



SRC Chairmans Report for ACM 13th October 2018

I started to write this report for the ending of the 2017/2018 year at the end of the September regatta. This seasons regattas at Holme Pierpont have been blessed with glorious weather and some fantastic racing.

Winners

Congratulations are in order to all our trophy and medal winners this year. You will see the names of those to be presented at the ACM and be able to congratulate them yourselves.

GB Team

On the GB Team side you will see a report from the GB Team Manager, Justine Willmott, and the Head Coach Rene Olsen contained in the other papers for the ACM but it would be right to single out our World Champions Lizzie Broughton and Charlotte Henshaw also our Para medal winners Emma Wiggs, David Phillipson, Jeanette Chippington and Jack Eysers

That is not to reduce in any way the successes from other team members as you can see from the report.

Whilst on the subject of the GB Team I would like to dwell for a moment on the issue of funding for the members of the team who are selected for Non Olympic events. The funding for the GB team comes from UK Sport and is a massive boost to the abilities for the team. However as in the way of all funding bodies, especially from Government, there are conditions.

Currently there is no funding for the GB Team members competing in these non Olympic events and so as in previous years the SRC has helped these people with their costs. I regret that we were not able to completely fund their costs as the total amount involved was simply too much for the budget we have. It is fair to say at this time that part of the central funds the SRC receives went to support these athletes so your subscriptions were very welcome and went to an excellent home.



International Selection Panel.

Known generally as the IP [Independent Panel] this body is appointed by the BC Board each year to create the selection policy for the GB Teams and to select the teams using this policy.

The panel consists of three Independent members and three Performance Department employees. The independents are Paul Dimmock (Chairman), Roland Lawler and Barney Wainwright. The Performance Department is represented by Paul Ratcliffe (Performance Director), Rene Olsen (Head Coach) and Andy Maddock (Performance Manager). I as Chair of the Sprint Racing Committee attend as an observer. I am able to bridge the gap between SRC business and that of International selection.

The selection policy is created every year taking into account the requirements of the forthcoming international year with the main focus on the Olympic Games. The draft is also put out to the canoeing populace for their comment and careful note is taken of the returned comments before its completion and approval by the BC Board.

Sprint Racing Committee

I would like to pay homage to all the members of the committee. Equal thanks to the staff at the office at Nottingham that have helped in so many ways over the year. They have all applied themselves with enthusiastic diligence to their allotted areas of activity and in addition have supported their fellow members

I am massively indebted to the members of the Regatta Committee and all their officials and supporters. We could not have such well organised and effective racing without all their tireless efforts.

It's perhaps wrong to single out individuals but I am going to do it anyway.

Cathy Wynne as SRC Secretary and Regatta Chief Official has done so much work its hard to know where to begin to appreciate it all. She not only keeps me and the committee in order and dealing with all the right items at the right time but has a major part in the HPP regatta creation and results as well as operating as Chief Official. It would be worth adding that she



is one of the most respected ICF Regatta Officials in the world for her knowledge and ability to apply them.

John Hoile as Chairman of the Regatta Committee has made sure everything has been tied together and all the other members have ably supported both of them.

Ann Hoile leaves the SRC after many years dedication.

As well as her work at the HPP regattas keeping all the officials fed and watered, she has tirelessly operated the Lightning Competition along with many years support from Marsport.

Louise Clive who guards the Regatta money. If you speak kindly to her then you might get a discount when you visit her pub.

Phil Caisley Our technical guru who with Cathy makes sure the IT side is working and ever improving.

The IT has improved immensely the last two years and continues to do so with the recent advent of the computerised draw system.

Wendy Dodson who operates the information and entries desk along with Ann and other willing supporters.

I also need to dwell on the need for even more officials for the regattas that are the focus of the discipline throughout the season. Indeed the issue of volunteers and succession planning is one that concerns me greatly.

It is my intention to continue to serve as Chairman for the next year, assuming the ACM still approves that, but at the end of the 2019 season I will be retiring from that post. It is my wish to look to future potential tasks as British Canoeing Vice President.

This means that someone else has to take the chair and continue the development of the discipline.

I have enjoyed [mostly] the challenge of the work, serving for 9 years as Vice Chairman and then 4 years as Chairman.

