

White Water



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EDITORIAL

The Exec voted unanimously at their May meeting to adopt a calendar for 90-91 along the lines proposed in the last Bulletin. This was no hasty decision - as well as a over two hours discussion at two meetings plus discussions between Bill Fraser (the Race Officer) and organisers, this is the culmination of a response to change that has built up over the past five years.

Everyone was very aware of the potential pitfalls :-

- * Will the current low attendance in Spring now dog all Div 'A' events?
Or is it because there is nothing to be settled after the Autumn?
- * Do people have other activities they prefer to do in the Spring?
ie Autumn is the only season when they wish to do WWR
- * Will paddlers perceive the genuine value of the Autumn championships?
We may need race sponsorship &/or better prizes (as per 89 Dart)
- * Will we therefore loose out every-which-way?
ie De-valued Autumn & no one interested in Spring / good weather WWR
- * How can we justify removing Div 'A' status from the Dee -
even if only for one year?

Clearly we are taking a gamble - but with every chance of winning through to better attendance in better weather and a more logically organised season that dovetails with the WWR calendar worldwide.

Next season's calendar will follow the following guidelines - subject to Bill agreeing final details of race status with each organiser :-

- * Autumn (ie October - December)
 - Championships (English & Welsh, Regional & Club)
 - incorporating the National Club Team Event (score 3 from 4)
 - Emphasis on Div 'B' ranking at all championship events
 - Schools, Poly & Uni champs also in this period

* Spring (ie March - May)

The Div 'A' National Championship (4 races from 6 count)
possibly incorporating Selection races
Team events based on any combinations - eg National teams
British Open as finale Div 'A'
Rivers to be controlled / guaranteed wherever possible

The following issues were listed for further investigation :

- * Possible revision of club team rules to enhance the Autumn team events - to be discussed at next Exec - comments to Jeff Parker or other Exec
- * Desire to include the Dee as first Div 'A' in 1992 if a date can be secured in late February - which seems very hopeful. Therefore the Dee series will become very attractive - eg Racel-Regional Champs, Race2-Welsh Open & Club Team and as a finale Race3=Div A No 1.
- * Possibility of reviving the Usk as a prime event & of using the Awe as an alternative Div A venue. Note that there is nothing hard & fast about the future use of the venues chosen for this first year - it is the structure of the calendar that is the key issue.

THE MAJOR EVENTS - PROVISIONAL

DATE	VENUE	CLUB TEAM	CHAMPIONSHIP	OTHER

1990				
Oct 27	Washburn	Club Team 1	Club Champs	Div B
Oct 28	Wharfe	Club Team 2		Div C
Nov 4	Dee		Regional Champs	
Nov 10	Ardeche, France			Marathon
Nov 18	Dart	Club Team 3	English Open	Div B
Nov 25	Dee		Univs Champs	Div B
Dec 9	Dee	Club Team 4	Welsh Open	Div B
1991				
Mar 10	Grandtully		Div A No 1	Div B
Mar 24	Tees		Div A No 2	
Apr 6	Washburn		Div A No 3	
Apr 21	Tryweryn		Div A No 4	
Apr 28	North Tyne		Div A No 5	
May 13	Tryweryn		Div A No 6 & British Open	

NEWS ROUND UP

The past few weeks have seen plenty of action for Wild Water Racing in Britain

International success **** Tim Suggett (our National Junior Champ) won his class in the International at Monschau despite kicking his footrest out during the race - a great win in a German selection event **** Gill Berrow gained 4th place overall in the 'Tour de Corse' (Corsica) behind winner Karin Wahl **** Mark Williams (Chester) has been invited to join the Great Britain 'B' Team to substitute Andy Tomlinson (who's busy working).

The final domestic season results included **** April Div 'A's at Tryweryn & North Tyne were won predictably by our National Champions in each class - with Neil Stamps slipping to 3rd in MK1 at the Tyne behind a dynamic Neil Blackman ('I took a deliberately steady start, then I got Morley in my sights and just wound it up'!!) **** a fortnight later the British Open winners provided a turnaround on the championship winners with the pre-selected paddlers, Stamps, Ashton & Wells, winning their classes **** Neil Blackman won the Awe Scottish Champs race with Fraser Gormal becoming Scottish Champion - sad for multi-talented Keith Brown who had done so well at Grandtully in March **** Adrian Trickett is concentrating on slalom (watch out over there!) - and has already won a Div 1 at Bala - sock it to them (?) old chap!

