

## Peter Keane (aka PK)

Born 1955

Peter started paddling at Luton Youth Canoe Club, which was based at Luton Swimming Pool, and on occasion, at a nearby lake at Luton Hoo. The LYCC became well known as a club that competed in Canoe Polo Competitions.

Peter's paddling career began in a K1 in 1971 at a Division 3 event at Guildford. He went on to achieve 44th position in Division 2 in 1973, and it was whilst he participated in the 1973 Windsor Division 2 event that he tried out a C1 canoe that Graham Goldsmith of Gaybo Canoes had brought along for people to try. Peter ordered a C1 a few weeks later and became a C1 paddler.

Peter's first Division 2 event was at Appletreewick 1974 where he gained 6<sup>th</sup> place. His second event, a few weeks later, was at Llandysul, where he was beaten by Martyn Hedges (later to become his close friend and rival) to take 2<sup>nd</sup> position. In the same year he competed at two other events in Division 2: Marsh Lock and Old Windsor, which saw him promoted to Division 1 before the end of June 1974. During the summer period, Peter went on to gain 6<sup>th</sup> place in the 1974 Tryweryn Open, followed by 1st in the Serpent's Tail Division 1 event, qualifying him for automatic selection to the Llangollen International and the GB Winter Training Squad. This tally of results in the C1 Class placed Peter 10th overall in the end of year Div. 1 result's table.

In 1976 Peter was selected for the GB Europa Cup Team, where he achieved 6<sup>th</sup> position at Merano.

1977 would see Peter selected for the Swiss International at Muotathal where he achieved 1<sup>st</sup> position, which was the first international event to be won by a British C1 paddler at that time. At the Spittal World Championship he was in 12<sup>th</sup> position; the highest

ranked World Championship placement achieved by a British C1 paddler.

In 1978 Peter became British Champion, one of only two paddlers to beat Martyn Hedges in his reign as British Champion between 1975 – 1989.

Peter competed in C1 at four World Championships; his best result being 4<sup>th</sup> in 1983 where he narrowly missed a Bronze medal by 0.09 of a second. His coach at that time was George Radford.

Most memorable achievements in C1:

- Winning 1974 Div1 Serpent's Tail at his first Div 1 Slalom
- Winning a Gold Medal at Muotathal International 1977
- British Champion 1978
- Achieving 4<sup>th</sup> place at 1983 Merano World Championships
- Securing a Bronze Medal in the 1983 Merano World Championships C1 Team event with Martyn Hedges and Jeremy Taylor

In addition to his achievements as a C1 canoeist 1973-1983, Peter also paddled a C2 in 1980 with Martyn Hedges, at Grandtully, Serpent's Tail and Llangollen Town in the Judges' Events, with impressive results.

Peter retired from C1 Slalom after Merano 1983 but continued to paddle in a C2 with his long-term friend, Mark Wolkenstein. From 1983 - 1987, the duo went on to represent Great Britain for 3 years achieving 5<sup>th</sup> place at Bourg St Maurice in the C2 Team event.

Peter also competed in Canoe Polo as Captain of (Luton) Tigers who were an extremely successful team in the 1980s representing Great Britain at International competitions.

Peter retired from competitive canoeing in 1990 to concentrate on his career and retired as an IT Director in 2016.

Peter is currently working on the collation of early canoeing results for an independent archive database.