

**Paddle UK Marathon Racing Committee  
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 8.00pm  
on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (online)**

**Present:**

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

These people are referred to by their initial's 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**

Brian Chapman (BC)

**2. Approval of minutes March MRC Meeting and ACM June 2025**

The minutes of both the meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and also the ACM on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025 were approved by the committee with no amendments.

**3. Matters arising from MRC meeting of 31 March 2025**

*a. Committee and co-opted members, allocation of roles, including appointment of Selection Committee Chair and members for 2026.*

Roles agreed amongst committee and selection committee roles to be updated as per website. RL prepared to stand on selection committee providing there is a review on selection policy. RL stated that he is prepared to be on the selection committee on the basis that the selectors have fully flexible discretion on selections and that it does not adopt just a ridged policy. ( see later item 7c.) SH to produce an updated roles list for all committee positions and co-options.

**Action: SH**

**4. Finance**

*a. Treasurers Report*

The committee were updated that the budget is looking ok for this year. With the Hasler Finals being held at Worcester Canoe Club they should run without issue and levy receipts should assist our current financial position: as long as race numbers stay steady generally and we don't have the race cancellations like last year, we should stay on target for the year end budget.

With the cancellation of Hasler Finals in 2024 the MRC took a loss of £1.5k. Other races such as the Ross Warland also failed to run due to weather conditions, having a negative effect upon levy receipts.

Travel costs for the Euros came in £3.5-4k *under* budget thanks to Kat and Graham's hard

work and the Worlds came in on budget. Thanks were given to GW and KW for this valuable contribution of time and effort.

## 5. Domestic Racing

### *a. Update on national events planning*

DS reported that planning for the Hasler Finals 2025 are moving forward nicely. Worcester CC are quite comfortable having hosted recently. Paddle UK are increasing their deployment standards which is a good thing but does mean more hoops to jump through.

DS also reported that one of Paddle UK's partners is a hotel chain/broker. It is hoped that some advertising can be done on the Hasler Final race details.

ES and DS will be doing the entry and results work for Hasler Finals along with a data entry person from Worcester.

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

ES has had no feedback either good or bad with regard to the amendments for SUPs and Guide Paddlers. Age categories for GS is still a work in progress, the aim was to have this completed by the end of summer, this may be fractionally later.

**Action: ES**

### *c. 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*

MN confirmed that these rule changes have now all been updated.

### *d. Update on final stock of Metal medals*

SH confirmed there is enough stock of medals for Hasler Finals 2025 and also Short Course Nationals for next 2 races. No decisions need to be made before November meeting with regard to medals for 2026 onwards.

### *e. Offering clubs, upon request, potential Hasler qualification by inclusion of additional opportunities to qualify; when races they would have participated in have had to be cancelled at short notice*

There were several issues discussed, firstly where paddlers had failed to get their three qualifying races due to cancelled races with short notice close the finals. Secondly, clubs where there are more than 7 races having relied on scoring points late in season as a race was closer to their club than others but then the race was cancelled or postponed to after 31<sup>st</sup> August. Rules 35 and 36 are affected. MN suggests a wording change making it clear we would be flexible however, clubs must request in writing or the region must request and that the committee would assess according to circumstances of each case.

Pangbourne had queried whether if the results for qualification are different this year to last, would they be allowed to attend the Hasler Finals this year as they had qualified for last year's cancelled Finals. It was agreed this was a request and not based on exceptional circumstances and therefore would *not* be agreed.

## 6. International

### *a.. International kit*

Hummel have sent a sample of current Sprint vest which GW pointed out that if we use the same kit designs Sprint, it is more cost effective for MRC if athletes already have international kit as we don't then have to provide some with additional or new kit. It was mentioned that our traditional stripes ( red/white/blue) are more recognisable. Hummel are willing to produce new designs should we need.

**Action: JF to obtain catalogue of what is available from Hummel and talk to athletes for their opinions and also to keep moving forward to ensure we have a reliable source for 2026**

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

GW confirmed that this had been actioned already.

### *c. Guide for team managers*

GW confirmed PUK have a toolkit for international trips. He had used the information within this toolkit to produce a document which has been circulated and was used at German Nationals and Euros. The document will also be used for Worlds and French Nationals.

### *d. Article re becoming qualified ITO Official*

This item has been deferred to the next meeting.

**Action: HM**

## 7. Any other business

### *a. Minibus*

JF has continued discussions with PUK with a view to replace our current VW minibus with a Mercedes Sprinter which is five years younger that PUK are planning on selling. The cost of this minibus will be £13k as opposed to a minimum of £30K+ for us to purchase a new vehicle. Our current minibus should be worth approximately £4k leaving us a cost of £9k. £5k was put aside in 2024 with £2.5k allocated in 2025 towards the purchase meaning a more acceptable £2.5k to come from reserves. JF will inspect the minibus at the September Regatta so hopefully the purchase can be made before the financial year end at 31 October 2025.

### *b. Criticism received regarding selection and policy*

SM discussed the criticism that NN has faced regarding the selection process. She had received some difficult emails from various people regarding selections. We need to ensure people are aware that constructive feedback is welcome but we have to protect volunteers from contact bordering upon abusive. The tone of some emails received was totally unacceptable. PUK to be asked what formal action might be instigated if individual's persist.

**Action; SM to contact PUK**

c. In discussing the role of the selection committee RL raised a concern regarding the selection committee sticking too rigidly to the selection policy as opposed to selectors actually being allowed to select based upon their experience and their in-depth knowledge gained over many years.. With the policy as it stands there is more emphasis on the equality and balance of the team being selected rather than us sending the absolute best athletes based on ability.

d.The issue of holding an assessment race the day before the Short Course Nationals was also discussed. SM advised, having spoken to NN after this matter was brought up at our last meeting, that the rationale had been that the paddlers with whom this affected would be racing hard over two days at international events and therefore it seemed reasonable to put them through a similar experience by having an assessment race the day before the Short Course Nationals - with the Selection Committee being fairly confident that those likely to form the Team would be looking at partaking in both events. The committee's initial concerns had been over *losing potential entries from the Short Course Nationals* and that did problem did not seem to occur.

e. There had also been several comments about this year's Nationals clashing with the Junior Worlds.

**Action: SM to arrange a meeting with NN and KW to discuss criticisms and also concerns over selection policy to obtain a balanced view and to what extent do problems exist.**

*f. New Regional Adviser for Eastern Region*

MN advised a new Regional Adviser has been elected for Eastern Region.

**Action: MN to forward details to HM for publication.**

*g. Entry System*

JF queried whether the entry system was the correct place for Junior Training Day. ES confirmed it was done as a trial in an attempt to better publicise event.

**Action: SH to add to November agenda for discussion as to what is appropriate for entry system.**

With time pressing on - All other agenda items will be moved to November's meeting.

## **8. Future Meeting Dates 2025**

a. All Day Committee Meeting - 15th November at 9am (Banbury) to 3pm latest

The meeting closed at 21:15pm.