

## Pen Portraits: Election candidates as members of the Sprint Racing Committee

### **Phil Caisley**

I have been a Regatta Official for the past 5 years in a variety of roles and serve on the Regatta Committee. I am very actively involved in pre-regatta planning work, managing the entries process and team leader liaison, supporting timetabling, and producing the programme.

Over the past year, I coordinated the specification and implementation of the new Regatta Management System with the Chief Official and software developer. I was also responsible for the redesign/refresh of the regatta programme a few years earlier.

I have represented the Regatta Committee and SRC at the BC Digital Strategy Workshop, also on the potential to build an international regatta course in Swansea Bay, and on the selection of the right software to support online entries.

I want to use my professional skills and experience to support the delivery of the new Sprint Strategy and am very much a do-er. I also want to complete the implementation of the new Regatta Management System to support the delivery of Regional and Local Regattas.

I've been involved with canoeing for the past 10 years and am a regular paddler and coach supporting my club and local scout district. I enjoy a wide variety of paddling disciplines including sea kayaking, white water canoe and kayak, and touring. I'm also a proud owner of a Watersides series t-shirt.

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### **Louise Clive**

I have been involved in canoeing since 1999 when the whole family started paddling at Gailey CC. We enjoy both Sprint and Marathon competition. I am the Race Organiser for Gailey and have a good relationship with all Midlands clubs, I have no problem asking for opinions or feedback and receive lots of it. I work hard to ensure everyone is listened to, treated fairly and given the right opportunities, an important subject at both club, national and international level. Sometimes this involves thinking about the good of all rather than the wishes of a few.

In 2008 I joined the SRC to gain knowledge of how things run and who does what. I thought there should be a representative from the small clubs and from central England.

I volunteer as an official at Sprints as it is wrong to expect other people to do the work all the time, this year I have taken on the role of Regatta Treasurer. I thoroughly enjoy working with a wonderful group of people and learning all about what is involved in running a National Regatta to a high standard. There isn't enough recognition of what this amazing group of people do on a voluntary basis!

I am involved with paddlers from lightning age to international level, all of whom have different problems and opportunities, all equally important.

I started, and now run, the Facebook group 'Racing Canoe Clubs' as I thought an area was needed where all clubs and backgrounds could ask questions, share experiences, give

## Pen Portraits: Election candidates as members of the Sprint Racing Committee

opinions and ask for paddling partners etc. This takes a lot of time to monitor as it can get very 'vocal' and opinionated but I am very proud of it and get lots of positive comments.

Over the last couple of years I have started attending the Midlands RDT meetings in order to know more about what is going on in areas other than racing, I hope I have made a positive contribution to that group by bringing more marathon and sprint awareness to the meetings while I learn a bit more about slalom, recreational and other canoeing disciplines.

I never profess to have a great technical knowledge about canoeing or understand selections etc but there are people on the committee who do and the committee is about more than just that. A good committee is diverse and covers all areas and interests. Areas that I have focussed on while on the SRC have been communication, publicity and, recently, the Lightning series. If re-elected then I am happy to continue with being a communicator, collecting opinions, admin work and compiling the Paddler's Post for each regatta.

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### **Imogen Collins**

From the age of 8 I have been involved in the canoeing world. Taking my first strokes in a play boat and very quickly moving up the rankings into racing boats. I was always a sprinter at heart and so quickly took the route into the short stuff.

Within Juniors I regularly competed for the Development squad with my highlight being Olympic Hopes in 2010. After the jump up to under 23's I quickly realised I also had a strong interest in coaching others to reach their goals as much as reaching my own. I spent time teaching club paddlers how to sprint and race. Though this I have seen regularly the impact that the Sprint Racing Committee help make for the clubs.

After my time as a club coach I wanted a challenge and found myself with a regional talent role for British Canoeing. This opened up links with more clubs which massively helped me to see many young athletes with the same love and drive for sprint racing that I have. This role has since progressed and now I am working with the Super Regional Squad who are racing both nationally and internationally. Though this experience I believe I have a lot to offer the Sprint Racing Committee with ideas and plans.

My club of Reading Canoe Club offered me a wealth of knowledge through paddling myself and teaching me how to coach. It's also given me the drive to help make the world of Sprint Racing in our country a better place.

