

White Water



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March & April are always full of Wild Water Racing action. The domestic calendar is completed with three Division 'A' races & Team Selections. At the same time the continental season gets under way - traditionally with the Corsica Series and internationals such as Enza (Italy) & Monschau (West Germany).

This year has been somewhat different. Covered in this issue we have the cancellation of the Tour de Corse and a discretionary GB Team selection policy for the first time in memory.

Considering the difficulties (no Tryweryn and no access to the Tees in April) the selection turned out to be quite straightforward - with the exception of the Ladies K1 class. The Executive refused to ratify the selection in the case of one paddler & on the day of going to press the selectors were to be asked to reconsider their decision. Await the next installment in the meantime

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM

With the exception of the Ladies K1, the team to represent Great Britain at the Worlds (Savage River, USA - June 17/18) was selected on Sunday 9 April. The discretionary policy allowed the selectors to agree a primary objective before commencing: to win Team Medals in all classes.

Mens K1 : Wayne Boss, Richard Fox, Neil Stamps, Alan Tordoff
C1 : Dave Ruse, Macon Singh, Steve Wells, James Wingfield
C2 : Kay/Hibble, Lyons/Tomlinson, Morris/Pearton

The other news coming from the meeting was Nigel Morley's announcement that he will be stepping down from his position of GB Senior Team Manager after 6 years (84-89). Let's hope we can win those team medals - and perhaps an individual one too - to send him off on a high note. Any suggestions welcomed for WWR's most highly pressured canoeing appointment - experienced travel agents and fluent Yugoslav speakers preferred for the 91 Worlds!

WORLD SERIES

The Great Britain 'B' Team was selected to race at the last three races of the World Series in July (Inn, Albula, Mezzana). Guy Sellwood will share team management responsibilities with John Handyside.

Mens K1 : Andy Curtis (u21), Robin Murray, Guy Sellwood, Adrian Trickett
 Ladies K1 : Katie Watt (u21), Nicky Weaver plus one more depending on 'A'
 Team selection
 C1 : Mark Defreitas
 C2 : Twigger/Simpson

Contrary to the details in the last Bulletin, entries to some world series races may be limited to 10 boats per class - if you wish to enter & are not in the 'A' or 'B' Team, please contact John Handyside.

TEES DIVISION 'A'

There were no real surprises in the winners of the Tees race - second placed boats did however create something of a stir in a race regarded by most as a crucial factor in the 'discretionary' selection process. Wayne Boss took 2nd in MK1 - with Alan Tordoff sticking to his high mileage schedule and 5th place. In the Ladies event Karen Porter lead at halfway, but her cold got the better and Gill Berrow (1 month after childbirth) pulled up to the silver position behind Shirley Bain. Lyons & Tomlinson beat Kay/Hibble for the first time to take C2 2nd. Furthermore third places introduced boats unplaced at Grandtully in all but C2.

MARCH TEES	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Mens K1	Neil Stamps	Wayne Boss	= R Fox & DRH Taylor
Ladies K1	Shirley Bain	Gill Berrow	Nicky Weaver
C1	Steve Wells	Nick Pink	James Wingfield
C2	Morris/Pearton	Lyons/Tomlinson	Kay/Hibble

WASHBURN DIVISION 'A'

The Washburn was a day of decisive winners followed by closely bunched groups who appeared almost also-rans by comparison. Congratulations go especially to Richard Fox (3 seconds clear) & Lyons/Tomlinson (10 seconds up) who left the selectors in no doubt with their first wins of 89.

The MK1 class 2nd-5th & the ladies Ladies 2nd-4th were within 1 second and in C2 2nd & 3rd were within 0.5! It was good to see Cynthia Berry, Dave Ruse & Adrian Trickett back in the medals. Attention should however be focused on some encouraging performances outside the medals. Katie Watt, Neil Blackman, Dave Belbin, Andy Curtis & Twigger/Simpson all consolidated on their season's improvement.

