



Paddle UK Marathon Racing Committee
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held online at 7.30pm
on Tuesday 7th April 2026

Present:

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

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

No apologies were received.

2. Approval of minutes November 2025 MRC Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 15th November 2025 were approved by the committee with no amendments.

3. Matters arising from MRC meeting of 15th November 2025

a. Addition of Paddle UK Code of Conduct link to Rules.

This has been completed by NM, template amended by SH and website updated by HM.

b. Four Year Plan

This still needs to be reviewed, any updates should go to HM. Please do not forget to give your input to this important document

c. Participation figures to be included in budget

ES confirmed figures had been sent to JF, these were included in budget and sent to JH at PUK.

d. Inclusion of prospective Wild Card system into Rules.

Discussed in 7.d.

e. Support of Ironbridge Marathon – to be carried forward

f. Impact of changing rule 30e regarding K2 points

Around 227 boats are currently affected by the 110% rule; 137 boats would be affected if rule was amended to 115% which brings slightly closer to K1s. It was agreed there was no major detriment in amending the rule. It was agreed to implement from 1st September 2026 and ES confirmed the system could be

updated before 1st September.



- g. Entry management system relating to risk assessments including wording "having regard to Paddle UK template"
No comment from the committee. PUK are expanding their library of risk assessments and race organisers should be encouraged to look at these and base their own on the templates.
- h. Prize Giving at National Events
Guidance has not yet been put together but needs to be done before Short Course Nationals. Essentially this rotates around making the prizegiving run smoothly and quickly whilst maintaining quality, enabling people to leave the event and start their journey home in good time.
- i. Amendment of PUK Disciplinary Document to be Marathon specific
SH amended and HM shared via comms.
- j. Athlete Representative on Selection Committee
SH has not heard from NN, will contact again
- k. ICF ITO Nominations
BC confirmed MD has been selected for Europeans and DS for Worlds.

4. Finance

- a. Treasurers Report
The committee were updated that the budget is looking ok. The Mercedes minibus purchase has been completed. The red minibus sale is imminent with £4.5k to come in, possibly more.

Nothing has been confirmed with regard to whether the team will rent boats for Worlds or if boats will be shipped. Boats have to be imported and exported, making for increased paperwork, for Argentina.

MRC 2026 Budget has been submitted to PUK, PUK seem happy. The MRC have again been generously supported by PUK.

5. Domestic Racing

- a. PUK offering Sport Psych support for disciplines
SM confirmed that if we are interested, we should contact Rich Ramsdale at PUK in the first instance.
- b. "Assistant" help available from PUK with regard to comms and publicity
SM confirmed we should contact Ruth at PUK if needed.
- c. PUK help available
SM confirmed that PUK are aware of the pressures put on many volunteers and are willing to help where they can and when asked.

- d. Should Div 9 be renamed NOVICE or introductory event to encourage more direct entry into our sport

This will be discussed at November meeting. Most newcomers to our sport are via clubs or because of parents own inclusion in Kayaking/Canoeing. Few directly enter possibly we are hindering this and we should consider idea's that might ease direct entry into marathon racing, avoiding the need for too much knowledge about the sport.

- e. Use of SportsHotels for accommodation booking

It was agreed that we should ask JH to set up for MRC so that we receive a small commission when marathon paddlers and families use SportHotels.

Action: SH to contact JH to set up; HM to add details to website

- f. Risk assessment templates for disciplines

SM informed the committee that some comprehensive risk assessment templates (for certain venues) will be available to disciplines soon which should be helpful for clubs when organising their own events at other venues. Using PUK and their template library where possible reinforces that we are part of the organisation which enhances the protection we have should something go wrong.

- g. Increased interest at PUK Board level to understand and put in place assistance to enhance the offering of all disciplines.

Any feedback as to how PUK can help us develop and grow with their assistance should be fed back to JH.

- h. Proposed changes to JDS

Both HM and GW attended a meeting with regard to proposed changes to JDS.

HM confirmed that since 2021 the MRC has collaborated with the SRC which has worked well, now there are things that are being flagged up and there is need for tweaks. The largest issue seems to be the effect of slimming down the JTS programme. HM also commented that having someone else from the MRC to help alongside herself would be ideal. It was suggested that we could co-opt someone to help Holly rather than an existing MRC member.

Action: HM to put a request on website, any suggestions for people who could help should be passed to HM.

- i. Race Entry System Glitches

ES has had conversations with regard to the above, in particular with entering Waterside series for schools. It would seem that the problems were not system related. With regard to the Waterside series, the results are not in the correct format to be included on the MRC system.

