka Freeman, Richmond Canoe Club

Proposer: Lizzie Broughton Seconder: Tom Sharpe

Since starting kayaking as a novice school crew in the 2016 Devizes to Westminster race, I have had the opportunity to experience a huge variety of races - from DWs to Haslers, domestic descent races, and international marathon races. I've experienced first-hand the amazing impact that volunteers have within the canoeing community both in terms of developing athletes to be race-ready but also in terms of organising races, be that Haslers or selection/international races.

Having recently decided to step back from international racing, I'd love to give some of my free time back to the sport. I am particularly excited by the opportunity to contribute to discussions and actions to ensure that all types of marathon racing are as accessible as possible. I'd also enjoy contributing to the organisation of international trips and feel that having been on these trips as an athlete I'd be well placed to do so. Finally, I'd be happy to take over Siobhan's amazing work as secretary.

Holly Mobbs, Wey Kayak Club

Proposer: Peter Gorman. Seconder: Duncan Roeser

I am seeking re-election on the MRC this year to ensure I can continue my work within Junior Development, Communications and Major Events.

Over the last two years, I have greatly enjoyed the opportunities that the MRC role has provided me. Some of the roles/jobs I have managed to be achieve or support have been:

- the successful junior development programme with the SRC and BC Talent
- establishing and developing the Short Course Nationals as its own successful annual event
- improve engagement on the MRC social media accounts and the general coverage of the sport via British Canoeing, our own website and social media as well as national and regional media.

I am keen to continue these roles and work closely with the rest of community and committee to drive marathon canoeing forwards.

Evan Shephard, Reading Canoe Club

Proposer: Graham Warland Seconder: Siobhan Urquhart

I'm excited to put myself forward for another term on the committee. Paddling has been a big part of my life since I was a kid in Chelmsford. For the last 8 years, I've been Team Leader for Reading and more recently RMA for the Southern Region.

One of my favourite things about our sport is seeing new paddlers of all ages start to race and learn about it. I'm passionate about creating the best possible environment for our young juniors to learn racing and have the best chance of progressing. As part of this I have been coordinating promotions for the Geoff Sanders Series.

As a committee member for the past 2 years, I have also been involved in checking and uploading race results and supporting those using, developing and testing the race entry system. Along with providing support for our Major Events.

I am looking forward to continuing to support these aspects of our sport.

Graham Warland, Banbury Canoe Club

Proposer: Neil Urquhart Seconder: David Enoch

I am a member and trustee of Banbury and District Canoe Club, as well as a coach and paddler. In addition to this, I organise both the annual Banbury Hasler race and the Ross Warland Memorial Canal Challenge.

My current roles on the MRC as are follows:

1. Marathon race calendar compiler – I liaise with all the clubs to create the race/event calendar on the MRC website. I also include sprint events on the calendar, as I see it all as flatwater racing, which usually involves the same clubs and individuals.
2. Race Records Officer – I process all the Hasler races on the MRC database and update the ranking list on a weekly basis during the racing season.
3. International Travel Administration – this involves working with both the athletes that have been selected to race abroad, along with British Canoeing, to ensure that the documentation required to race and travel abroad is both current and correct. This includes all the athletes who have been selected to race abroad – from the development squads to the World Championships.

Appendix D1 – Treasurer’s Report to 2023 ACM

Our financial year runs to 31st October so the last set of fully audited accounts are up to 31st October 2022. You will see that we carried forward reserves of £52,020.75, as expected.

Domestic Racing has continued at a similar level to last year but numbers are still down a bit on the pre-Covid attendance. The total levy income is about £28k compared with £30k pre pandemic.

As always, the biggest cost to the MRC is international racing. We are sending GB teams to Bulgaria for the World Cup, Croatia for the Euros and Denmark for the World Champs. In addition we will send Development teams to Germany, Spain and France. All the costs of these trips continue to rise substantially and we have been forced to increase the athlete contribution by £100 per trip this year.

We have continued to support the Race Coach courses to the extent of £5k and the Short Course Nationals by £1.5k.

Our central grant from British Canoeing has remained at £40k and I anticipate that we will make an overall “loss” this year of about £4k reducing our reserves to £48k.