WASHBURN	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Mens K1	Richard Fox	Adrian Trickett	Wayne Boss
Ladies K1	Shirley Bain	Cynthia Berry	Karen Porter
C1	Steve Wells	Macon Singh	Dave Ruse
C2	Lyons/Tomlinson	Morris/Pearton	Kay/Hibble

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (WASHBURN)

The Regional Champs were won by the North West (for the 4th year out of 5) - a real team effort without relying on Alan Tordoff & Dave Kay competing in multiple events! East Midlands failed to mount the determined challenge that won them the 1988 title with manager John Handyside absent on selection duties, so London / South East gained a creditable second place.

Depth of field across the classes is what really counts. This year the North West gained the winning margin thanks to their under 18 paddlers - LSE had none. This competition can be won on the basis of organisation and team spirit - so there is no reason why we should not see a new winner in 1990.

'CORSICA' TRAINING TRIP

This is the trip that never got there. Thanks to strikes in France, the Corsica series was cancelled as the competitors arrived at Marseilles (a mere 1000 miles from home). The ever resourceful Michel Doux was quick to substitute a three race series on the French mainland.

Race 1 was the traditional and very popular sea race with its mass start. The venue was Marseilles harbour instead of Ajaccio Bay - but that did not stop Neil Stamps winning. Exhibiting even more astute tactics than those that won him 3rd place last year, Neil dealt with challenges from Joel Doux & Yves Masson by excellent turning technique - OTC 10k coach Alan Williams would have been proud.

Wayne Boss was our best performer at races 2 & 3 - river races on the Ardeche & the Upper Allier - giving the selectors a confidence in his inclusion in the Savage team. Most tantalising however was the one that got away - it appears Stamps had fastest split overall on the technical Allier course when he took a roll / breakout on a notorious 3 metre fall. These were hardly the conditions that will confront us at Savage so we can derive a lot of confidence from that performance.

1989-90 CALENDAR

Planning our sport seems to be an unending cycle - Bill Fraser is just completing next season's calendar as the last 88-89 races run. The provisional Division 'A' programme will be of most interest - though note that eight races are listed as details are not finalised in some cases. The return of the Dart race will be a popular feature - despite very variable standards of water, the mild climate and the cream teas have stuck in paddlers' memories. The second Dee race in the spring will also be welcomed as a 'real' wild water race.

Dee	4/5 November 89
Tees	11/12 November 89
Dart	18/19 November or 3/4 December 89
Dee	Date to be decided
Tay	10/11 March 90
Tees	17/18 March 90
Washburn	7/8 April 90
North Tyne	21/22 April 90

It is certainly good to see some variety in the calendar without reliance on hopes of the Tryweryn... But what about the Usk and the Eden?

Regarding the Usk (last Div 'A' in 86, last Div 'B' in 88), is the possibility of agreeing a 'duck shoot free' weekend so remote that we should abandon the venue and are the charges payable to the Glanusk estate completely beyond reason? The Eden has not had Div 'A' status since 78 (an epic race even by continental standards) and yet is one of our most reliable winter rivers with excellent rapids situated just 5 miles from the M6 - compare that with the North Tyne! Is it just car parking that keeps it from Div 'A' status?

If you have any positive suggestions for future races at any level, do not hesitate to contact Bill Fraser or the Exec (via secretary Joe Lyons).

GOOD LUCK, JOE!

April appears to have been a good month for Joe Lyons. Not only has he won a Div 'A' & gained selection for the first time to the Worlds team, but also he has started a new job with the Economics Department at Repton School. We wish him good luck in both ventures. Joe's new address is c/o Repton School, Repton, Derbyshire.

BOATS FOR SALE

Feeling C2 - all Kevlar - vg condition & fittings - paddle any side
ICF weight at 18kg - Offers around £425 to Dave Kay (0663 34730)

Feeling C2 - all kevlar/carbon - superb condition - paddle any side
Under ICF weight at 16.5kg (1.5kg of lead free!) - Offers around £725 to Dave Kay (0663 34730)

GET OBSESSED!

The next shipment of Obsession kayaks from the manufacturer in France is due to arrive in Britain for June 1st. To ensure your boat is there please place orders with Dave Kay (0663 34730 Home / 0742 686090 Work) by May 1st. The price remains £485 including import for standard Kevlar construction (9kgs). Prices for two different Kevlar-Carbon constructions (Deracane or Epoxy resin) are available upon request.



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