

**British Canoeing Marathon Racing Committee  
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 8.30  
on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023,**

**Present:**

Stan Missen (SM) (Chair)  
Evan Shephard (ES)  
Joe Fitzpatrick (JF)  
Roland Lawler (RL)  
Graham Warland (GW)  
Scott Hinds (SH) (Online)

Holly Mobbs (HM)  
Dave Enoch (DE)  
Dan Seaford (DMS)  
Dave Sackman (DS)  
Ollie Rix (OR)

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 Brian Chapman (BC), Anoushka Freeman (AF), Rachell Lovell (RL), Nettie North (NN), Mick Nadal (MN)

**2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 10 May & 12 July**

The minutes of the meeting of 10 May 2023 and 12 July 2023 were approved by the committee.

**3. Matters Arising**

*a) Allocation of the new committee positions*

Allocation of Committee Responsibilities as per Appendix C issued: Agreed, OR has agreed to help any portfolio holders.

Selection Committee make up & roles agreed. **Action: NN to contact**

There is a need for a volunteer to take on the storage and administration of Medals & Trophies. This must be in place by the end of December so this must be formalised at our meeting on 18/11/2023 **Action: All & AF to add to Agenda**

*b) Adoption of best 7 qualifying races for Hasler 2024 season*

Agreed. Monitoring entry numbers will take place. **Action: MN**

*c) Matters arising from minutes of MRC meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023*

i) Trailer – now sold

*ii) K2 Div 1 races*

Take-up to be monitored to see if there is an increase in participation from the Div 1 paddlers. **Action: HM**

- iii) *Issues raised in athlete questionnaire*  
Not discussed. HM to present at Nov meeting. **Action: HM & AF to add to Agenda**
- iv) *Time Penalties*  
The racing rules to be clarified to show that the options of 15 Seconds, 30 Seconds and Disqualifications are the only options available, and the Starter and Race Organiser have final discretion as to when to use: **Action: MN & BP**
- v) *Working party on developing Hasler Finals and participation* **Action: JF Paper & AF to add to Agenda**
- vi) *Wash Hanging during Selection Races*  
Bigger gaps between starts to be considered.

#### 4. Finance

- a) *Cost of handbook*  
It was decided that the Online version was sufficient, no marathon inclusion and no further ordering of printed copies was needed. **Action: GW & DE**
- b) *Progress with treasurer handover*  
The handover is now complete and the authorisation processes already in place have been agreed with BC. DE still to provide assistance to JF. **Action: DE & JF**
- c) *Budget for 2024 season*  
Estimated requests / estimated expenditure requests for 2024 budget to be forwarded to JF by *mid-October latest*. **Action: All & JF**

#### 5. Domestic Racing

- a) *Updating of Ps/Ds explanation sheet*  
Promotion & Demotion guidance needs to be updated with reference to K2 promotions. It was agreed that when a K2 partner is in a *higher* division than the other paddler, the crew may only race in one division lower than the faster paddler is categorized. **Action: BP & MN**
- b) *Encouraging C boat racing*  
Clubs to be asked to look at awarding prizes for C1 & C2 entries. However, the need for separate points allocation for C1 & C2 paddlers in Hasler races was not agreed. The rules need to be clarified to confirm that paddlers can have a *separate ranking* for their participation in Canoe or Kayak. **Action: MN & BP**
- c) *Safety for younger paddlers*  
Clubs should provide a safety boat along the route of the GS races. Reasonable guidance should be included in briefings that the boat may have to attend

paddlers at any part of the route and any time and cannot cover all boats on the water. **Action: GW**

Further discussions to be included in November meeting. **Action: AF to add to Agenda**

*d) Qualification for Hasler Final*

To be rediscussed in November. JF to present paper. **Action: JF & AF to add to Agenda**

*e) Nationals feedback*

*i) Prize giving timings – potential to have two prize giving in the day so early racers don't need to hang around?*

Not discussed. **Action: AF to add to Agenda**

*ii) Reconsideration of race distances*

Across the board race distances seem to have been decided upon historically. Suggestions that we should standardise with ICF distances, where appropriate, or reformulate our own, listening to what paddlers want and what would increase participation.

**Action: AF to add to Agenda**

*iii) Promotions at nationals*

Promotions and Demotions at Nationals will continue to operate as they currently do. Paddlers can apply to their RMA/RL should they feel that their promotion or demotion has been unjustified in any way.

*iv) For November meeting – wider suggestions received from Alan Tordoff on safety & briefing at major events will be discussed.*

*f) Clubs to do their own demotion/promotion*

Not agreed. It was felt that some smaller clubs would not have the resource to deal with this; that the bigger coach orientated clubs have.

*g) K2 double promotions at the Hasler finals*

It was agreed that a double promotion at the finals would NOT result in that crews points being excluded from the finals results.

*h) MRC has been asked to consider Div 3 paddlers being allowed to race over 8 miles in a mixed K2 division.*

Not agreed.

*i) Div 4/5/6 must race 8 miles & 7/8/9 must race 4 miles.*

Not agreed.

*j) Short Course Nationals logistics*

Need to look at venues for Short Course and explore club bids, or we continue to run this as an MRC event, with the resulting financial benefit to the MRC.

Currently the entry numbers have not quite achieved breakeven. Anticipated that the MRC will need to run this event until such time as it makes a reasonable profit. Venue hire has been one of the big costs but it is important to make this a quality event. **Action: HM & ES**

## 6. International Racing

- a) *Code of Conduct for MRC team including supporters' involvement*  
Need for Specific MRC Code of Conduct in addition to BC code: was agreed – Draft document tabled by Graham that will be used. Athletes to have rule made clear to them, included in the selection form they complete.  
**Action: GW & Selection Committee**
- b) *Increased athlete contributions?*  
To be discussed further as part of budget planning but meeting reminded that there is a BC hardship bursary fund to help athletes who can demonstrate real financial hardship. **Action: Selection Committee**
- c) *How do we reduce the number of appeals/complaints about selection*  
The option of asking for a deposit when lodging an appeal, to be refunded if the appeal is not upheld was discussed. **Action: NN**
- d) *Safe loading of the trailer*  
YouTube video to be created to offer guidance. **Action: SH & DS**
- e) *Call for better support for our Masters team competing at internationals.*  
Paper need for November meeting. **Action: BP**

## 7. Any other business

- a) *Merge to Google Drive*  
Now complete.
- b) *Idea of a National Team Coach*  
Idea needs to be defined as to what and why rather than just who should be appointed. **Action: HM to explore for Nov meeting**
- c) *Concern over low online attendance at ACM*  
Ideas needed for November meeting. **Action: All**
- d) *Progress with hosts for major events in 2024 & dates for calendar*  
Hasler finals have been agreed for 6th October at Richmond. A Nationals host is still being sought. Change of current venue for short course nationals being considered. **Action: DS, HM, ES**
- e) *Call for more assessment races in 2024 and increase further the gap between selection and the event dates.*  
Considerable improvement has taken place in 2023 but booking flights and rooms has still led to problems which could be reduced further still by early

selection of our teams. **Action: Selection Committee**

*f) Proposal to immediately co-op KW to the committee in order for her to deal with an ongoing 'MRC/BC matter, to be ratified at the November meeting.*

#### **8. Future meeting Dates**

- 18 November – 9:00am – 3:00pm – Cropredy Village Hall.  
Refreshments and sandwiches will be provided so please confirm your attendance to the secretary well in advance.
- The dates for meetings in 2024 will be decided at the 18 Nov meeting.

The meeting closed at 11:15 am.

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