



Sprint Racing Annual Consultative Meeting

Regatta Committee, 2018 Review

Many of you will have read an article in the September programme entitled 'What Would We Do Without Them', shown below. I believe it highlights the varied skills of our volunteers and their time commitment to organise and officiate at each regatta. I would like to make a special mention of the Regatta Committee (Phil, Wendy, Louise and Cathy) as well as Kari (Registration) and Ann (Volunteer Coordinator)

Before the Regatta

- Planning the timetable of events
- Sending team leaders relevant information
- Checking the entries with the correct monies
- Organising a rota that will work for all officials
- Invite visiting commentators or photographers
- Liaise with HPP on issues and requirements
- Book paramedic and organise a First Aid Rota
- Check and organise equipment replace where necessary
- Write Health/Safety and Monthly Risk Assessments
- Compile the printed programme and send to the printer.
- Order and print out Promotion and Mini Sprint Certificates.
- Order medals and clean trophies.
- Order merchandise

During the Regattas

- Team Leaders Meeting
- Judging
- Photo finish and Finish line
- Answering questions and keeping the programme updated.
- Updating results and putting them on the scoreboard, also calculating Mini Sprint

and McGregor points and working out promotions and demotions.

- Boat Weighing known as boat control
- Starts
- Umpiring and boat driving
- K4 maintenance
- Commentary
- Continuous overview of all working areas to see they are functioning well and liaising with HPP on issues that arise
- First Aid
- Preparing and presenting Medals
- Selling of merchandise

After the Regattas

- Check all results, including penalty and McGregor points, promotions and demotions then putting them on the website after notifying Team Leaders.
- Banking income and checking invoices before paying.
- Liaise with HPP on positive and negative issues.

Over the winter

- Evaluate the year's regattas in detail and plan for the next season.
- Liaise with HPP, SRC, British Canoeing and the Performance Coaches. Evaluate and clarify requirements in preparation for the next season of regattas.
- Run an Officials' workshop.
- Update the Handbook.

Without all of our Officials, there would not be national regattas as we know them today. Thank you



This year we organised six regattas, and as you will be aware, the turn around of getting results from one regatta published and the preparation of the next regatta became a full time 'job'.

I believe we have seen some close and exciting racing, especially in the Junior Classes. This is good for our sport, the clubs and the paddlers.

We are grateful to the Performance Department who donated a Nelo K4 to the SRC fleet.

We have also trialled some new innovations and your comments would be appreciated as the Regatta Committee are due to meet on 21st October to start the review process and plan for next year.

National Championships and the Annual National Inter-Club Medal Competition

The May Regatta saw the introduction of the medal table where those paddlers who won medals, gained points. The points were added to the medals won at the September Regatta and included medals won by Para Canoe, Mini Sprint Series and Paddle-ability events. We are grateful to the British Canoeing Performance Department for donating K2 as a prize to the winning club for this new competition.

This year also saw the introduction of new BC medals, which have been well received by the paddlers. As you know, the September Regatta was part of British Canoeing' Super September series of events – Freestyle European Open, The British Open Wild Water Championships and the British Open Polo Championships all held at Holme Pierrepont over the same two days. Over the two days 277 sprint races were programmed of which 83 were finals. Approximately 450 medals were presented during the weekend

Under 12 Youth Racing

500m K1 racing has taken place at the last four regattas.

They were included in the MacGregor points as well as the National Championships, gaining points for the medals they had won. Entries are steadily growing from Regatta to Regatta. Boys entries are greater than Girls entries. The Under 12 Boys and Under 12 Girls + Girls D took part in a 200m 'knock out event' which was interesting to watch with some exciting racing seeing paddlers paddling 'on mass' across the lake.

This class will be reviewed by the Regatta Committee and the Sprint Racing Committee, so your comments will be valued.

Band Together Regatta

Generally, we received many positive comments after this regatta. With the expected lower number of paddlers, it gave us the opportunity to experiment with different formats of racing including ability band racing, more Long Distance events (K1 and K2) and Knock out racing for the Under 12's

The banding together of paddlers of equal paddling ability provided some interesting results with parents competing against their children or with their children in crew boats. It also gave many of the smaller clubs the opportunity to race in crew boats where the number of club paddlers are small.

One observation was that some clubs missed the opportunity to mix their crews within the bands, thus involving more paddlers.

This regatta also gave us the opportunity to provide more Long Distance racing. Seven K1 races, four K2 races and one C1 and one C2 race were planned for the weekend. I know this was well received, however entries were disappointingly low, and it is very time consuming and difficult to organise, particularly in the preparation of results.



MacGregor Paddle

For the first time, Officials who help at the regattas were rewarded by gaining points for their club. Officials are, by and large, members of the clubs who compete for the MacGregor Paddle. It is quite noticeable which clubs provide Officials and those who do not. Whilst we understand that small clubs may find it difficult to provide volunteers it is disappointing that some of the larger clubs do not.

Demotions

Demotions this year have not been automatic. Team Leaders are consulted before the demotion is made official and a request for deferral may be made in mitigating circumstances. This has caused a few questions during the year by various Team Leaders, as the demotions are not published on the official results, as requested at last year's ACM.

IT

The Online entry System worked well throughout the year bar a few key unresolved bugs. We did have a few problems with support, but issues were sorted for the regattas. Phil Caisley will be working with our programme provider to resolve these problems before the start of the new season.

On site Technical support is purchased by the Regatta Committee for each regatta, which includes IT. Our thanks to John Ball for his support.

Thanks to Trevor, a new live draw system has been implemented and is operational.

Regatta officials were consulted at the Officials Training Day as to how IT could impact on their roles. This is a part of a wide ranging project to upgrade the use of IT at regattas.

We continue to work with British Canoeing, not only with the Performance Department but with the other departments within the organisation whose support is appreciated.

As I said earlier, the Regatta Committee are meeting on the 21st October to review this year's regattas and plan for next year. Today you have a chance to feedback to the committee your thoughts which we will then discuss when we meet.

John Hoile

Regatta Committee, Chair