

**Paddle UK Marathon Racing Committee  
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19:30pm  
on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March (online)**

**Present:**

Stan Missen (SM) (Chair)	Holly Mobbs (HM)
Evan Shephard (ES)	Roland Lawler (RL)
Joe Fitzpatrick (JF)	Dan Seaford (DMS)
Graham Warland (GW)	Brian Chapman (BC)
Bryn Price (BP)	Sally Hartland (SH)
Mick Nadal (MN)	Anoushka Freeman (AF)
Lee Bennett (LB)	Roland Lawler (RL)

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**

No apologies were received.

**2. Approval of minutes November MRC Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th September were approved by the committee with one small comment by HM (that she had been marked as attending the meeting online when she had in fact attended in person).

**3. Matters arising from MRC meeting of 16.11.24**

*a. Appointment of national team coach*

No further conversations have been had with potential candidates. The stumbling block identified was that the task is not defined. The committee worked to define this as one engagement in the form of an event to start with. It is hoped that this will be the building block for much more engagement over the season and future seasons.

**Action: DMS**

*b. Welfare plan*

The Welfare Plan is still in the draft stage. This will eventually sit on the MRC website, racing rules, and be added as a statement within race entry forms. Ideally we should have this ready in time for the ACM.

**Action: HM**

*c. International planning & booking role update*

The sub-committee (of NN, KW, GW, JF) have been working together to plan and book international trips. Things are looking much more positive compared with the position we were in when last discussed in November 2024.

Bookings have been made for German Nationals & Europeans.

Staff have been confirmed for all trips.

BP has requested that he be informed once trailer allocations are confirmed, with the view of filling spare spaces with Masters' boats before spaces are taken up transporting

manufacturers orders.

It was noted that the Sports Hotel relationship with PUK was being found by other disciplines to be quite useful and cost effective. The relationship is for individual PUK members as well as disciplines looking at group bookings.

Communications from ICF regarding logistics for World Games have not yet been received.

**Action: NN, KW, GW, JF keep working as they are**

*d. Declaration of Interest Forms*

Nearly all committee members have completed their Declaration of Interest forms. A reminder to those who have not was issued.

Feedback was received that the form was tricky for paddlers with family members with multiple roles to complete.

#### **4. Finance**

*a. PUK funding and support in 2025*

The committee was updated that PUK have pledged £47,500 funding of the circa £50,000 requested and that the budget is in a healthy position at this point in the season. Ongoing levy income will be monitored and the treasurer will comment again at the end of April when we will be 6m into the current financial year.

#### **5. Domestic Racing**

*a. Update on national events planning*

Short course nationals planning is going ahead smoothly. 92 boats have entered already (compared to 145 on the day of the event last year) so the committee is hopeful final numbers will increase. The early bird registration discount is likely a positive and contributing factor to this. If any committee members are able to come forward and volunteer that would be most welcome, register here:

<https://forms.gle/nXMM9jVrkasbpND5A>

Long course nationals and Hasler Finals are also well underway. There were a few date changes to Hasler Final for reasons out of anyone's control, but the date has now been set. The confirmed date is the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

*b. Media at national events (ref PaddleDaily & sponsorship)*

The committee re-discussed media at national events with particular reference to PaddleDaily and concluded that at this time budgetary constraints still remain.

HM will not be available to lead on the MRC social media channels for the long course nationals so HM will contact Norwich Canoe Club (hosts) to see if they may have a suitable volunteer. Content should be produced in line with MRC views and should be non-biased.

**Action: HM**

*c. Update on changes to Racman results to include: 1) Age for GS, 2) SUP category, 3) GUI to represent 'Guide Paddler'*

All three changes are on the brink of completion.

The 'Guide Paddler' function must be formally announced so that people know how to use it. This will be done at the ACM.

**Action: ES & AF to add to ACM agenda**

*d. Amendment of race rules to include: 1) Lapping rule at assessment races, at the discretion of the host club, 2) Reference to 'Guide Paddlers', 3) Note to outlaw wash hanging a paddler who has retired from their race in a higher division*

The amendments above have been made to the rules but not yet published.