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### **Paul Dimmock**

My submission to support the Sprint Racing Committee is based on two key factors, first; my experience professionally as a leader of several highly successful sport based organisations, managing resources for critical organisational outcomes, particularly in sport development, performance sport and sports events,

second; I have a level of understanding of flatwater canoeing, I competed in over 50 International Competitions, I have coached and mentored athletes to World and Olympic

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status, I have been engaged as GB Kayak Team Manager, GB Kayak Consultant Coach and currently Chair the International Selection Panel British Canoeing.

- I have coached and mentored a range of Sprint and marathon kayak athletes male and female to Olympic and World Championships, World Cups and University Championships
- I have extensive knowledge of sports programmes, where my intervention has secured World Class performances including, Netball, Athletics and Badminton
- I have staged a range of National and International Events and recruited to support the bid to host ICF London World Cup 2008
- I work with technical committees ensuring accurate and timely information is provided
- I have worked with a number of National Olympic Committees, providing infrastructure arrangements for athlete development and elite competition
- I am a passionate advocate, utilising my strategic planning and networking skills; I am highly experienced in relationship management in multi stakeholder environments, operating with diplomacy and respect

*"Olympic Champion and on top of the world!! Your belief in me being able to achieve this has always been a massive source of encouragement and motivation to me. Your support as a mentor has been and still is invaluable to me. You've always been there with encouragement when I've doubted myself, and your support as a coach getting me back on track and in a boat was the catalyst that started my athletic career. You recognised a depth of talent within me that I couldn't see myself. I wouldn't be enjoying the success I've achieved including that all important and precious gold medal without your support and influence."*

*Liam Heath Olympic Champion 2016 K1 200m, Silver Medallist 2016 K2 200m and 2012 Bronze Medallist K2*

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### **John Hoile**

I have been a member of Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club for 30 years. I am a Club Trustee as well as the Club's Treasurer. I have held these positions for many years.

One of my roles on the SRC is Vice Chairman which I have held for 2 years. However, my main role on the SRC is that of Chairman of the Regatta Committee. I took on this role in 2011 when it became vacant as it has to be held by an elected member of the SRC.

During that time the changes I have instigated in the regatta organisation, have helped to spread the knowledge of its working across more volunteer officials. This breadth of experience from these volunteers is taking the working of the regatta into a more efficient and clearer process including the on line entry which has proved popular with Team Leaders. Through Official Workshop days, we have produced clear guidance for each of the working areas that underpin the regattas. These are valuable documents for new officials to give an insight as to what we do.

My role involves liaising with HPP on the hire cost, making sure that the services they say they will provide are in place, checking thoroughly the invoices sent to us, meeting with management, providing risk assessment documents for each regatta and sorting out issues that arise, of which there have been many this year. This all takes an enormous

## Pen Portraits: Election candidates as members of the Sprint Racing Committee

amount of time. Also working with British Canoeing to promote our discipline has involved several meetings.

### So what can I bring to the SRC?

I can bring my experience and knowledge of sprint racing and the ability to work with other people to continue the development of our discipline for paddlers now and in the future.

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### Scott Hynds

The outline reasons I think I have something to bring to the Sprint Racing Committee are as follow:

I started racing in 1986 and I have been through the sprint system as a GB junior and then later on, at the side of the lake as a club coach. I believe in the power of sport (particularly ours) to enrich lives, especially young ones and to that aim I'm setting up a school kayak club as a satellite of Elmbridge CC. I have an understanding and an interest in the system and would like to see the grass roots grow, offering a pathway for athletes both regionally and nationally, both to compete to their highest level but also to have fun and experiences that can shape them and stay with them for life.

I believe that the sport should be run for the benefit of the people taking part (at all levels and ages) and not just as a production line of athletes to be pumped into a program. I have positive ideas on ways to grow the sport and its wider appeal and ways to cast the net wider both in a sporting, participation way, but also geographically

Having said all that, I don't have an axe to grind or an agenda, or a position to defend. I am passionate about our sport and the chances it offers people from novice to Olympians

I've been very lucky to have been coached by some of the best from Roland Lawler to Eric Farrell and competed with and against some of Great Britain's most successful athletes. I've been trying to give back to a sport that has given me so many opportunities in life that wouldn't have been afforded me otherwise, and to this end I see this application as a natural extension of that aim.