David Enoch

June 2023

Appendix D2

MRC Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ending 31 October 2022

INCOME

Bank Interest	0.00	
BCU HQ interest	0.00	
Donations	1,204.00	
BCU Central Grant	23,258.00	
Sale of boats	3,430.00	
Use of Mini Bus	6,220.00	
Race levies	25,842.00	
Sale of racing kit	25.00	
Athlete contributions to training camps	0.00	
Athlete contributions to internationals	13,830.00	
Gain on sale of foreign cash	6.07	
Provision for late race levies (Chelmer & Gailey)	675.00	
Provision for further BC Central Grant	20,000.00	
	<u>94,490.07</u>	94,490.07

EXPENDITURE

Committee Members Travel	0.00	
Major Internationals: W.Cup, Euros, Worlds.	57,791.06	
Tracksuits & racing kit	1,253.83	
Depreciation	0.00	
Boat Repairs	80.00	
Vehicle Maintenance & Insurance	3,147.66	
Postage & Telephone	0.00	
Printing & Stationery	0.00	
Committee Meeting Expenses	202.53	
Corporation Tax	0.00	
Web site	815.99	
Racing numbers	58.24	
Race Management System	1,684.41	
Photographs	0.00	
Trophies	1,089.03	
Medals : SCN,Nat Champs, Hasler Final	2,325.35	
Year Books	828.77	
Training camps	750.00	
Development Races: German Nats, French Nats & Sanabria	23,393.71	
ICF Officials expenses	809.12	
Donations & gifts	0.00	
Bank & credit card charges	74.16	
Courses for club racing coaches	4,850.00	Grass roots
Club changing tents	822.47	Grass roots
Sundry expenditure	4.99	
Short Course Nationals subsidy	2,105.77	
	<u>102,087.09</u>	<u>102,087.09</u>
Net surplus (deficit) for the year		<u><u>-7,597.02</u></u>

MRC Balance Sheet Year Ending 31 October 2022

<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	Note 1		
Motor vehicles		0.00	
Trailer		0.00	
Sports equipment		1,600.00	
Office equipment		0.00	
		<u>1,600.00</u>	1,600.00
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Stock	Note 2	925.25	
Debtors : VAT	Note 3	0.00	
: Race levies (Chelmer & Gailey)		675.00	
: Final instalment of Grant		20,000.00	
Cash at Bank		9,211.97	
Foreign currency in hand		0.00	
BC Office balance		19,608.53	
		<u>50,420.75</u>	50,420.75
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Corporation Tax		0.00	
		<u>0.00</u>	0.00
NET ASSETS			<u>52,020.75</u>
Balanced by :			
Reserves at 31 October 2021		59,617.77	
Surplus (deficit) for the year		<u>(7,597.02)</u>	
		<u>52,020.75</u>	<u>52,020.75</u>

Notes to the BC Marathon Racing Committee Accounts as at October 2022

NOTE 1 FIXED ASSETS

VW CR35 9 seat minibus RO15XLH	<u>0.00</u>	0.00
Trailer T5	<u>0.00</u>	0.00
Trophies	<u>1,600.00</u>	
	<u>1,600.00</u>	1,600.00
Data Projector	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u><u>1,600.00</u></u>

NOTE 2 STOCK

Medals value at 31.10.21	2,953.25
Medals purchased during 2021-22	297.35
Medals used during 2021-22	<u>-2,325.35</u>
	<u><u>925.25</u></u>

NOTE 3 DEBTORS

VAT paid from Barclays account	0.00
VAT paid from British Canoeing ac.	<u>0.00</u>
	<u><u>0.00</u></u>

Appendix E – Change to Rules for September 2023

Change in regional qualification, due to the financial/environmental costs

The MRC was asked at the 2022 ACM to review the regional racing structure, in order to reduce the environmental and financial cost. After considerable analysis on race distances within regions, and the potential ramifications, from 1 Sept 2023, the MRC will be implementing a rule change, whereby clubs can count their best 7 results in their region during a season for qualification to the Hasler Final. ***In regions where there are 7 or less races, all results count.***

When implemented in the Midlands region, this meant that clubs could reduce the distance travelled by half in most cases including Lincoln - although they still had a total of around 900 miles for their closest 7, including one 100 mile/2 hour journey. However, this was a significant reduction from 1700 miles to cover all their regional races, or 1150 miles for 8 races.

While it is appreciated that there is no guarantee the distances would be the same in other regions, work done has shown a potential drop from 2500 miles to around 900 miles for Truro in the SW Region, with only one race at a distance of 348 miles, and this would be broadly similar for other Cornish clubs. The savings for the Southern region would not be as significant.

The MRC appreciates there is a risk of a lower attendance at some of the outlying races, and particularly at the final races of the season if a club is already qualified (this is already possible), although this has not found to be the case in the Midlands.