



Minutes of 11/03/2025 General Committee Meeting 8 p.m. via Zoom

In Attendance: Jonathan Males (JM), Ciaran Edwards (CLE), Irina Medunyak (IM), Jon Halden (JH), Mark Corti (MC), Martin Davies (MD), Martin Smyth (MS), Peter Nash (PN), Pam Phillips (PP) Catherine Pulis (CP) Marie Bauerova (MB)

Apologies: Carl Upsall (CU), Marc Diggins (MDI), James Bradley (JB), Karen da Silva (KdS), Sophie Chandon (SC)

The meeting met the requirements for being quorate.

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

Welcome to the first meeting of the General Committee in 2025.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Agreed: Minutes of the General Committee meeting on 10th December 2024 were approved. [AGR 250311 2.0.1]

Update to note: JH and CLE have started discussions on coaching payments and recognition given the differences between the slalom programme and other Club activities.

ONLY STANDING AGENDA ITEMS REQUIRING REPORTS OR DISCUSSION AT TODAY'S MEETING ARE SHOWN IN THE MINUTES BELOW

3.0 Updates and matters Arising

Further discussion on the geographic distribution of members based on mapping updates was circulated by MS. No further action at this time, but the Committee will monitor at regular intervals.

Action: Geographic distribution of the Club membership to be part of annual review process in advance of Quality Club audit. [ACT 250311 3.0.1]

4.0 Update on GLL Agreement

JM reported on a good, positive meeting with the new Centre Manager, with a strong vision for the future as the best White Water Centre in the World; accepting of our ambition as wanting to be the best resident Club! Happy for us to have a banner in reception - JM has ordered. Confirmed that beginners on Lake as a Centre activity only will continue as this is a universal GLL standard for their centres. We as a Club will therefore continue to develop through other options.

We will work in collaboration with the Centre to promote each others' offerings as this is mutually beneficial and increases participation in paddle sports. Mark Underwood from Phoenix is to be the new paddling/coaching lead.

LVWWC is open to us using their meeting rooms should we need them and we are to let them know if we have any ideas/needs. Changing room signs are confirmed as ok to be used, we just need to check who will be providing them and putting them in place for sessions.



6.0 Quality Audit

Discussion took place on the initial collation of thoughts around last year's Quality Audit summary, and ideas for this year's submission. Themes to highlight included: Building on the financial changes from the last year and consolidate our financial approach. This is the number 1 challenge; and, through the slalom programme and its outreach, we are promoting local engagement, local recruitment initiatives and aiming for local growth in participation.

MC - recruitment isn't really something we have spoken about as a focus. Should we have a plan specifically on recruitment? (eg. actions to work with GLL on the back of their intro sessions, and through other clubs)

PN- AquaPaddle would be a good new initiative for getting people into sprint type activities. Looking to trial first through Whoosh, but could readily involve the Club if it looks as though it could be successful.

CLE - PaddleUK is applying for a world cup in 2026/7 and it is linked to social impact assessments, JB and a representative from GLL are putting together some input documents which include how we support each other better and develop the sport more broadly.

7.0 Financial Update

MB reported that the winter schedule has appeared to be helpful in mitigating winter water booking losses. We'll analyse further at future meetings.

Projection is looking as though we will be achieving a positive balance this year rather than the deficit of 16k last year. So the analysis and work last year was timely and has been effective. Coaching was one of our plans and income is up - so the plan has worked.

MB asked if it is possible to change the membership year to the financial year? Alternatively, MC raised changing the financial year to the membership year? MB noted that for Company financial reporting, it would be beneficial for the financial year to stay as is.

Action: Conduct a piece of work to look at the options for changing, and, take a preferred option to the AGM if there is anything substantive to say.
[ACT 250311 7.0.1]

8.0 Membership Update

PP reported there had been a lot of enquiries but not much of an uptake. She flagged concerns about the impact of M25 road works and congestion that affects people willing to travel.

10.0 Coaching Update

JH reported that all was progressing well. Positive comments were made on the value of the courses.



11.0 Safety Update

MC raised a query regarding the current situation at Rammey Island with regard to DBS, sign-offs etc. It was confirmed that MD is the only coach at the moment and sessions only take place when he is available. So we are currently covered.

Radios were trialled. Not yet programmed to Centre, so are going back to get that sorted.

12.0 Equipment Update

Inventory being updated, equipment needed has been purchased. Purchases since last meeting: 2 throw lines, 4 new spray decks, 8 buoyancy bags for the club Burns. Will be identifying/confirming unused boats with a view to potential sale. Paddle UK is to put lighting into the sheds. Fees for the additional use of sheds are to be negotiated.

13. Discipline Update: FlatWater

Still limitations on what we are able to do, but trying to get a coaching cadre together. MD also described future meetings on river access and use.

16. Discipline Update: Recreational

PN reported on the success of recent paddles and plans to continue checking venues and dates for future activities.

17. Discipline Update: Slalom

JB's role has been reviewed and negotiated with Paddle UK. Sport UK is funding Paddle UK and based on our progress they will fund JB (less 10k to be paid by the Club), and the plan has been drafted to make it self-financing. JB will continue in current activities including recruitment to the programme and overseeing the 3 major slalom events. Last year the recruitment numbers didn't quite hit the target so plans are in place to improve that aspect.

We will need to return to how we view and organise Club rep for Club Nights. This will entail bringing back the rota.