

## WWR – Development Forum

12<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### Flip chart notes

1. Supporting clubs involved in WWR
  - Training camps to give access to small clubs without WWR coaching to more formal and WWR coaching
  - Ensure clubs know the discipline exists
  - Supply and standardisation of winners medals/ mugs
  - Support around safety & liability - Organisers are reluctant to take the risk of organising a WWR event, it isn't always clear how they are exposed to potential risk.
  - Share club contacts
  - Ensure WWR boats in clubs
  
2. Strengthen governance rules and policies
  - Defined clear roles and responsibilities
  - Clear structure of operations
  - Professional communication
  - Simpler rules
  - More formalised
  - Professional FB page
  - Minutes published
  - Larger committee
  - Clear selection policies
  - Clear roles and responsibilities that are defined and kept to
  - Reunion with the home nations
  - Creation of working groups to support the work
  - Clarity of responsibilities on the UK Agreement
  
3. Improve communication
  - FB page or other form of open group communication to organisers for car sharing/ accommodation sharing to help costs of distant races
  - Better communication on races
  - Bring back the yearbook
  - Social media links to clubs/ individuals – races & rankings
  - Promotion of the sport
  - Celebrating success
  - Cross discipline work
  - Parkrun/ Strava style post event communication
  - More photos
  - Clear, professional communication
  - More information about races
  - More training/ coaching opportunities
  - Get local papers involved
  - Committee to support passionate individuals to move things forward
  - Small working groups with direction and remit
  - Promote a clear vision of “time trial canoeing” with safe, fun, good facilities
  - Use best practice – most successful races and repeat!
  - Committee work with the RDTs

- UK River Guide Book/ Song Of The Paddle
  - Clear communication of “what is rive racing”
  - How to get into the sport and where to get involved
  - Promote events/ sport via the RDTs
  - Promote as fun, healthy, safe sport
  - Standard format for race info on web site (easier to understand)
  - Clear communications
  - Do what we say/ say what is meant
4. Access and environment
- Re-engage with venues
  - Maximise regional racing
  - Minimise environmental impact at races
  - Encourage use of WWR boats at all venues
5. Development, support and recognition of coaches
- Coaching qualification clarification
  - National squad system
  - Bring coaches together
  - Clear coaching pathway and qualifications
  - Too much time/ cost to gain qualifications therefore many coaches doesn't have qualifications
  - Making it clear on how to start and where to go from there
6. Improve pathways to performance and international success
- National squad system
  - Key selection policies and events for development and performance
  - Continue upgrading online WWR tech manual and updated videos (best practice)
7. Provide excellent competitions
- Timing systems (x 3 comments)
  - Standard/ consistent race calendar
  - Simpler rules
  - Better rewards
  - An excellent national championships
  - Club race series – any boat
  - More mini-series, on or including different rivers and regions
  - More extreme WWR races
  - Boats to borrow
  - Lower end races more open boat categories
  - Where do Wavehoppers fit into the competition pathway
  - Grading system of races as per the old Wavehopper/ Div B, Div A
  - Divisional system
  - More locations for races (x 2 comments)
  - More organisers – more races
  - Better geographical spread of races
  - Online entry and payment (x 4 comments)
  - Results and rankings online (x 2 comments)
  - Link to Strava

- Keeping website updated
- Athlete/ paddlers database up to date
- Races with mass starts
- More team racing (x 2 comments)
- No reruns in national races
- More formats, more fun
- Several ability levels at the same event
- Have a go sessions before races
- Engage paddlers via “song of the paddle” and UK river guide book
- Link to slalom – target particular races (SW/ Wales/ Scotland/ Yorks)
- WWR participation in other existing races
- Including other races (eg, descent races, into WWR ranking system and having WWR classes

#### 8. Development, support and recognition of volunteers

- BC raise profile of the sport
- Clear roles and responsibilities for volunteers
- Get to know a geographically wide spread of people
- Increase number of people to do volunteer roles

#### 9. Increasing participation

- More categories
- More organisers
- Have a go sessions
- Engage paddlers via UK Rive Guide Book & Song of the Paddle
- Good facilities at the event
- Use more historic venues again
- Strava
- Representing the discipline at other events
- Links to slalom
- Races run alongside slalom
- Engagement with slalom clubs
- Use of slalom venue
- Engage with potential organisers
- Progressional race calendars
- More mini series
- Efficiently run races
- Flexibility of rules to allow paddlers/ mass start/ length of race/ SUP/ portage/ helmets/ safety equipment
- Share/ promote WWR to all other canoeists/ clubs
- Friendly people at all events
- Family environment
- Inclusive
- Enable more paddlers to know WWR exists
- Clear communication at venues/ training/ events/ risks/ hazards/ access
- Access to club boats at races/ training camps
- Wavehopper as separate class or development pathway