

Minutes of Wild Water Racing Committee Meeting
2nd September 2008

Held at Wild Water Kayak Club

Present : Martin McCarthy, John Doyle, Bruno Halter, Liam McCarthy.
Apologies: Yvonne Glynn

Constitution

It was decided to ask Yvonne Glynn to write the changes agreed at the 2007 AGM into the Constitution. These changes had been adopted but not written up.

The committee agree with Michael Feeney's suggestion at the AGM, that race rules should be separate from the Constitution. To that end, Martin McCarthy agreed to draw up a rule book. Deletion of rules from the Constitution would have to be a matter for an AGM or EGM.

Racing in different Categories

Some paddlers have expressed a desire to compete in different race categories to their own. The committee didn't see a problem with this under certain conditions. At the committee meeting held on November 28th last year, the following was decided:
Competitors may enter a different class only with the committee's permission and if that competitor offers an appropriate rationale for their request. In selection races all must race in their respective categories.

A member of the committee will contact the paddlers involved and inform them of the committee's decision to allow them compete in the desired category.

Holding Races earlier in the day.

Some of the committee felt that holding races earlier (11am) would be more convenient for people. Others pointed out that this would cause problems if people wanted to have practice runs or bring juniors on practice runs. It might also inconvenience those travelling long distances.

If accepted, this could not be introduced until the 2008/09 season as the calendar for the upcoming season is in place.

It was decided to canvas paddlers' views on this at races and on the WWR news.

Race numbers

There was a suggestion that race numbers be issued at the start of the season. This would reduce the workload of the race organiser on race day. However the committee decided to continue with the present system, as this will allow the race order to be reversed in accordance with the results of the previous race.

Assistance for race organisers

A committee member will undertake to make contact with race organisers prior to the races. This will ensure that the race organiser has whatever assistance the committee can provide. It should also ensure that the race start order is correct.

Boat Buoyancy

Race organisers and senior paddlers will be requested to ensure that all composite, competition wild water boats at all our races, both ranking and junior series, contain

buoyancy bags in accordance with the rules of the sport. This is in the interest of fair competition as well as safety. It is expected that Senior paddlers should lead by example on this issue.

Plenty of notice will be given on the WWR news in advance of the first race.

Other categories of boats should have sufficient buoyancy also. Committee owned Wavehoppers could do with extra buoyancy and committee members have agreed to attend to this.

Sponsorship

A company has indicated their willingness to sponsor prizes for a Wild Water race. This will be pursued with the Junior Liffey Series in mind.

Participation of other Clubs in WW Races.

Thomastown hope to have more competitors in our races this season.

WWKC are running 4 or 5 introductory sessions for Kilcock Canoe Club. It is hoped that other clubs will be encouraged to take part by the growing success of our sport.

Junior/Senior

Because our season straddles 2 calendar years, there might be some confusion about when a Junior becomes a Senior. The committee has ruled that if a paddler is under 18 on the day of the first race of the season, he or she remains a Junior for the rest of the season. Consequently, if a paddler's eighteenth birthday is on or after the date of the first race, he/she is deemed to be a Junior.

Training Weekends

There was some discussion about plans for training weekends at home and in the UK. It is the view of the committee that only those actively training at home, and with the required skill level, should be invited on certain training camps abroad.

Selection

Much consideration, largely of an exploratory nature, was given to selection at this meeting. Some issues that were discussed were:

- That the squad should be inclusive. Those on the squad, not selected for World Cup or Championship events should be encouraged to attend a training week and an event abroad.
- That a selection committee might take other factors into account, together with selection race results, when selecting an international team. These other factors might include: ranking race results: race results abroad: performance at training weekends; skill level; attitude, etc.
- That greater discretion be given to the selection committee
- That a review of the points system awarded at selection events should take place.

It was decided the selection policy for 2009 will state that *Juniors will not be selected for Senior Championship and World Cup events*. The committee believe that there would be adverse implications for the duty of care of Juniors attending such Senior events. The committee also believe that this duty of care could not be imposed on Senior team management or team members in the course of preparing for, and taking part in such competitions.

More Wavehoppers

It is hoped to purchase 2 second-hand Wavehoppers advertised in the UK with a view to selling them to a club here.

The meeting ended.