

# White Water



## bulletin

Issue No 3 - dated 17 July 89  
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After a two month break, we proudly present the first issue of the 89-90 Wild Water season. During the coming season it is intended that monthly issues of the Bulletin will keep paddlers and supporters of the sport as upto date as possible with the calendar, news and views. Whilst the first Div 'C' race is less than two months away, we should not look to the future without reflecting on the blue ribbon event of the 1989 international wild water calendar .....

### 89 Worlds - The Report -----

#### Savage River, Maryland, USA

The Savage River Worlds was a paddlers event. The river is set in semi-wilderness territory with spectator access limited mainly to the slalom site. The releases ran to scheduled volumes and timings, providing plenty of practice time in the week before the event - the only exception being the first morning's release which was significantly larger than anything to follow. The weather was less humid and much less hot than in '88 - better for the British, but with the environmental penalty of thick mist over parts of the river which disappeared on race day as it was hotter. All in all the Savage was a very pleasant paddle - and a very hard race of well over 20 minutes in non-stop waves.

#### Stamps Silver & Wells Bronze!

Even on the first morning it was apparent that Neil Stamps was in tune with the river and his week's objective - a world's medal. His smooth timing at speed visibly set him apart from most other paddlers. Meanwhile Steve Wells was clearly able to build on his '88 reconnaissance, putting in some very positive timed runs which looked on the medal winning pace.

On race day however even the best prepared can fail to perform - and in Britain we have probably come to assume that we lack the ultimate ingredients. Therefore it was a surprise to some when Neil & Steve were in winning positions at the halfway split and were still in contention at the road bridge (about 5 minutes out). Indeed, like Hibble at the Bala road bridge in 81, Neil was clearly winning the Worlds. Previde came through later with a 2 second deficit - but with the advantage of splits, he made the margin to pip Neil by a little over 0.1 second. In C1, Steve was further behind Jellenc at the finish but still managed to stay clear of determined efforts from Benamrouche & Libuda.

Julie Ashton pulled a second per minute clear of the other British in the Ladies event to achieve a very creditable 8th place. Most remarkable in that class was the performance of the four French ladies - all in the top 7 and only one with a previous worlds appearance. That Sabine Kleinhennz

should beat both Profanter and Wahl by a significant margin in the conservative Prijon 87 design is certainly food for thought for aspiring kayakists.

The most remarkable performance of all must however be that of Sreco Masle & Andrej Grobisa (Yugoslavia) in C2. To win at all against very experienced French & German opposition was creditable. To produce a margin of over 30 seconds using the same C2 design seems truly incredible - the performance of the championships alongside Fox & Lugbill in the slalom. One can only assume that Masle/Grobisa found the margin of extra effort to get the disproportionate benefit of another 'gear' out of the Feeling design.

#### Team Event blank

After such a glorious individual event (Skopje '75 was the last time we won two medals), GB hopes were high for the teams. Based on the individual results, the ladies were a probable bronze, but there was also some hope that the men's kayaks could be contenders, buoyed by Neil's result and Richard Fox's outstanding leadership. Sadly opportunities were missed - with only the ladies finishing in contention but still a handful of seconds off the bronze medal pace.

#### Postscript

The 89 Worlds was Nig Morley's last duty as GB Senior Team Manager after 6 years in the job. Few people would have stuck with the mundane and often unrewarding organisational duties in a period that started off with the bleak prospects of the Merano & Garmisch Worlds events. It is good to see that with the Savage results all classes have won medals under Nig's leadership and that we have after 8 years returned with vengeance to the individual rostrum.

1985 Garmish : Bronze - Ladies Team (Mitchell, Berry, Helm)  
1987 Bourg: Bronze - C2 Team (Goldsmith/Evans,Kay/Hibble,Griffiths/Phillp)  
1989 Savage : Silver - Mens Kayak Individual (Neil Stamps)  
                    Bronze - C1 Individual (Steve Wells)

#### 89 Worlds - The Lessons

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Another World Championships is over (read the report in this issue) and so the sport can look ahead to another two year cycle and to Bovec 91 with new hopes and aspirations - but hopefully not without learning some lessons first. As in any good sermon, there are three key points :

"I can do that ...."

The outstanding lesson from Savage for wild water in Great Britain is surely positive - Stamps (2nd MK1) and Wells (3rd C1) proved that anything is possible - even in Britain. It might take a little bit longer (Steve has been racing international C1 for 8 seasons) and it might need a higher

level of dedication - BUT it is still possible. Despite the climate, the rivers, the coaches, the federation, the lack of sponsorship and media coverage, Brits can win medals in any class - FACT PROVEN. And let's remember that Julie Ashton was not so far off (LK1 8th) - perhaps the best newcomer (first Worlds or Pre-Worlds) in any class.

As two leading GB kayakists commented after hearing the results : "Fantastic - especially as WE know Neil is not unbeatable" - and the same certainly goes for Julie. If anyone beats Julie or Neil or Steve in Jugoslavia in 91, let's hope it's a Brit!

"With a little help from my friends ...."

Group training stands out as a second important theme. There can be little doubt how much training partnerships have helped our winners. Neil has thrived with the sprinters at Royal, Julie has benefitted from the competition at Nottingham and Steve will credit his training partnership with Alan Tordoff & Gill Berrow - give him 5 seconds a minute and he'll race anyone.

