

BRITISH RAFTING

Committee Meeting held at 12:30pm on Sunday 12 March @ HPP, Nottingham

MINUTES

In Attendance: Malcolm Ferris-Lay, Luke Dorbin, Sean Clarke, Gill Wayland, Charlotte Painter, Jess Evans, Sarah Jayne Evans, Kim Snape, Susie Winter, Wendy Daley, Mark Steel, Tori Calloby

Apologies for Absence: Dan Daley

Welcome

Chair welcomed all those present and gave apologies for absence. An official 'thank you' to Sean and his team for the success of the Selection weekend was minuted

Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meetings held on 09/10/2016 and 11/01/2017 were approved and signed off by the Chair. This will remain a standing agenda item and previous meetings minutes will be signed off at each subsequent meeting

Finance

This will be a standing agenda item - SC to present.

MF-L to contact British Canoeing to clarify the position regarding the £1k standard annual bursary British Rafting receives which typically is used to pay the IRF annual membership fee.

British Canoeing – Capital Funding

MF-L reported that British Canoeing had offered funding of £10k for the sole purpose of growing rafting in the UK. The Rafting Project Application form needs to be submitted by the end of March 2017. MF-L proposed that the funding be used to purchase 4 new rafts and paddles. LD recommended red Ainsworth paddles and this was approved by the Committee. MF-L will complete and submit completed paperwork. SJ asked for clarification and MF-L stated that the funding was for the purchase of capital assets – it could not be used for other rafting related purchases e.g. developing coaching awards.

The Committee will then invite those clubs who have already shown/would be interested in setting up a rafting arm for newcomers – it was felt the focus for this should be on clubs rather than centres who currently offer commercial rafting in their area.

A full audit trail would be followed which will start with those clubs interested putting in a formal written request with justification as to why they should be considered as well as how they plan to grow grass roots rafting. SJ questioned the use of rafts and it was agreed usage would be by clubs and not commercial operators.

Review of GB Selection Event

KS confirmed Rafts have been handed out to teams where possible. The U19 Girls have a raft and have agreed to share with the U19 boys. Both team names are down on the form and it has been signed by their coach. This raft is showing signs of damage to which Lawrence Harris is in discussion with them to look at possible warranty repair work.

The teams will also be responsible for ensuring the rafts are available at British Rafting Events.

It was agreed letters would be sent to Andy Grudzinski and Bert Kanora to thank them for all their help before and during the event.

The general consensus from participants was that the event was well run. MS quantified this saying that it was one of the best planned selection events he had attended.

LD - For future events more clarification required to competitors around the start pool and maybe invest in a hooter.

More utilisation of both Committee and volunteers especially in rotating tasks so we do not leave ourselves vulnerable to 'job pockets' and therefore reliant on a small pool of helpers. Although there are a number of roles which require certification there are still many areas where volunteers can be given the experience thereby expanding the pool. Make an effort to ensure we are totally inclusive in sharing information so help can be offered and fairly spread.

CP will send an example event plan for large corporate events to WD who will then circulate to the Committee. This can be used as an example for future events.

SW's sister-in-law who is a sports massage and injury prevention therapist gave up her time, free of charge, to offer advice and treatment. Although there was a leaflet given to each team SW felt this could have been publicised better. This will be looked at for future events.

Logo, Branding, Use of Term GB

MF-L has contacted Urvasi at British Canoeing to ascertain agreement on our use of the term British Rafting or British Canoeing - Rafting. He is currently awaiting a response.

BR currently has two logos – one for the Raft race Series that has been adopted across all social media and the second for use by the selected GB teams. It was suggested that the 'home kit' – the fist holding the paddle as seen on the website - should be used as the identity for British Rafting including the Raft Race Series. GW and WD pointed out that the Union flag in the fist did not always produce well making the brand unclear. LD pointed out the logo has now been adapted to make it clearer. The younger teams much prefer the design of the long paddle which they are currently using. During the meeting CP noted that she had printed out logos of other organisations of a similar standing/stature to BR but unfortunately didn't have them to hand at the meeting GW has raised a query regarding looking at the other designs that CP has produced. This is still awaiting final clarification.

