

White Water



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EDITORIAL : The Autumn Calendar

The proof of the pudding ... is in the number of people who participate in the races. As everyone knows, the Exec have gambled in changing the format of the British WWR season to focus on the more reliable spring weather and the calendars of other nations.

The season builds up from the Open Championships & Club Team Championship in the Autumn (at the traditional Autumn venues - Dee, Dart, Washburn, Wharfe) to the National Ranking Series in the Spring (starting at Grandtully in March through to Tryweryn in May). The Ranking Series climaxes just a month before the Worlds in Yugoslavia, and includes 'open' team events which should give all-comers combinations a chance to prove themselves against the selected GB teams.

I personally feel this is a crucial & positive move for EVERYONE in the sport. However, I am also aware that it could backfire on us with people disoriented by the changes and not sure of which events to attend. The possibility of poor turnouts in the Autumn may be made worse by the current trends in the price of fuel.

Fortunately WWR participants have proved themselves over the years intensely loyal and capable of intelligent decisions for the good of the sport - let's hope that this spirit, that saw us successfully through the split of WWR & slalom in the late 70s, will be to the fore in establishing the new calendar - or at least in formally articulating the pros & cons!

See you all at the first Team Champs races (Washburn & Wharfe - 27/28 Oct)

TOO MUCH ACTION

The weekend of 29/30 September this year is very big in the world canoesport calendar - and that's not because of the 6th Annual Aire Classic. Indeed, a lack of water and conflicting events proved sufficient to postpone the 'Classic' till 2/3 February. On September 29th Sabine Kleinhenz (current World Champion) and Antoine Goetschy (World No 3) were married at Vallon Pont D'Arc. Meanwhile, not 200 miles down the road, Miriam Jerusalem married her opposite number in the World Slalom rankings - a certain Richard Fox. Canoesport gets ahead of 1992 with these 'European' ... ts! Our very best wishes to them all.

Meanwhile, somewhat closer to home, Chester CC mounted their bid on the

Hasler inter-club marathon final with not a few 'name' WWR paddlers having qualified for the club let's hope that Melvin Swallow, Alan & Ian Tordoff, Steve & Chris Chorley, Mark Tidman, Mark Williams, Nick Pink, Iris Campbell et al did the business against the flat water establishment!

CONSULT THE ORACLE

Rumour has it that Britain's top three Mens Kayak paddlers have negotiated a valuable sponsorship agreement for the 90-91 season with one of the world's largest computer software corporations - database suppliers ORACLE.

The deal is thought to involve a combination of support with equipment & travel plus professional training in the ORACLE development system. This is very handy for Neil Stamps, Alan Tordoff & Robin Murray, all of whom are / hope to be involved in computer-based careers as well as training for the next Worlds. An ORACLE 'VAR', systems house Fretwell-Downing, is also involved in providing Alan & Neil with a flexible employment plan. More details of this development, which is fairly unique in Britain & parallels sponsorship offered in France by such as SNCF, EDF & GDF, in the next issue.

1990 INTERNATIONAL TOUR - Part 2

The summer has passed by without a Bulletin report on the second group of World Series races - Albula (Switzerland), Mezzana (Italy) & the final at Bourg St Maurice (France). There is good justification for the silence as the BCU 'Focus' magazine did it for us. We have already commented in these pages on the upturn in Focus general quality & racing reportage. This continued in the most recent issue with an upto the minute insert carrying latest international results - and the outstanding international performances of Julie Ashton, Karen Porter, Neil Stamps, Tim Suggett & Steve Wells were well to the fore.

In case you missed it (not possible as you must be a BCU member!), here are the 'best' in the World Series - though good results were also achieved in the Europa Cup final :

Neil Stamps was 4th in the World Cup final at Bourg - just 6 weeks after his degree finals. His 7th place World Series ranking overall was based on a minimum results set.

Julie Ashton (7th) & Karen Porter (8th) in the World Cup final. Julie achieved a 6th World Series ranking overall.

Steve Wells was 6th in the World Cup final & same position in the overall series. His best result was the Pre-Worlds bronze, renewing his claim on the ranking he achieved at the '89 Worlds.

The highest achiever must however be Tim Suggett of Leeds Canoe Club. Having rung the warning bells with his 3rd at the Monschau international in May, Tim finished 4th in the Junior Worlds at Albula - close to third even though a year under the top age group. He was leading the field until the last three competitors all justified their race rankings. It is hard to assess the achievement of a top world ranking when a year under age -

suffice to say that Tim's 4th aged 17 must be on a par with Neil Stamps' silver medal at Spittal in '86.

