



Executive Committee meeting

31 January 2026: summary notes

Key points discussed

League racing

- Fees for international crews and UK scratch crews entering league events this year were agreed at £40 per person for international crews and £25 per person for UK scratch crews. Both include use of a pool boat.
- The possibility of junior crews entering league racing during the year was discussed.
- National League results for 2025 were reviewed. Clarification work is underway and the results will be published in the coming days.
- One further event may be added to this year's race calendar at a new venue in Scarborough. The event would be on 23 August for a maximum of 12 crews. Venue costs need to be discussed before the venue can be confirmed.

GB

- Updates were received on the GB programme, including ratification of Senior B and C squads, successful trials, and a new section that has been added on the BDA website to provide guidance around expectations and involvement with GB squads.
- It was noted that it is becoming increasingly challenging to find suitable venues for GB training, taking into account cost, facilities and accessibility.
- Options for participation in the 2027 World Championships in Hong Kong were discussed, including GB and GB Hong Kong entries.
- New BDA O1s have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in time for use at GB squad trials.
- An update on GB kit was provided. The agreement with Scimitar has been renewed and a new top design has been submitted for this year.

Financial matters

- Two applications for the club development fund had been received. One was approved. Further information is needed about the other one before a decision can be made.

Policies and frameworks

- Updated versions of the Water Safety Policy, risk assessment templates and other related policies were reviewed. New versions of all documents will be circulated once they are finalised.
- Insurance considerations were discussed in general terms, including the importance of following policies and maintaining appropriate membership.
- Coaching frameworks and qualification pathways were discussed, including providing guidance to support clubs in achieving compliance.

Other business

- Early planning for the BDA's 40th anniversary in 2027 was discussed, with a provisional date in March and a Midlands-based venue under consideration. The theme will be 'Legacy in motion'.
- The AGM will be held on 11 April. A suitable Midlands-based venue is being sought.
- A review of the BDA's strategic pillars and overall focus was discussed, with further work planned following a strategy day to help shape the future vision and priorities.
- No significant updates were reported from the EDBF or the IDBF.
- Ongoing discussions with Paddle UK were noted, with further information awaited.
- Updates were noted on partnerships and external engagement, including LimbPower activity and support for initiatives introducing dragon boat racing to new groups. This includes interest from Purple Warriors in introducing dragon boat racing at the Invictus Games in Birmingham next year, which the BDA is happy to support.
- It was noted that competition rules and race entry information on the BDA website need updating.
- A number of points relating to the JustGo membership system were discussed, including access to equality data and how this is reflected in reporting and the addition of Club Safety Officer as a defined role within the system.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 2 March 2026 at 19.00