The ideal seems to be belonging to a group that can apply pressure rather than being leader of a pack of also-rans. However, it is far better than nothing to belong to a group of any kind - so long as there is a winning direction! Consider some examples of winning groupings in the 89 Worlds :

Some 'family' groups :

Fox (Gold in slalom) & Jerusalmi (Gold in slalom)

Goetschy (Bronze individual & Gold team) & Kleinhenz (Gold indiv & team)

The club groups :

Lublana (Jugoslavia) - winning downriver C1 & C2 plus C1 team bronze

La Mulatiere (France) - winning downriver Kayak Team (2/3)

Washington (USA) - C1 slalom 1st, 2nd & winning Team

Forestall organisation (Italy) - key to MK1 Team (2nd) and individual 1st

Leeds & Nottingham - 9/20 GB 'A' Team, 6/9 GB 'B' Team in 1989

Paddlers in Britain need to look to their own salvation. A mass migration to Leeds, Nottingham or Royal will only consolidate existing strength, whereas a determined effort to form local training groups around top competitors plus new paddlers (not usually mobile) can sprout deeper roots for future growth. Remember the warnings about Leeds & Nottingham dominance in the last Bulletin!

"In the danger zone ...."

The final lesson must be that ultimately Wild Water Racing is about Racing. The best GB results were achieved by paddlers who have shown a commitment to racing - that is participating in races both at home and abroad. Wayne Boss achieved a meteoric rise in MK1 from a background of distance running - consider the gruelling international 10k calendar!

Not only are Steve & Neil & Julie renowned for taking on all-comers (Steve even raced C2 as well as C1 in the domestic season) - but also many of the highly ranked foreigners are committed competitors. Here are a few

examples ....

Neil was to be seen competing in the Liffey Descent & winning the Alre classic as well as the National Championship, Marco took on the sprint boats at the Ardeche marathon, Kleinhenz won the Bourg wild water marathon, Masle & Grobisa race both C1 & C2 ('Mas' even got a Worlds medal in both!), Fox gave it a go in Wild Water as well as winning the Slalom Worlds, Goetschy will be racing international marathon & slalom this summer (sadly the Surf Worlds is a clash!).

Is there a message here? I believe I am not alone in proposing that the next Selection event should be limited to paddlers who have achieved a domestic ranking (eg 3 races out of 5) - surely some such criteria could be considered? But even more important, surely all future selections should be based fairly and squarely on RACES and therefore on tangible RESULTS. The name of the sport implies to me that people should do it primarily to race & the evidence is that racing seems to do them little or no harm. Please, somebody say '3-2-1-GO'.

"To win the Worlds ...."

Consider this message - "Any Brit can win the Worlds who's willing to enter the danger zone often enough with their friends".



#### MENS KAYAK

1 PREVIDE MASSARA Italy	
2 STAMPS Great Britain	
3 GOETSCHY France	
4 FISHBURN	23 CACHON
5 HAIBERGER	24 MONTULET
6 KILIAN	25 ABRAHIC
7 BENEZIT	26 POCK
8 DOUX	27 CORRA
9 DRUSCHKE	28 TORDOFF
10 DOBRESCH	29 JOHNSON
11 KELLER	30 KERBL
12 BOYER	31 LANG
13 CRECATO	32 ORLOKAR
14 CAPUZZO	33 NAHECHKE
15 FOX	34 PFUND
16 REITZ	35 HOUSDEN
17 BASSETT	36 MUIR
18 MURAZZI	37 ZASTERA
19 MARTIN	38 COLE
20 CRIBER	39 SLASTAN
21 JULLERAT	40 KEERSMAN
22 GICKLER	41 RENGLET

#### MENS C1

1 JELENC Yugoslavia
2 VALA Czechoslovakia
3 WELLS Great Britain
4 BENAIBROUCHE
5 LIBUDA
6 BATAILLE
7 BRIDGE
8 FERRAZZI
9 KLATT
10 STEINHAUSER
11 JAQUENOD
12 HALKO
13 KANCLER
14 ROSTERE
15 LILEK
16 DICKERT
17 BITTEL
18 FORD
19 SINGH
20 BARAVELLI
23 RUSE
26 WINGFIELD

#### MENS C2

1 MASLE/GROBISA Yugoslavia
2 ALAPHILIPPE/PUYTOULHOUX France
3 ARCHAMBAULT/CARLIN France
4 BAUCH/BAUCH
5 KUNITTEL/DAJEK
6 BERNARD/RICAUT
7 PARDELLER/PLAIGNER
8 CHAMBEAUDIE/JAUNET
9 KENNEL/MULLER
10 SIMON/RICH
11 HUEY/GRABOW
12 TOCCAFONDI/OTTANELLI
13 PEARTON/MORRIS
14 JONES/HIPSHER
15 EVANS/SCHMURRENBERGER
16 HALLER/MCEWAN
17 BIANCONI/BALDI
18 KAY/HIBBLE
19 UEGER/MAYR
20 LYONS/TOHLINSON

#### LADIES KAYAK

1 KLEINHENZ France
2 PROFANTER Austria
3 BRINGARD France
4 WAHL
5 CASTET
6 ZINGERLE
7 ETIENNE
8 ASHTON
9 GODECKE
10 STEINMAN
11 BAUCH
12 HEARN
13 BERROW
14 MOHR
15 BERRY
16 EICHENBERGER
17 BAIN
18 PANATO
19 PASETTO
20 JELINKOVA

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