Some new amendments were discussed which will be made before publishing. These include:

- 1) Adding the 'Standards for promotions & demotions' table (including Sprint times) as an Appendix at the bottom of the rules and alter the reference to finding them in the 'handbook' to instead say that they can be found in the 'Appendix'.
- 2) Adding a note around racers providing emergency contacts on registration (through the entry system).

**Action: ES & DMS look at entry system edits to include emergency contacts; MN update rules**

*e. Update on wooden medal options from PUK for the 2026 season*

PUK have confirmed wooden medal options, and the committee has agreed that these will be the favourable option going forward, once our existing stock has been used.

The lead time can be as little as 1 month and there is flexibility on medal shapes etc. An example ribbon will be made available to us.

## 6. International

*a. Hosting International events*

BC, in collaboration with PUK and Worcester Canoe Club are investigating the possibility of hosting an international event. The ICF have been having trouble securing venues for future events and have put in place measures to make hosting an event more achievable – 1) reducing deliverables to make hosting easier and less expensive, 2) increasing funding available. Bids were historically to be made 4 years in advance but no bids were made for 2029 so this will be reduced to 3 years next year. Contact has been made with the lead interest at WCC by BC who will report back in due course.

**Action: BC**

*b. International kit*

The rebrand to PUK must be completed this year. Hummel (supplied via PUK) have confirmed that they are able to produce not only land kit, but also on-water kit and that the PUK agreement states that kit requirements should go through them unless they can't produce the required item. This has been noted for future orders. Masters' teams to be kept in the loop so that they too can follow suit with whatever kit the team choose.

**Action: SM & JF, BP**

*b. Appointment of team managers for international trips & their inclusion on ICF Whatsapp group*

Team managers have been appointed.

**Action: GW to provide team manager name & mobile number to BC. BC to add to ICF**

**WhatsApp group.**

*c. Guide for team managers*

PUK and Dave Sackman have previously put together guides of this nature.

**Action: GW to find these guides & amend/publicise for upcoming team leaders. GW to ask regular team managers to contribute to the document.**

*e. Article re becoming qualified ITO Official*

This item has been deferred to the next meeting.

**Action: HM**

*f. Website page re racing internationally as independent*

The website page already exists but it must be broadcasted/communicated. It is essential that ALL athletes competing abroad have sent details to PUK who can then deal with the matter as needed depending upon which country they are competing in and which foreign federation is involved. This is automatically done for official team members by the MRC.

**Action: BP to send to Masters Team, HM to post on social media ref paddlers racing abroad (e.g. Sella, Liffey, etc).**

**7. Any other business**

*a. Publication of ACM date - 16th June 2025 at 8pm*

The date has already been published. A 'guest speaker' will shortly be approached to increase appeal in attending the AGM. Once this is confirmed, the date will be pushed out again, as a reminder.

**Action: RL approach speaker, HM re-publish date**

*b. Standards of Deployment: Safeguarding course*

The committee was reminded that every member is to complete a safeguarding course. JH is on hand should anyone need guidance as to how to book this and which course they personally are required to do.

**Action: All**

*c. Minibus*

A proposal has been put forward by our treasurer to PUK whereby the MRC would acquire a bus that PUK is planning to sell soon, and the MRC would offer their own bus for sale, being older. This is still being discussed at PUK. Obviously if a deal can be negotiated this would help us replace our aging bus with a newer alternative with considerably less financial impact.

**Action: SM & JF**

*d. Short Course Nationals Dates Clash*

The committee discussed the assessment race in Nottingham, the day before Short Course Nationals in Peterborough. There were concerns that this may negatively impact attendance at short course nationals. It is completely unacceptable that we are arranging events that present a potential negative clash to another of our own events.

**Action: SM to discuss with selection committee**

The secretary will produce a list of MRC committee members retiring/re-standing, or otherwise, well before the ACM. An announcement for new nominations should also be published. **Action: Secretary**

**8. Future Meeting Dates 2025 - To be discussed:**

- a. ACM - 16th June at 8pm – On line
- b. All Day Committee Meeting - 15th November at 9am (Banbury) to 3pm latest

\*It is expected that another meeting between these two meetings will be set following the election of the new committee. Date TBC.

The meeting closed at 21:15pm.