

# White Water



ISSUE NO. 1 - DATED 17 MARCH 1989

Welcome to the first White Water Bulletin (in short 'The Bull'? ). As explained in February's News Release, the aim is to replace the weighty and infrequent White Water News (1983-88 RIP) with something more regular and so more newsworthy, to keep racers as up to date as possible with info from the Exec, from Race Organisers and from Paddlers, especially in these days of changing access situations. We are aiming for 10 issues per year (monthly in the season) distributed free both via Canoeist Magazine *Select Mailing* and via the Exec Mailing List as well as by SAE from the Editor. I hope you'll find the Bulletin useful and that you'll send your news items and short articles as you have in the past. Press deadline will be the 12th of each month.

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## DISCRETION - TO CONFUSE THE CHAMPION?

At Grandtully a number of top racers were seen exhibiting stickers with these pointed words - and it was refreshing to see some humour creeping into an issue that has caused a lot of aggravation this season. With the Tryweryn out of bounds and the Tees unavailable in April, the Exec found themselves in a position at the end of January where a totally discretionary selection policy for all 1989 national teams was the only option. Furthermore, the Division 'A;' calendar had to be made up to six races by the March 19 Tees race.

In order to provide some mutual focus for paddlers & selectors, contenders were duly informed that performances at the three Div 'A's (Grandtully, Tees, Washburn) would be considered within the context of a totally discretionary policy.

The Selectors will meet at Nottingham on Sunday April 9th. The committee will consist of the Team Manager & appropriate Class Coaches plus exec members John Anderson & John Graveling. The Chairman will be Martin Bosher - who certainly has the experience to cast the deciding vote if required.

## GRANDTULLY - FEW SURPRISES AT THE TOP

The Grandtully Div 'A' (March 5) was especially interesting this year on account of its potential relevance in the selection process described above. Surprises were, however, limited to the Ladies where ten veterans

Shirley Bain & Cynthia Berry were pushed into 3rd & 4th by Julie Ashton & Karen Porter. Julie was dynamic on the final rapids - 7 seconds up on Karen who held onto her Silver position for the 4th consecutive Div 'A'.

An upset looked possible in C1 also with the might Ruse making his comeback in 2nd place at the split above Tully. How he produced the slowest time of everyone on the last third is a mystery he must solve by the Tees!

In C2 Lyons & Tomlinson confirmed their new year improvement with a 3rd place only six seconds behind winners Morris & Pearton. With this their third win Ross & Mog assured themselves of the National Championship (the 4th time for Ross but first for Mog).

Neil Stamps also confirmed his championship victory - just 1.3 seconds up on defending champ Alan Tordoff. It is certainly good to see a new name on that trophy - especially one not from the Leeds Club (Hibble, Taylor & Tordoff have won it 10 out of 11 since 1977). Amongst the men especial credit must go to Wayne Boss - still in 4th place despite struggling with a wrist injury through the winter.

GRANDTULLY	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Mens K1	Neil Stamps	Alan Tordoff	Robin Murray
Ladies K1	Julie Ashton	Karen Porter	Shirley Bain
C1	Steve Wells	Nick Pink	Macon Singh
C2	Morris/Pearton	Kay/Hibble	Lyons/Tomlinson

#### TEES PROSPECTS - 19 MARCH

The Tees Div 'A' will have taken place by the time you read this. It will be viewed by most contenders as the key to the team selection on account of the length (approx 23 minutes for MK1) and class of water (releases from Balder & Cow Green look more than a possibility). Starters should include two additions from Tully - Richard Fox & Gill Berrow.

It seems quite remarkable that Gill is able to race just three weeks after the birth of Andrew - her second child. Gill trained right up to the weekend before the birth and is confident that her LSD (Long Slow Distance - the well-tried New Zealand running formula) background will allow her to put on speed for the Worlds if only she can impress the selectors first. Watch this space!

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Gill & Les Berrow on the birth of Andrew.

Robin Murray on joining the Kirkstall Lap sub-9:10 club with the fastest ever February Lap. The club is : Hibble (8:53 - 1981) Kay (8:59 - 1986) Alan Tordoff (8:59 - 1988) Murray (9:03 - 1989) Mike Smith (9:06 - 1982)

Ross Pearton on his Canoeist Magazine profile - most interesting in ages.