SC noted that should BR come fully under BC, then the GB kit would be dictated by BC.

The GB Podium Kit is currently dependent on a response from BC once they have approved their new kit. It was agreed at the meeting to use the current logos going forward until we have alignment with BC at which point we would review logos again

The Committee agreed that the Raft Race Series logo (fist holding paddle) will be our logo going forward to represent British Rafting and the Raft Race Series. The GBR Raft team logo can be used by teams selected as teams to represent GB until such time as British Canoeing confirm the agreement /adoption of the British Canoeing or British Rafting or a new logo for use by GB teams.

Website

Everyone agreed the new website looks great with thanks to SC. LD pointed out that when googling British Rafting the old British Raft Team site leads the listings. SC said that this domain will expire in

April and the current ranking in Google is down to the popularity of the old site domain name vs the current one. CP queried if the site was Search Engine Optimised (SEO) – SC confirmed it is.

MF-L reported that BC have requested the digital web contact for BR and it was agreed that SC was the best person to put forward.

A question was raised as a team member at the selection event did not want any photographs put online. The Committee agreed for future events to be clear that if you participate in a British Rafting event you are likely to be photographed and by participating you are agreeing to British Rafting's use of all media material.

Any Other Business

LD: Reported email received by Deb from IRF who are in discussion re future changes for H2H. LD to supply link to the forum to be circulated amongst competitors.

Will set up a spreadsheet to calculate scores. To contact IRF to see if a template already exists.

S-JE Event calendar for 2018 to be drawn up by September 2017 for forwarding to BC.
Events update:
Event being negotiated at Tryweryn.
New JJs – possible future event being suggested on the Dee
At present Teeside was not cost-effective as an event venue.
MF-L reported that BC would be willing to help fund a 'Paddlefest' event at Washburn which Rafting could play a part. Event Team to progress.
British Open
Matlock – possibly later in season
The Lakes – to be looked at for future events.
Possible Training Camp weekend available to all levels

CP GB Selection announcements will be on BR web page and then team web pages.
CP to help progress BR Press Release and then look at helping teams roll out to local media for all team members around the country.

GW Raised the issue of the Athletes Contract/Code of Conduct. SC noted that the Athlete Participation Statement was being drawn up for Committee review. GW to assist in the preparation of the document.

SC: Go Canoeing have an events week planned in May. Events Team to see if we can coincide with one of our rafting events.

Email address for Chair and Secretary positions have been set up. Currently only Rafting.Treasurer@BC is in use.

SC and CP to follow up with Rafting Magazine and Sportscene. WD to supply CP with Sportscene details.

WD: Raised a point regarding team coaches setting courses and then briefing their teams. SC noted that the use of Team Coaches was published publicly in the Selection Policy and no comments or queries were raised during consultation. SC further noted that Slalom, Freestyle and other disciplines at BC, ICF and the IRF use the same policy for use of coaches to design a course. WD responded that we should be mindful that although we are bringing BR in line with BC guidelines they and the other disciplines have been implementing this for a long time. In any other water discipline, particularly sprint and slalom, no team/individual would attend a World Selection event without their coach and they would all have one. As a relatively new discipline aligning itself to BC and just making its mark we need to remember that a number of teams who entered the selection event do not have access to a coach so although the policies are there, we are not currently advanced enough to follow them to the latter and discretion should be used. SJ pointed out if a team lost access to their coach due to them setting up the course it would be a major disadvantage. LD agreed and pointed out that being one of the course designers he didn't fully understand he was able to then help his team with the slalom and this may have impacted on their performance. WD suggested

that all teams without a coach are maybe offered a course walk by those coaches present. The Committee agreed to review the use of coaches in course design for the next Select Event policy and planning.

MF-L: Information gathering on how many people raft and breakdown (non-commercial) - requesting participation numbers on previous training sessions.

Date of Next Meeting

All Committee members to let WD have their availability for weekends in July and it was agreed the meeting will be held in Nottingham.