



Executive Committee meeting

10 August 2026: summary notes

Key points discussed

Racing and events

- The 2026 National League season is complete. The current ranking system was discussed, including the requirement for crews to attend three events to qualify for the National League rankings and the way points are calculated. It was agreed that consideration should be given to whether changes are needed to encourage participation while maintaining a fair system.
- Preparations for the National Championships are progressing. Entry costs and scratch crew arrangements have been confirmed and accommodation has been sorted.
- A revised quotation for livestreaming is awaited without the large screen. Options are also being explored for integrating Dragon Scores, improving connectivity and audio, and using drones for filming.
- Some League and Nationals trophies are still outstanding and need to be returned.
- Work has started on identifying venues for the 2027 National League season.

BDA 40th anniversary

- Planning for the BDA's 40th anniversary celebration is progressing. A band, compere and photographer have been booked and further work is under way on table arrangements, T-shirts, sponsorship packages and event promotion.
- The running order, awards and speeches still need to be confirmed. Options are also being considered for guests to upload photographs and videos from the event.

Water safety

- The water safety policy is largely complete and has been shared with the Canal & River Trust for independent feedback.
- The policy will be made available to clubs through the membership platform, with clubs required to upload risk assessments as part of annual membership renewal.

- Implementation is expected to begin for the 2027 race season, with full compliance targeted for 2028 to allow time for clubs to prepare and for suitable helms and coaches to be trained and developed.
- Support will be provided to clubs where needed, and FAQs will be developed to address common issues and explain the consequences of non-compliance.
- A safeguarding lead will need to be appointed. The previously recommended individual will be invited to the next in-person Executive Committee meeting and provided with the water safety policy in advance.

DBS checks

- The process for verifying DBS checks through the DBS Update Service is being investigated, including how the BDA can confirm checks where a printable certificate is not available.
- Uploading DBS certificates to the membership platform directly was discussed but not agreed due to GDPR and access concerns.
- Current club welfare officer records will be reviewed as some clubs need to update the roles recorded on the membership platform.

Officials

- Options for paying officials are being explored following a request to review the current arrangements.
- A number of equipment requests have been made for officials, including replacement clipboards, a laptop, tablet and bullhorns.

Other business

- No further update has been received from Paddle UK.
- A number of other administrative matters were discussed including club development, Travelodge arrangements and outstanding invoices.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 7 September 2026 at 7pm on Teams.