Final credits must go to our Team Event paddling ... the Ladies were on line for bronze or silver at Albula till a little accident upturned their fortunes. The Men's kayaks repeated their Bovec 4th with the same position at Albula - credit going especially to Ian Tordoff in both those events.

WHITE WATER TRIATHLETES

Rod Grundy will be known to many as a racer from Herts Canoe Club with a fanatical interest in all sorts of sports. Rod is now heavily involved in the promotion of 'White Water Triathlon' - basically replacing the traditional 'Swim-Bike-Run' formula with 'Kayak-Bike-Run'. Rod writes that "This is more of a revival than a new sport as some of the events have been traced back to the early 80s, but since 'Triathlon' as we know it has developed distinctively, so has the parallel discipline of 'Kakak Triathlon'. Rod proposes to keep White Water Bulletin readers posted with copy on events and results. The 1990 Series is all but over (the last events are on 6/7th October), but please contact Rod for details of the 1991 calendar and his own newsletter.

Rod Grundy, 4 Barleycroft, Tonwell, Near WARE, SG12 0HT (0920 469853)

TRIATHLETES - Ex-White Water!

A number of recent top WWR paddlers have been active on the triathlon scene. Chris Horrod was probably the first to take triathlon and 'iron man' events seriously in the mid-80s. Nick Walter, DRH Taylor & Julia Kay are amongst those rumoured to be 'in training' for triathlon whilst current C1 GB Team members Steve Wells & James Wingfield may by now have taken part in the Plas Y Brenin Kayak-Bike-Run event. Overseas, Kiwi Mike Bassett has put in outstanding performances in the 'Coast to Coast' quadrathlon. Most noteworthy closer to home however is the achievement of Chris Humpage who is making an impact at a national level - his swimming performances are often placing him in a medal position in the first discipline Good luck to Chris for 1991!

TRIATHLON & TRAINING

Triathlon is a set of disciplines that can be picked up at a fun level without ever contemplating the mega-distances of 'Iron Man' events. Approached with care and preparation the sport could be very useful in the general aerobic training required for Wild Water inbetween seasons. Once the skills have been acquired, swim, bike & run are all feasible winter activities - very useful as cross-country ski training is not practical in the UK. In that context the White Water Triathletes circuit provides an interesting added incentive!

MI ADD STRENGTH TO THE PADDLE MARKET

MI Designs have renewed their interest in WWR paddle manufacture, joining Canoesport UK (Tim Middlehurst) in an area where there appeared to be no committed UK suppliers last winter. With continental prices around £150

per race paddle (Schlegel, Plastex, Propulsion, etc), it is good to see both manufacturers offering home grown quality equipment at under £100.

The MI catalogue now includes a full range of competition products (decks, cags as well as paddles). Most important is the new carbon paddle - the Racing Pro Carbon - based on the traditional MI shape with enhanced features & just launched after testing by Alan Tordoff. It weighs in at a 'controllable' 1050 grammes - neither flimsy nor overweight - and especial attention has been paid to clean entry and reduction of flutter. The £99 racing product has a semi-carbon shaft and is delivered ready to race - to your specified length and angle.

You can contact MI direct (as well as through their many dealers) at SCANRO Ltd, Unit 99/15, North Tyneside Ind Estate, Newcastle NE12 9SZ.

FOR SALE

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

Obsession Kayak - Only for sale because the owner is concentrating on slalom this season and needs to buy other equipment :

Epoxy Kevlar Carbon - MIDI BIP manufactured - Excellent weight & pristine condition - £500 ono - Contact Adrian Trickett on 0602 810023 (Evenings)

Obsession Kayak - For sale because the owner is (temporarily?) retiring :

Epoxy Kevlar with one layer Kevlar Carbon - MIDI BIP manufactured - Excellent condition - 10.5kg weight - £410 ono - Contact John Graveling on 0535 45912 (Evenings)

Gaybo JAVELIN Racing K1 - slightly easier than a Jaguar - all kevlar & under sprint weight - full wooden fittings, understern plus o/stern attachment - excellent condition - £300 ono - Dave Kay 0663 734730 (Eves)

Rocky III C1 - Kevlar construction in very good condition - take it if you want to use it - pay for it if you like it! Borrowers welcome.

Contact Jenny or Phil on 0602 222118

Marlin Kayak (Nomad) - Kevlar - White with red trim - very good condition £175 ono - Contact Harvey on 081 889 1501 or 0400 50620

NEXT ISSUE - Rasmussen Wings report PLUS Jerry Tracey on the Arctic Race!

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