

British Canoeing Sprint Racing Committee.

Chairman's Report for 2016/7

At the meeting of 9th July the committee agreed that a précis of committee business would enable the BC membership to see a little more of the work that goes on within the committee over the year. It is not just a matter of organising 5 regattas a year, there is much more.

There are many items for discussion at the ACM and the increased interest in how the section is run is to be welcomed. It will certainly give the forthcoming committee a great deal to get their teeth into.

There have been several discussions on the future of Lightnings as several member clubs had raised this. A report was commissioned in conjunction with the Marathon Committee and their report is included with this meeting's papers and is on the agenda.

The SRC Development Plan has been completed. As the full plan runs to 25 pages there is the need for a simplified version to enable all members to easily see the overall items. A copy is attached to the ACM papers (Item 4: Addendum 1). The actual implementation is the challenge for the next year's committee members who must take on the responsibility of action to secure the development of this discipline.

The matter of safeguarding is a matter of great importance and it was made clear that all members of all discipline committees have to complete at least basic safeguarding training.

As Chairman, 2017 alone has been a busy year. I have attended in excess of 12 meetings with various members of the Performance Department, BC CEO David Joy, the Selection Panel and the Discipline Chairmans Committee. However, all these have moved the potential for development of the discipline forward in some way. The meeting with some club coaches and the Director of the Performance Director Paul Ratcliffe has been quite rightly hailed as a big step forward in creating a much better understanding of what is needed within the sport and hopefully will lead to the deletion of "us and them"

In the process of the year my correspondence has lead me to accumulate over a thousand emails. Hopefully some of which will produce a useful result.

There is a now regular meeting of the Chairmen of all the competitive disciplines and from the January meeting it was agreed there was to be a competition bulletin created by the BC office that would be from information provided by the disciplines but also from within British Canoeing and written by a journalist trained writer. To those of you who have experienced the lack of competition and particularly flatwater articles from the previous Canoe Focus I would say that this is a new opportunity for us to ensure that all the active members in flat water are kept up-to-date with what is happening. To a certain extent therefore there is the need for information to be fed into the appropriate person within British Canoeing that initially will be Anna Gray.

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Before Christmas 2016 the SRC had agreed that a substantial amount would be put into the budget to support development and use of the lakes at South Cerney in the Cotswolds to support the development of a regional training facility and potential

regional regattas site. At a meeting with the Trustees on 10th August it was clear that they were very keen for the site to be developed and a plan is being created jointly with them and BC to do just that. There are earthworks already taking place and our requirements are being included. Already we have permission to start in the next two months or so with basic portable showers toilets and boat storage for a training group.

The overall regatta development plan is to try and encourage clubs to put on more basic club regattas to give their younger paddlers some experience of sprint racing. This should enable them to gain a suitable level of racing to go to the next stage up, regional regattas, and from there to the National Regattas at HPP.

The conundrum for the current National regattas is weighing the the cost of hiring HPP and the number of races needed with entry fees to make the books balance. We need the family atmosphere but also need to raise the standard of racing to compete with the ever increasing standards of international paddlers, ultimately for the GB team.

The new regatta management system has been in place for the last four regattas with some considerable success there are still some teething problems to be resolved but it is anticipated that by the first regatta in April next year these will have been completed and the SRC will be in complete control of the system that will enable regattas to run much more simply both from the point of view of the organisers and club team leaders. The major benefit of this new system has been the on line entry facility.

The 2nd major IT development has been the introduction, during the regatta and via the Internet of live results and a news messages service. Further development is underway to extend this to displaying the progression from the Heats to the Finals.

The Regatta Chairman and the Chief Official have reported that communication with SERCO [the operating company at HPP] has been extremely time consuming and exasperating. The committee is making every effort for the position to be improved. The Regatta Chairman and I would agree that Andy Maddock in the BC office has been of great help to us and has been working on the contract and terms and conditions document with SERCO.

We would also add our thanks to BC officials and the office staff support given to us by:

John Coyle - BC Chairman

David Joy - CEO

Paul Ratcliffe - Performance Director

Anna Gray - Sports Development Manager

Susan Hicks and Wendy Hockenhull - Finance

Laura Sutherland - Events Officer

Gemma Wiggs - International Affairs Manager

John Ball - linking NWSC and HS Sports.