Karen Porter on gaining one of five Harrogate Centenary sports awards.

## BOATS FOR ALL SEASONS

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The 88-89 season has seen the arrival of two new kayaks that appear to be suitable for the vast range of WWR competition conditions - shallows, flat water, big waves, etc, etc. At last we are gaining the benefits of the variety of World Championship requirements from Bala 81 through to Savage 89. Both the Prijon 88 and the Obsession seem fast in nearly all situations without being unduly difficult in 'big' water.

The Prijon is a development on the 1987 Prijon Isere with bigger deck and more bouyant wings. Gaybo markets the kevlar version at the same price as last year (£471). The boat will no doubt be paddled by contenders Rolf Killian & John Fishburn at the Savage Worlds whilst leading Brits Stamps & Tordoff plus all the top ladies have already taken up this option.

The men have to beat reigning K1 champion Antoine Goetschy & the Obsession is his brain child - manufactured by Midi Bip of Avignon to 9kg race spec & available in the UK via Dave Kay for £485 including carriage.

## GOETSCHY'S SAVAGE OBSESSION

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This very week Antoine was test driving his new kayak - the Savage Obsession. The modifications maintain the same concept whilst addressing the very specific problems of paddling in the confused short wavelengths of the Worlds course. The wings are moved 30cms forward, the back deck closely resembles his 1986 Preface idea & the extremes of the hull are somewhat finer.

So, another hype - yet again the everyday paddler is one boat out of date? Not so according to the designer - Antoine emphasises that this boat is radically designed puposefully for one river only: "The regular Obsession will be the lasting design as an all-round shape .... the Savage Obsession will have failed if it is good everywhere - it must be excellent only in one place!"

The other good news is that it is already available to British paddlers: Robin Murray hopes to test it at home before training at Bourg in April.

## EUROPEAN CALENDAR

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The emphasis is on WORLD WWR this season. The Worlds itself is outside Europe for the first time since Canada in 79 whilst a 7 race World Series is running for the first time. Whilst the first four races are somewhat distant (Corsica, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia & USA), the final three venues are closer to our traditional summertime resorts - concentrated over 10 days in a small corner of Austria, Italy & Switzerland.

All competent racers are welcomed at any combination of races on a self-funded basis, whilst our national 'Senior B' and 'Junior' teams will be officially attending the July races. Contact John Handyside (0602-892313) for details on the World Series & other Class 'C' (open) internationals.



Here are the dates of some key international events:

April 17-23	Bourg St Maurice, France	Training for Teams & others
April 21-23	Bourg	French Selection Races
April 22-23	Monschau, West Germany	Class C International
May 01-02	Spindleruv, Czechoslovakia	World Series 2
May 06-07	Bovec, Yugoslavia	WS 3
June 15-19	Maryland, USA	World Champs / WS 4
July 12	Silz, Austria	World Series 5
July 15-16	Mezzana, Italy	WS 6
July 19-20	Albula, Switzerland	WS 7 / Junior Pre-Worlds
July 25-28	Bourg, France	Class C International

#### AGM DECIDES YOUR EXECUTIVE

The AGM was held at the Washburn race on 25th February. The major business was the election of new Exec members to replace those standing down. Alastair Bayliss & Clive Harvey were replaced by John Anderson (RAFCA / Newark) & Matt Caunt (Leeds/Manchester). Meanwhile John Graveling (Leeds) was re-elected and Jeff Parker (Notts) gained full voting status.

Whilst it is good to see the predominance in the Exec of young members who are active paddlers, it is of some concern that the grip of Leeds & Nottingham becomes stronger - by default not by intention. Consider the following statistics:

	Leeds CC	Notts KC	Others
GB Senior Team Management	2	3	0
Executive Committee	4	3	2
Grandtully Medals	5	2	5
Grandtully MK1 Team Medals	2	1	0
1988 Champs (Indiv, Club, Regn)	3	2	1

Whilst the success of these club groups is entirely creditable - in no way an exclusive power struggle - participants in WWR up and down the country ought to consider their commitment to their own club group and the possibility of becoming more involved in the future of the sport at a local or national level. Remember - virtually anyone can play a support role to a group of active paddlers (driving, timing, encouraging!) and you'd be surprised how welcome willing helpers would be at a national level.