

White Water



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After four years of stable team management (and seven for the Youths), the sport seems faced with a crisis. After the resignation this summer of Nig Morley (Senior Team Manager), Phil Dean (Youth Team Manager), Alastair Bayliss (Youth Coach), Denis Cooper (Senior C2 Coach) & Dave Kay (Senior Men's K1 Coach) - all after completing lengthy tours of duty - the remaining coaches (John Handyside & Dave Williams) decided to stand down to allow clean development of a new management team. The problem is (unless resolved over the past few days) who is willing to take on the commitment?

It would be sad to find that the WWR Coaching scheme with a not insignificant number of accredited coaches & trainers could not provide any suitable candidates - even offers - in this hour of need. Nevertheless one must understand the reticence of the average club coach who may have little or no international, athletic or wild water experience. Should we be encouraging such people to take the plunge unprepared at top international level? I think not.

Alternatively should team management remain the preserve of ex-internationals who have probably quit competition because of time constraints? Whatever the solution this time, it must be the priority of the WWR coaching scheme to involve its members on GB Team trips - under expert guidance BEFORE they are required to take responsibility. That means starting in 1990! It may cost a few quid to take extras but this year's helpers - correctly chosen - could produce some of next year's management.

PS As a personal note, I have been very interested that no one from the Exec has asked me why I relinquished the MK1 post. Fair enough - perhaps I should assume a case of good riddance. But did anyone ask Nigel or Phil or the others? Or is it that no Exec member or sub-group is commissioned with particular responsibility for our coaching scheme - from which I hereby propose to withdraw Any questions?

Slalom Course Marathon

Nottingham Kayak Club are running an interesting new wild water / marathon event on November 26th (the weekend after the third Div 'A'). The nine mile course incorporates two laps of the Holme Pierrepont slalom & regatta courses. WWR boats are being treated as a separate class from the sprint boats. The main start will be from Trent Bridge at 12 noon. To guarantee a place send full entry details in advance to

Brian Greenaway, The Elms, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham NG12 2LU.

Northern WWR Series

This is a revival of the Northern Series as held 10 years ago. Jerry Tracey (Haefen Centre) & Eddie Palmer are organising the league table based on best four results from the eight races because they believe that WWR needs to be encouraged on a regional basis, for youngsters and for paddlers of non-WWR boats. Note that classes include Under 18, Under 16 & Under 14 & that the final race (North Tyne 'A/O') is worth double points.

The events included are all in the Year Book starting with the North Tyne on New Year's Day! The programme looks particularly attractive as the last two races (Tees 'B/O' & North Tyne 'A/O' are tipped to incorporate the GB Selection races. Further details from Jerry Tracey, Haefen, Middle Hay Leazes, Allendale, NE47 9NP - noting his new phone number 0434 683409.

Grandtully (Tay) Div 'A/B' - 10/11 March

Please note the new organising club. Whilst their address is correct in the Year Book, the name is not! Please ensure that your cheques are made payable to GLASGOW KAYAK CLUB - not to Forth Canoe Club.

Points of Interest from Exec Meetings

Contrary to popular opinion, Exec decisions are made open to all through the minutes which are circulated to club reps. Nevertheless the chain of communication thereafter may in some cases be almost non-existent, so a summary of points of interest to paddlers seems an appropriate Bulletin inclusion. From the meeting of 12 September :

- * Tryweryn access is still not resolved below the slalom site though Mike Tordoff is involved in some positive discussions.
- * The C1 class will have 5 Elite category paddlers in 89-90 as a result of the resurgence of interest in the class
- * As indicated above (Editorial) the committee calls for 'Team Managers, 4 class coaches and numerous assistants, as well as Youth Team Personnel' - contact the Secretary (Joe Lyons, Repton School, Derby DE6) if you are interested.
- * The 1990 Selection Policy will be determined after the key appointments.
- * Martin Bosher, the Chairman, is considering retirement - any offers to the secretary!

RACE REPORTS

Rapid Races 1 & 2 - Nottingham - 24 September

Race 1 - on flat water - was won convincingly by Mike Ellis (fresh from Spanish marathon success) with Ian Rapin in second. Ian came through to win the second on the slalom course by a very small margin from Andy Curtis. Things were easier for Shirley Bain (Ladies) & Ashley Mason (Youths) who notched up clear wins in both races. Tim Suggett leads the Juniors despite being beaten by Dean Thompson in Race 2.

Aire Classic - Leeds - 16/17 September

This year's Classic was the all time cliff hanger. The racing was as competitive as ever despite the extremely low level and Jeff Parker's stag night on the Saturday - congratulations to Dr Jeff & Mrs Jane Parker!