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There is a strong feeling that BC is moving forward at a much better pace with a much better feeling of togetherness. This is not universal but with the goodwill that was self evident at the recent meeting of the Performance Director and the club coaches being transferred to the club members there is a distinct atmosphere of progress.

I must pay tribute to the members of the committee who have worked really hard this year.

There are two retiring members.

Alan Williams has been an elected member of the SRC in his own right for 28 years. That is a long time to give the benefit of your time and experience. Not only the time, but also the quality of his input and that has been invaluable. We owe him a debt that is quite deep.

Trevor Kirkham has also been a member for some years but has now deserted us for the sunnier climes of Spain. He has been our computer expert and we will miss him for that and thank him for what he has achieved. It should also be remarked that he was the architect and major creator of the current Development Plan.

Cathy Wynne has been our anchor as Secretary and National Regatta Chief Official and hopefully the new computer system will enable her to have a little more free time.

John Hoile as Regatta Chairman has ensured the smooth running of the regattas at HPP with Ann as his support as Volunteer Coordinator.

Louise Clive as Regatta Paddler Post editor and creator along with Regatta Treasurer and Committee Minutes Secretary.

Roland for his unflagging support of the promotions and demotions system along with his work with the Selection Panel.

Ann Hoile as representative on the English Coaching Management Committee and Mini Sprint Liaison.

Michael Bannister for not letting us spend more than we should and making sure we do spend what we should.

Margaret Chapman for her miles of travelling down from Scotland for the meetings and input with the view from North of the Border.

Teresa for keeping us on our toes for what we need to keep doing and acting as Safeguards Officer.

Tom for his coaching views and input.

I was very much heartened by the number of nominated people for the 2017/8 committee. I look forward to an active and stimulating year ahead assuming the meeting confirms my position.

Alan Laws
SRC Chairman



our Vision

A united sprint racing discipline with excellence in events, coaching and club development supporting every athlete to be the best they can be.

SPRINT RACING 2017-21

To achieve the vision we need to focus on 7 of the British Canoeing

Ambitions

- Provide excellent competitions
- Better qualified and supported coaches and volunteers
- Increase regular participation in sprint racing
 - Develop a stronger network of clubs
- Improve pathways to performance & international success
- Improve the profile of sprint racing and communications throughout the discipline
- Create more places for sprint racing and improve existing facilities

To deliver the ambitions we have key

Outcomes

Develop a stronger network of clubs

- Develop opportunities for clubs to work together
- Better online support resources for all clubs
 - Sustainable club models
 - Recognise club achievements

Create more places for sprint racing and improve existing facilities

- Create a master list of existing/ potential sprint racing facilities
- Develop basic facility criteria for different types of event
- Investigate new facilities for sprint racing

Improve the profile of sprint racing and communications

- Raise the profile of sprint racing in the media and public eye
- Inspire and engage the sprint community around a collaborative vision
- Ensure clear and consistent communication with the sprint community

Provide excellent competitions

- Club and regional events
- Review racing/ competition calendar
- Ensure domestic competition aligned to talent pathway
 - Portable canoe sprint IT system
- Investigate opportunities to develop “regatta in a box”
- Investigate opportunities for commercial engagement

Better qualified and supported coaches and volunteers

- Develop appropriate qualifications and awards to support racing club coaches
- Continuous development of club coaches
- Sustainable models to support (pay) club coaches
- Recruit, train and support officials that deliver the competition structure
- Recruit, train and support volunteers for club, committee and event delivery

Increasing regular participation in sprint racing

- Increase engagement with schools
- Increase links with BUCS and University paddling
- Increase engagement with youth organisations
- Develop more Inclusive opportunities within sprint racing, eg, Paddle-Ability, Women and Girls, Pathways to Paracanoe

Improve pathways to Performance and international success

- Improve quality and quantity of athlete talent pool.
- Maximise opportunities for athletes to gain access to quality coaching, support services and competitive training groups.
- Manage the transition of athletes in & out.
- Progressive pathway from club to GB Junior Team with clearly defined stages.
- Talent recruitment and acceleration programme.
- Performance enhancing sports science & medicine strategy.