With regards to schools entering the Waterside series through our entry system, it would be useful if they could enter names once for first race and then the names stay in system. Currently names need entering each time.

j. PUK entry system investigation

ES and DS attended a meeting to talk through the PUK entry system. It was agreed that the MRC system currently suits us better. The PUK system doesn't do what we need it to do



currently. JH did indicate that we could use certain parts of their system.

k. Safety Officer Workshop

PUK were pleased with the turnout, 25 attended on line.

l. Canoe Results Archive Society

The MRC were contacted by the above with regards to any archive results we may have and also any handbooks. This started as a salmon initiative and has expanded to other disciplines. Handbooks have been requested on Facebook. BP, SM & RL all have past handbooks that can be borrowed to be scanned.

Action: GW/SM will liaise and arrange to lend required handbooks. SM will hand over historic Marathon and Long-Distance race results etc to Pete Kearne who is heading the project

6. International

a. Charlie Brackpool (Freestyle) is now an ICF member

Charlie Brackpool is interested in supporting all UK disciplines at ICF level. BC confirmed that any athlete welfare related issues should be directed towards Charlie.

BC confirmed that ICF will become Paddle Worldwide from July.

b. Additional members needed for Selection Committee

NN is struggling to get all necessary paperwork done this year, the number of Selection Committee members has dwindled. We need to find new members to co-opt from outside of the MRC. Interested parties should approach NN and MRC committee members should consider individuals who might be approached to fill these important roles.

c. Merging of Masters age groups for European Championships

BP stated that there was concern from Masters with regard to the merging of age groups for the European Championships. Our Masters are happy to be racing together but don't want the awards shared amongst larger groups. BP would suggest that merging starts is fine but not merging age groups. A lot of work has been done to increase numbers of Masters racing with 20 entered for the European Masters this year.

7. Major Events

a. Following committee approval, we made a £1k donation towards the DW committee's running cost of 2026 event

Both the MRC and PUK donated to the DW committee this year. It was noted there was a lack of entries from junior boys at club level which it would be good to address in future years.

b. Short Course Nationals

HM confirmed that entries went live on 4th April. HM & ES are to have a final meeting. HM confirmed that the entry cost is lower this year than previous years to counteract the travelling distance. Request for volunteers will launch this coming week. Manvers Boat Club will also be offering volunteers.

Action: HM to add a banner to the MRC website to encourage entries.



c. Nationals and Hasler Finals for 2026

There had been discussions around obtaining exclusive use of the river for the Hasler Finals, which will not happen. HM confirmed that the Safety Advisory Group had not yet approved the Risk Assessment. HM will pass some suggestions to organising committee in order to get this approved. DS confirmed he will get more involved to get things progressing.

DS confirmed the date for the Hasler Finals had been changed by the host club which although disappointing could not be prevented due to other events.

With regards to the 2027 Nationals, BC updated the committee that he has a call with the centre management this week as to whether the Glasgow venue proposed will be ready to host the event. DS confirmed that the dates would be swapped so that Reading would host the 2027 event, if necessary, with Glasgow hosting in 2028. If and when Glasgow is ready long term notice of the date of the event will be necessary. DS/BC

d. Prospective Wild Card System – Appendix 2

SM asked the committee for any comments on Appendix 2. BC questioned whether the host venue capacity would become an issue. It was agreed that the number of Wild Cards would not be decided until 1st September.

It was agreed we shouldn't put anything into the Rule Book that couldn't be adhered to. ES to amend the rule to add that Wild Cards would be spread across regions.

It was agreed that we would trial in this Hasler year and the committee would ask for comment at this year's ACM.

8. Any Other Business

a. Date for ACM

It was agreed that this year's ACM would be hosted online on 15th June 2026 at 8pm.

b. Suggestions for a speaker at ACM

HM had compiled a list of possible speakers. The committee agreed that Billy Butler would be a good person to approach to do a short 10/15 minute talk.

Action: SH will contact Billy Butler

c. Committee members completing their term in 2026 and potential new members either as elected members or co-opted

Action: SH to compile list of those who were elected in 2024 so members can confirm if they are happy to re-stand or wish to retire. Nomination's for new

members will need to be posted with regard to the date of the ACM meeting which has now been set.

d. Selection

RL was disappointed that only one selector (NN) was at the Norwich selection event. He is concerned that if PUK put continue to put restrictions on selectors to the extent required by their governance department, it could mean that we are forced to select a less capable team than we might otherwise want to compile at future events. It appears that the flexibility we were promised with regard to the selection policy was pushed back. Action: RL to speak to the JH/Governance/Rich Ramsdale at PUK. JH is aware that RL has



strong views on this matter.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Next meeting date ACM – 15th June 8pm for 1 hour. On line. Committee places to be decided. New committee meeting – date to be advised, on line July/August

MRC – all day, planning meeting Cropredy Village Hall – 21st November 2026 09.00 to 15.00hrs