In training **** Alan Tordoff set a new Leeds Kirkstall lap record for the second successive year at 8.46 (before Tordoff, Jerry Hibble's 8.53 had stood for 8 years) **** Tina Parsons has severely damaged the Ladies Clifton record at Nottingham - now within 18 seconds of that bottle of champagne offered by Richard Fox for the first lady to break 40 minutes **** Main feature of the Fimbush Team Training Camp was a Pairs Triathlon - Mountain Bike, Run & Open Canoe - a devastating 30 minute race won narrowly by Robin Murray & Alan Tordoff from Blackman/Tordoff & Suggett/Kay **** in 'fun' marathon races Wayne Boss has been making an impression on the Div 1 boys (reports of one portage indicate he has a real talent for the noble art) **** Meanwhile Robin Murray in his WWR boat had a great Div 3 showdown at Fladbury marathon winning in a sprint finish against Anna Ballard and Steve Train.

Future Plans **** Bourg St Maurice will be the place for mid-July with World Series final followed by Integrale & other festival races - a good chance for rough water paddling on other sections of the river even if you cannot compete **** July also sees the Nottinghamshire International Canoe Week with the Clifton Race of Tuesday 10th (6pm) highly recommended (see article) **** Reports of a Marseilles Harbour Full Marathon in September to be confirmed (Neil Stamps placed 2nd on the short course there in 89) **** The new domestic calendar leaves space for the Ardeche Marathon on November 11th (Kay/Swallow placed 4th in 89) - and all the Div 'A's are in the Spring (see article).

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE INTERNATIONAL CANOE WEEK

Nottinghamshire's 'Canoe 90' week is from July 7-15 - sponsored by Nottinghamshire and also Cavendish Finance, it takes in the International Regatta on the first weekend and the International Slalom at the end. In between the emphasis is on a full range of canoesport provision - canoes, kayaks and rafts for kids, for the 50+ age group, for the disabled, for women. In the middle falls the now legendary Tuesday Clifton race (entries free on the day). NKC are looking to get over 100 competitors in any craft (GP, slalom, WWR, sprint). This is a chance to put Wild Water Racing in numbers on public show - so be there at NKC by 6pm on Tuesday 10th July or phone John Handyside for more details.

JUNIOR WORLDS BID

The Exec have discussed the possibility of bidding to the ICF to stage both Junior & Senior World Championships at some stage in the 90s. Whilst the Juniors have never raced in Britain, the Senior Worlds came to Bala in 81. Such bids are always considered jointly with slalom possibilities (not lacking with Nottingham up & running). It was decided to bid for the 94 Junior event on the basis that Bala represented an excellent challenge for that age group - though funding provisions plus site & river improvements would have to be part of the final commitment. The possibility of a Senior bid for perhaps 97 (but not before) was deferred on the basis that we must determine a race course of the necessary standard.

FOR SALE

Winner C1 with Bushdeck & 2 paddles - a bargain - £100 ono from Mark Blower on 0203 348513.

Obsession Kayaks - Only for sale because the owner is concentrating on slalom this season and needs to buy other equipment (see News) :

- (1) Epoxy Kevlar Carbon - MIDI BIP manufactured - Excellent weight & pristine condition - £500 ono
- (2) Epoxy Kevlar - Impulse manufactured - top class Nick Pink product virtually unused - £450 ono

Contact Adrian Trickett on 0602 810023

Paddles - Last issue's announcement from CANOESPORT UK of the 'RAPID PLUS' design did not provide contact details - phone Tim Middlehurst on 0784 460190. All varieties of shaft and an epoxy blade option are available. This shape and the durable construction will be of interest to anyone who has been trying to get hold of Schlegel paddles.

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CANOE KAYAK

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