On a personal note, I'm used to working in strategic teams with short, medium and long term goals (having been part of a large secondary schools leadership team) and taking other points of view onboard and advocating those I believe in.

I hope that I can add something positive and that my application is seen as a serious and successful one.

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### Tom Love

**"Tom Love has been canoeing and kayaking for 30 years and has competed Internationally in Sprint both at Junior and Senior levels during this time. Over the last 7 years Tom has moved on to coaching at Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club, he has taken paddlers from novice through to international success and currently**

## Pen Portraits: Election candidates as members of the Sprint Racing Committee

coaches the U16 / U18 racing groups. Tom also has knowledge of club management and administration, previously serving as Chair of RLSCC and currently serving to represent the racing interests of the club at committee level. Tom has an in depth and broad knowledge of canoe sport, he would like to offer his time to further develop and strengthen the sport of sprint racing by building on the successes of recent years."

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### Steve Moule

I started canoeing in 1993 and have been with Chelmsford Canoe Club since then, with a few years spent with Richmond whilst at university and a couple of months in Durban, whilst travelling. I have always enjoyed sprint racing, with a passion for 200m racing long before it became mainstream.

Over the last few years as my step-son has got older, I've been able to start giving back to the Sport, become increasingly involved in Coaching as a volunteer at Chelmsford. I currently coach the 2nd Tier in our racing structure as well as leading all junior weight training.

I work for the Metropolitan Police, as a Sergeant in East London. Whilst shift work presents its difficulties, commuting offers a great opportunity to plan coaching and keep up on developments in our sport.

At the start of this year I was invited by BC CEO David Joy and BC Chairman John Coyne to provide input to SRC for a review of their competition rules. As a result of this I have been engaging with the Racing community on Racing Canoe Clubs FB Page, and have submitted my resulting recommendations to this years ACM.

I would like your vote to join the SRC, so that I can work within the committee to ensure that the changes and updates that are required to the current rules occur. It is also my intention should I be elected to apply pressure internally to increase the transparency of this committee, and those that report to it."

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### Nicola Williams

I started canoeing when I was 8 years old and have been actively racing in both Sprint and Marathon events regularly. I have also done some surf ski competitions which I think helps paddlers develop their boat skills and confidence. I've won several National championships medals and have competed for GB Junior and U23 Sprint and Marathon teams several times. I race most weekends in sprint and Marathon competitions and have even been known to do the odd surf ski event.

I hold a British Canoeing level two coach award and have started on my level three coaching award. I'm a member of Royal Canoe Club and coach at the club running regular

## Pen Portraits: Election candidates as members of the Sprint Racing Committee

sessions each week. I have also worked as a part time British Canoeing coach and have organised summer courses for beginners and training camps for athletes.

I have been on the RCC Club committee for two years and am currently RCC Club Captain.

I know that most of the SRC committee members are usually a little older than myself but I feel it would be good to have a younger input getting involved in committees so that they can learn how the sport is managed. I hope that you will support my application.

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### **Cathy Wynne**

I have been involved in canoeing for well over 30 years, first at club level assisting with our local club marathon races and sprint events also with the Team Leader role. Over 25 years ago I began assisting at the national sprint regattas gaining experience in a wide variety of roles before becoming an International Canoe Federation Technical Official 17 year ago. Since when I have worked at many ICF World Cup, European and World Championship events in a range of roles including for the past 10 years often being part of the international events' Competition Committee. The highlight being, for the Rio Olympic Games, I was appointed Chief Judge for the Paracanoe Sprint events.

As an ICF Technical Official I have gained a wide experience of high level international competitions, while this is hard work there is also the opportunity to learn from other international sprint officials both ICF members and other technical officials from other countries how they run regional, local and national events. I would like to use that knowledge to assist in building up our regional regattas and local sprint event, so that more paddlers can take part in sprint racing locally and regionally as well as competing at National regattas.

For the past 12 years I have been the SRC Secretary, while also working as Chief Official at the National Sprint Regattas for the last 9 years, where I am assisting with planning, implementation of and the development of a new National Regatta Management System. Which could then be used for local, regional and national regattas once fully developed. For the National regattas, the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the IT development is underway with the on-line entry system. In addition, this year has seen the introduction of live results, the next step will be live access to the draws for Finals all assessable via phone or tables. There is more planned which why I would like to continue to be a part of the SRC to assist with turning those plans into reality.

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