It is time for someone younger to take over with new ideas.

I would like to dwell on this theme of succession as BC starts a general programme to help all the committees with this ongoing and ever present problem. I say problem. It is a natural item of progression but it does seem to get ever harder to find additional willing souls to add to those already giving of their time and abilities.

Those that do this work will tell you of the enjoyment they find in the camaraderie and pleasure of helping others.



The division of labour to try and make all the tasks more enjoyable is one that both the SRC and the Regatta Committee try very hard to accomplish. So the plea is to join the happy band and take the pledge!

Look out for more information coming from the BC office from Anna Gray but in the meantime if you feel the urge to become involved then contact John Hoile or any member of the committee. The level of involvement can be as big or small as you wish.

I believe the regattas at HPP are the five highlights of the home season, but that is not to ignore those in Wales, N. Ireland and Scotland.

The cost of running them at HPP to the current high standard is a task that troubles me greatly. To balance the entry fees against the cost of HPP and the infrastructure is a task for Solomon, and that might just explain part of my desire to leave. The IT cost is one where the diligence of past committee members in creating substantial reserves of funds has shown great foresight. There was a need to update much of the system and overall this will cost a substantial sum. It is very much work in progress. It has been started and with some success but there is yet more to do. The end product should be that we have the capability to take a high level system to other venues.

The Cotswold Water Park at South Cerney is a venue that has potential for another regatta site but will take some time to come on stream. There is an existing regatta lake but at present little or no infrastructure.

The owners are very keen to help us and this gives us hope for future events there that may start at low level as early as 2019.

Women's standards

At the 2017 Annual Meeting the subject of having different standards for women was raised supported by various sets of figures. The discussion concluded with the statement that the SRC would take results from all five 2018 National regattas and then look closely at the results.

Initially there was a view that operating a different set of standards would be extremely difficult but at this interim stage this would not appear to be as problematic as first thought.



When the whole picture has been clarified, the SRC will put forward its conclusion on the matter. This conclusion will be in time for any practical change to be put into place for the 2019 season should this be considered to be the correct action. We are grateful to Alice Murphy and Sue Hawthorn for their help and also Kari Martin who have already compiled a myriad of data.

SRC Minutes

There was a general view that the SRC draft minutes, or a précis of them should appear on the SRC website a short while after the meeting. This has proved difficult to put into practice simply because of the pressure of time from SRC members. The committee is aware of the need to increase information on its activities and will be working this coming year to improve the situation.

Protest Fees

At the meeting the increase in these fees was considered by many to be too large. The matter was referred to the BC CEO as there is a BC Board plan to ensure these fees are made common across all disciplines. At this time the matter is with the Competition Discipline Chairmens Committee.

Committee Terms of Reference.

The SRC as a full committee has laboured long and hard over updating its T of R but Margaret Chapman and Cathy Wynne have carried out the bulk of the work. The final draft will shortly be sent to the BC Board for their agreement. The BC Board had set out a basic format that is to be common over all major committees and this has proved to be helpful.

The work has highlighted the need for updating in a number of areas but has also shown that many of the terms were already what was wanted, particularly that of the committee composition and the retention of the members of the committee being elected by the Registered Sprint Clubs.

Discipline Chairs Meeting Report

Twice each year the Chairs of the Discipline Committees meet to discuss matters of common interest.



The BC CEO, David Joy, chairs these meetings.

The Regional Development Team Chairs also meet separately in the same way and matters raised there that are of interest to competition are included in the Discipline Chairs agendas.

At the meeting on 12th September the following items were included.

Budgets

Budgets of the committees for the year 2018/9 have to be completed with suitable supporting comments to be with the BC office by 30th October. The meetings with the BC office to consider the amount of central support start on November 19th and the BC Board meet on 7th December to finalise that support. In addition there will be a draft budget created for the year 2019/20.

The SRC will be working to those dates to secure the funding to carry out the development programme contained their current plan plus the maintenance of current activities.

The BC Director of Finance, Susan Hicks paid a compliment to the Treasurer of the SRC for the way the finances have been run.

Coaching

The new Race Coach award is beginning to take effect and the SRC are supporting the aspirant coaches for their course costs involved, in co-ordination with the Marathon Committee.

