

## Minutes AGM – 18.09.2016 - London

### Attending teams:

LV Men  
Red Rose  
Mens Masters team  
LVPC women's masters  
U23 women  
GB Women

### Others:

Sean Clarke  
Malcolm Ferris lay  
Nathalie & Phil Bishop  
Martin & Gill Wayland  
Wendy Daley  
Luke Durbin  
Kim Snape  
Aaron Dempsy  
Charlotte Painter  
Peter Oliphant  
Karen Moffat

### Missing:

Tom Quinn  
Lawrence Harris

## Welcome

Opening of the meeting – Deb welcomes all attendees and asks for an introduction (name and background on connection with rafting).

Deb: History of Rafting and English Rafting Committee. Need for a ERC after more teams showed interest to race overseas and organise rafting events. This energy motivated many people to take part, this now needs a reboot. An exciting crossroads is appearing as British Canoeing would like to equal all paddle sports which is a unique chance to embed Rafting into the BC structure. We need new people to step up to make this possible. We need to cover some official roles but want to get more people involved across all the tasks that need to be done.

As a discipline, we receive £1000 per year from British Canoeing. A Development plan was written 6 years ago, this was taken to British Canoeing and after much perseverance, we were given £18,000 to buy all new equipment, which funded the new Bull Rafts. All of the GB teams now have a raft to train in. The desire is there to earn more money. We do need to tick some boxes for that.

Pas: key thing BC is changing. BC recognises the communication is poor and all attention is focussed on the Olympic disciplines. Changes are hard to make but if we show we are willing to be involved now. We need to understand what ticks their boxes to get into their attention. Participation figures are key, and we need to ensure that we take every opportunity to increase these, and most importantly record them to share with BC. The British Open is an example where British Canoeing should be all inclusive and rafting is one of their disciplines. The have a go part on this is really important this weekend, and is a good showcase for possibilities rafting can offer BC. We need to make sure that BC understands what the 18.000 is used for, to get new people into paddle sports. With the people in this room and their access to centres, we can run 'commercial activities' through

the ERC to increase the participation numbers. This is the first step to also increase attention and increase of level for GB rafting. Strong foundation in BC to lead into more attending for rafting across the UK in different venue's without over stretching. We have had many competitions over the last few year but this has decreased the last few years. A renewed energy for these events will help build participation once more, as well as raise some more funds.

Deb: just taking people out in a raft counts as participation. Pas needs to know these participation numbers.

The coaching scheme is important to be able to make it possible to get people into the sport in the official and clear.

Pas: the coaching scheme is changing massively as well and with people like Dan Daley being involved in this it is THE time to get involved in that.

Media presence is important, there is a website and a Facebook page, like every team has got their own. Lawrence has been heading up the website and is looking to pass that on.

### **Voting of members for the committee:**

#### **Chair**

Deb would like to nominate Malcolm to chair the committee; he has been involved in setting up rafting at LVPC and fund raising. Nomination accepted by Malcolm

Malcom: this is a great time to move rafting forward. There needs to be a focus on coaching, and this needs to be organised across the country. Participation is needed with a special focus on people with disabilities. I've got experience in the financial world and have got experience with coaching. Communicating is key for at this stage. Malcolm would be happy to take on that role.

Everyone voted Malcolm into post

#### **Vice Chair:**

Deb: would like to nominate Luke as a vice chair. Position is needed as the Chair job is large, and is only going to get bigger if we intend to grow the sport. Luke is always around and available to help, Luke would bring the 'whole country' aspect to the table.

Luke Dorbin: would be happy to take on this role.

Everyone voted Luke into post

#### **Treasurer:**

Sean Clarke: Would like to take on this role. He has been involved in committees for 20 years. Works in IT project management and runs finance on multi-million projects.

Everyone voted Sean into post

Deb: the GBR account is managed by Lawrence. This account is in the BC's financial area. Each year we need to show budgeting for the year and final amount in the account. In the accounts is 2060.00 at the moment. Each year rafting received £1000 from the BC which gets used for IRF fees.

Within all BC accounts for different disciplines, a large amount of cash is present. BC would not like to change this. There are possibilities to investigate how rafting could help spreading the money.

#### **Secretary:**

Wendy Daley: Has helped to get young teams to the world championships which is a big jobs, has got good organisation skills and understanding of the rafting needs.

Everyone voted Wendy into post

**Welfare officer:**

Gill Wayland: teaches and has got all the qualifications, she deals with children on a daily basis. She would be keen to get involved. Has already asked the LVPC welfare and safety officer for some information.

Deb: having more and more youth teams required this role. British Canoeing has got a lot of support in this.

Everyone voted Gill into post

**Communications / Media**

A group of people with different qualities have offered to help.

Keith: based in Devon. Has got experience as a professional website builder and has been involved in raft racing and would like to help.

Kim Snape: would like to help with the Facebook and other social media accounts/ website.

Charlotte Painter: works for the Lee Valley marketing team and is keen to get involved.

Sean Clarke: is happy to share his IT skills and social media knowledge.

Phil: professional photographer is happy to get involved on events or even teams specifically.

Malcolm: would like to nominate one responsible person for this. This will be decided at a later stage (Or has it been decided already?)

Is Kim going to coordinate this??

**Coaching officer**

Deb: This role is twofold, there are teams with coaches and it would be great to share knowledge and offer team opportunities to get in touch with a coach or other coaches. On the other hand it is important to develop a program to develop coaches so we can get new people into rafting following BC guidelines. A BC approved coaching scheme would be desirable.

Tom Quinn has offered to help, Dan Daley would like to support in this. Tom is a canoeing athlete, canoeing and rafting coach, Dan is rafter, coach and has got a level 3 British canoeing qualifications and will be involved in restructuring the BC coaching scheme.