Race 1 - Alan Tordoff & Dave Kay got away at the mass start, Rob Murray caught up, Kay crashed & Tordoff led home by 4 seconds

Race 2 - This time trial was also won by Tordoff with Murray 4 seconds back in second place

Race 3 - Things were even closer on the next time trial which produced a dead heat between Tordoff & Murray with Kay 9 seconds behind

Race 4 - No real drama was expected as Tordoff had a two point lead (3pts to Murray 5pts & Andy Curtis 11pts). But on the last race - another mass start - the real excitement started. Kay broke a paddle on the first stroke and more significantly Murray, Curtis & Adrian Trickett formed a leading bunch making life difficult for Tordoff. That was the finishing order, thus giving Murray a one point victory overall.

In the last issue we showed the correlation between Aire Classic winners & national champions since 1983 - but I'm sure Neil Stamps & Alan Tordoff will be first in line to prove that it's mere coincidence!

Leeds mount their title bids

Leeds Canoe Club were to defend their unbeaten record in the 4th Club Championship which was to have been held on the Washburn on 14th October and has been postponed to a later date to be announced. Their success has in recent years been more limited in the Ranking Team championship where they won neither the Mens nor the Mixed Team last year and also failed to pick up any individual champions. Hence - in the style of our national sport - a new look Leeds emerges for 89-90 under new club chairman Don Player & longstanding coach Bill Fraser.

The Leeds 'River Gods' line-up is presumed to include Alan Tordoff, Robin Murray, Andy Curtis, Adrian Trickett, Dave Kay, Ashley Mason & Nigel Morley in Senior Mens K1, a world class Youth Team of Jones, Suggett & Thompson plus a Mixed Squad including Ian & Andy Clough, Cynthia Berry & Karen Porter plus youth C1 ace Andy Tracey. The club chairman will be paddling C2! To quote a reliable source, 'With the inexhaustible Hibble giving birth again & DRH in love (again) we have drafted in some worthy replacements. With Gareth's shades & Adrian's disciplined aggression we think we have a chance of flooring the opposition incognito - we are considering challenging La Mulatiere & NKC to a world club championship.'

Editor's Note - World Club champs - good idea?

Boats for Sale

The James Wingfield collection - contact James on 0602 819749

- C1 Ace II Epoxy kevlar Worlds race boat	Perfect	£400
- C1 Ace II Kevlar Carbon	Hardly used	£300
- C1 Joker Diolen	Good condition	£180

Old Racers Never Give Up!

Disappearances from the Wild Water Racing ranking list do not necessarily signify the end of racing careers. Since the '87 Bourg Worlds, four of our C2 medal winners (Bob Evans, Graham Goldsmith, John Griffiths & Mike Phillip) have been concentrating on Dragon Boat & Outrigger racing. After taking in the World Dragon Boat champs in Hong Kong with the Kingston Royals in the Summer, October was time for the renowned Moloka'i Hoe Outrigger race in Hawaii. The Royal team of nine paddlers was sponsored by DIET SPRITE and also included three other ex-GB wild water racers in Jon Goodwin, Dave Kay & Chris Horrod. For a fuller description of the origins of Polynesian Outrigger canoeing and the preparations for the Royal bid to win the Masters Class (ie Veterans) see the latest Canoe Focus. Here we feature a race report hot off the press

Dateline - Sunday 8th October - Hawaii

The conditions for the 40.8 mile Moloka'i to Oahu crossing were the calmest for some years setting the scene for very fast times from the top crews. The sequence of three consecutive wins from the Wakiiki Beach Outrigger club was broken this year by California based Off Shore whose crew included Greg Barton (double Seoul Olympic Gold), his K2 partner & the legendary professional marathon canoe champion Serge Corbijn. Hardly surprisingly they took 90 seconds off the crossing record, arriving at Wakiiki Beach in 5 hours 7 minutes. Second place went to the local Hui Nalu team who were paddling a traditional Koa (wooden) boat.

Out of the 60 starters all finished with Royal placed 28th overall (bettering last year's 32nd) with a significant improvement in their Masters placing. The first Masters crew was 21st in 5 hours 41 minutes, Great Lakes placed second with two 84 Olympic Medalists, Outrigger third and Royal fifth - still only 8 minutes behind Gold. It was a case of so near yet so far as the Royal crew lay in third place after over 5 hours racing - but nevertheless represented a performance of which team leader Jon Goodwin was justifiably proud. Back again next year - who knows - it's not often you get a chance to race Greg Barton head to head!

Where can I buy kayak paddles?

With the restructuring of the MI organisation during the Summer, finding the best supply of kayak paddles is proving difficult for many paddlers. The following list hopefully point people in the right direction

MI Designs - now part of Scanrow (Tyneside)

Contact Martin Spencer on 091 270 0716 for availability

Designs include the Regatta range (two Struer-like sizes) & the Downriver

Gaybo (Graham Goldsmith) on 0825 5891

Import both sizes of Wings (Flites) from New Zealand - available from stock

Windermere Wind & Water - Contact Robin or Thomas on 09662 4020

Dealers for the full Schlegel range - 6 weeks delivery for WWR shapes including the popular Kevlar Carbon Racing (Struer-like with metal tips) plus the Profile (small Wing equivalent also tipped)