The SRC remain committed to coach development and will continue to include a suitable amount within their budget dependent on the funds available.

One point relative to coaches, is that there is an unknown number of those who are operating within the club structure but do not have a formal qualification. SRC would like to know more about those people and whether it would be possible to assist with their knowledge improvement with further information that is available.

Some high quality information is already on the BC website on an e learning module basis.

When the numbers and standards are better known then the possibility of increasing/improving the information can be looked at.

Current coaches without qualifications can get "accreditation to prior learning" when they enroll to take the Race Coach award.



This will preclude them having to take some or all of the courses and may well lead straight to assessment. More information on this is available from the BC office.

There will be a Review of performance coach level 3 and above over next 18 months and if you have ideas on this then please pass them to ideas to Lee Pooley, Director of Coaching at the BC office.

Regatta Development

The Chairman of the Regatta Committee will include his own report on the year's activities but there are some aspects that fall outside the normal running of the main HPP regattas.

The SRC agreed some time ago that the development of Sprint Racing to some degree depended on the number of regattas being held. At the moment apart from those at HPP there are simply not enough to create development of the discipline and provide enough clubs with local competition.

The overall aim of the SRC is to have a structure of different standards of regattas with different standards of organisation needed.

The "top tier" for want of better words, would be those that are currently held at HPP with as good a level of organisation and facilities as found at most major international regattas anywhere in the world.

Next would be "Regional Regattas" that would include a number of clubs with a lower level of organisation needed and not necessarily on two days.

The final level would be "club or local" regattas normally held on one day only and even might be just an afternoon.

Di Lawler put what was needed for regatta organisation into print many years ago and with thanks to her this has been updated and is now in e form. Thanks also to the BC office for this update.

Anyone who wants these notes should contact Cathy Wynne who will send them out.

It was felt that one of the contributing factors to the lack of the number of events was that some club officials did not have the knowledge and/or confidence to put on base level events.



Accordingly a workshop we thought to be the way forward to give basic advice and assistance particularly in those areas where there were too few events currently.

To this end there was agreement within the SRC that there should be a Regatta Organisers Development Workshop. This has been difficult to organise for a variety of reasons but is being worked upon by the committee.

Entry Levies

It was clear that both Marathon and Polo have a greater number of events than Sprint and derive an appreciable amount of their development funds from entry levies. This aspect of fund raising is already included within the SRC development plan but connects directly to the number of regattas and of course this links with the desire to increase this number, hence the workshop plan

Sprint Competition Review

The SRC decided earlier this year that there was still work to be done on the development plan but that views outside the committee members would be essential to create what is going to be needed in the coming years.

Accordingly a panel has been created from applicants outside the SRC but also including SRC and Regatta Committee representation.

Talent Identification

There has been a major change at the England Talent Programme. Richard Ramsdale has been appointed to oversee the Talent programmes for Sprint, Slalom and Para and BC will shortly be appointed an England Talent Club Partnership.

Mark Hoile leaves the employment of BC at the end of November and the SRC has written to thank him for all his work over the past years.

On Line Entries



There has been development of this system from the office and should now enable event entries to be made and paid direct to the BC office and put directly into the SRC a/c. More work on this is needed with contact to Susan Hicks for more information.

Conclusion

Well, its not really a conclusion, more of an ending really. I hope the information in this annual report has been helpful in letting you know that the SRC and the Regatta Committee are constantly trying to improve and develop this discipline of Sprint Racing.

We try and make it enjoyable for everyone and give due regard to those who are striving for greatness and not to ignore those who compete for fun and pleasure. That is to say there should be something for everyone. It's not just about the Olympics although sometimes it may seem like it.

We are here to organise Sprint Racing from the beginner to the Olympic medalist and all between.

I hope you enjoy the new Annual Meeting format enough to say so.

We wanted to make it more of a social gathering to lighten the business aspect and to especially give some status to our medal and trophy winners.

It is the intention to move it around the country so everyone can get a chance with minimum travel.

So if your club wants to hold the 2019 meeting then please tell us.

Enjoy the meeting and the 2019 season. To all those involved, I send you heartfelt thanks for your support of the Sprint Racing Committee and British Canoeing.

Alan Laws
Chairman