Everyone voted Tom into post

**Team Liaison:**

Susie Winter from Red Rose would like to be team liaison to form a stronger bond between all teams racing.

Everyone voted Susie into post

**Events and Participation:**

Sarah-Jayne Evans and Jess Evans would like to take care of Events and Participation. They are keen to help out and bring some events up north.

Everyone voted Sarah and Jess into post.

Pas: Matt Blue will still organise the planned Llandysul event for the first weekend of December. It's the only event that makes money for the rafting account as there is no water hire fee and a great participation event. After that it's important to speak with the individuals in charge of the rafting/activity centres. There are some strong links with the centres in Cardiff, Nottingham and

London and all these centres have got people in post who would like to support with the events, they need to be prompted to organise. We need to be creative using water at rafting centres like Nottingham as there is time in the evenings in summer we can use for rafting. It will be a great location for participation events and is right under BC's nose.

### **Open discussion:**

Deb will still be involved as an international deputy on the IRF board passing on information from the IRF forums to the ERC.

### **Communication**

Pas: How do people want to be approached to hear about news, events, etc.?

Malcolm: Facebook page needs to be strong. There needs to be an email list for the meetings, events and other important news. We need to get everyone's email addresses and not just the captains.

Pas: Lawrence can change the English Rafting Committee emails so the board members can have their own email address.

### **Name and Logo ERC**

Malcolm: Name of the English rafting committee. British Rafting would be good to have as an actual name.

Luke: Wales and Scottish rafters would not like to see the same thing.

Pas: Worth asking the questions as all committees would be nice to be pulled together.

Fay: Can we use the GBR rafting logo? Pas is happy for everyone to use this logo as THE GBR team logo. Other teams with other logos would need to be happy with this though.

### **Inventory**

Kim: Inventory for rafts, we would like to know what kit is available.

Deb: Kit and inventory needs to be looked at. It might be good that teams sign a contract for raft, charging a minimal hire fee?

Sean would like to be responsible for kit as well as he would like to know where the money is, so would like to see what we have.

Pas: Would be great to then have a look at what we have to see if there are gaps in the kit we have available. We can then hunt for missing items like gazebos for example.

### **Kit**

Deb: There might be options for bank team kit coming up to have GB paddlers in any discipline wearing the same GB tracksuit.

Wendy: We need to have the possibility to add sponsors to their own clothes.

Aaron: There will be guidelines for where you can put your own sponsors on these.

Team liaison: Job to have a look at a GB team outfit for future (World and European) events.

Malcolm: Being involved with a new sponsor there might be a way to get the same paddling kit for everyone as well.

Fieke: We would like to make sure that deal is sustainable as we do not want to drive PALM away for just one year of kit.

Steely: We need to sign up to being one team and make sure we all look at the bigger picture rather than looking at the team's own benefits.

Pas: Will be ordering GBR rafting team t-shirt and people can get in touch if they want to order similar. There will be room on the sleeve for own sponsors.

### **Membership British Canoeing**

Deb: Memberships, if you race world and European championships you need to be a member of British Canoeing. So make sure you are a member of British Canoeing as we will be checking for the

upcoming competitions. We need to get away from 'but what did they do for us?', we now need to show willing! Pas voted this.

Dan: would be favourable to do that for national competitions as well.

Tom: don't enforce fun rafters to pay member ships too early. There needs to be a balance to encourage new people in the sport without massive financial barriers. Competition insurances via BC are possible.

### **Usage of rafts & paddles for participation**

Jess: we would like to encourage participation. If we are able to recruit people, are there any paddles available we can use for participation.

Deb: We have got 2 sets of paddles and these are there to move around the country. Pas does not need these at Lee Valley so they can be moved around.

### **International competition standards / Race award**

Wendy: There are many competition's internationally teams can take part in without being the GB team (euro cup competitions).

Aaron: is there a level of competency required?

Pas: international event like Europeans and World, the ERC has got a responsibility to make sure the team going out have understanding of white water and safety. However there is a responsibility within teams as well as the ERC can't be up to date with wellbeing and knowledge of team at all times. It would be nice if the ERC can advise for a standard for all competitions. This is in no way a requirement set by BC.

Rob: setting a standard should be easy to achieve using the using current canoeing coaching schemes.

Deb: There has been a competency race award for team in the past. It would be important to get this set-up well and get them recognised by all UK venue's so teams can train across the UK, might need backing up by BC.

### **Training event in Alps**

Blue: the training event in the French Alps was a great success. Can we do this again?

Sarah, the new team liaison will get in touch with teams to see if this is a option.

### **Events**

Sarah: Can we run specific participation events / make classes within the competition to encourage other teams to keep taking part in the events? Not having the same team taking the win very time. Newer teams mentioned it was good to be able to race with others and to get the help from these teams.

Pas: Only one event a year has to meet the standard IRF set up, the other events we are free to do whatever kind of event we want.

### **Selection competition time**

Blue: selection is late towards japan? Is there a possibility to bring it forward?

Different teams with different opinions: Gives you more time to organise sponsorship, gives less time to get the new team up and running after competitions if changes are necessary before selections.

The 2017 selection is planned but for future selections the events team can have a look at it.

### **Team selections**

Fieke: we as a team are trying to set up a standard for team seat selection, every January. This allows team members to train hard for a comeback or entry into our team. It does not mean it's an open invite to everyone as the sport is too small for this and getting on with people is important in this point of time. However we would like to see if more teams want to get involved working

together on a team selection weekend to share knowledge and resources. If teams are interested they can contact us.

New AGM date: during next British Open, date TBC

Malcom thanked Lee Valley for all the support.

Pas: A massive thanks from everyone within the rafting community to Deb who has put so much time and effort in the sport of rafting over the past years to take rafting to where it is now!