

White Water



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Editor : Dave Kay, 19 Brierley Green, Buxworth, Stockport SK12 7NL

THE NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The dry summer has not helped this season off to an exciting start. With two weekends of Washburn races cancelled, paddlers came to the first event of the autumn Team Championship with little white water preparation. By some quirk of British weather, the Wharfe was in very good condition and rose throughout the day. Neil Stamps - using the new Canoe Sport 'Stealth' paddles - beat Robin Murray by a narrow 10 seconds to win the individual event. The Team Championship race was won convincingly by the new ORACLE UK Team (Murray, Stamps & Alan Tordoff) with reigning champions Leeds out of touch in second place.

The other three races in the championship should be much closer competitions with Chester back in the fray (Swallow, Williams & Ian Tordoff) and ORACLE fielding reserve Fraser Gormal instead of Murray. Chester will certainly fancy their chances after their recent outstanding performance in winning the flat water K4 10 mile Championship against Olympic opposition on the Thames.

The remaining races are DART (18 Nov), Tees (2 Dec) & Dee (9 Dec) with best 3 results out of 4 to count.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - Llangollen - 4th November

NORTH WEST REGAIN TITLE

At the first major Championship event of the season in the reshuffled Wild Water Racing Calendar, the National Regional Championships title went to the North West.

Held at Dee 1, past two seasons winners, East Midlands, were edged into third place by the Combined Services team.

The North West have held the title now four times out of the last six. Final positions were: North West 1690pts, Combined Services 1126, East Midlands 1003, Yorkshire & Humberside 564, West Midlands 336, London and South East 250, North 250, Scotland 190, East 167, Wales 90, South 55.



ORACLE & FRETWELL-DOWNING SCORE 1-2-3 FOR BRITAIN

Oracle UK have combined with the Sheffield systems house Fretwell-Downing to offer a revolutionary sponsorship deal to three top paddlers in the Great Britain Wild Water Team.

British champion Alan Tordoff & world silver medallist Neil Stamps both graduated with computer related degrees this Summer and are committed to training for medals in the 1991 World Championships (Yugoslavia - June). The sponsorship will enable them to train and at the same time to build up computing expertise in commercial Oracle database projects at Fretwell-Downing.

As David Kay (Wild Water National Coach & Technical Manager at Fretwell-Downing) explained, "It seems absurdly wasteful that top graduates must choose exclusively between training and a career. From ten years experience we know that top competitors from sports like Wildwater have highly developed personal characteristics that are crucial for project success - training is a project just like work and these men are proven achievers". For example, the current Oracle development manager at Fretwell-Downing is Robin Murray number 3 in GB wild water! That gives Oracle & F-D the full set - 1,2 & 3.

The sponsorship scheme takes on an approach already successful in France where major corporates like EDF, GDF & SNCF employ qualified athletes on a flexible programme structured around the sporting year and personal mobility. With home computers as part of the deal, software development is ideally suited.

Fretwell-Downing are offering Tordoff & Stamps a contract work programme biased towards the winter period with training course credits provided by Oracle across their full product range. To help their Worlds chances, all three paddlers will receive training travel grants & a race boat.

As chairman Dr Anthony Fretwell-Downing concluded, "Everyone will gain - British medal chances are increased, the graduates will get a significant career boost and the industry will gain experienced practitioners, of which it is clearly short."

ORACLE UK

FRETWELL
DOWNING

GB TEAM SELECTION POLCY - World Champs & World Series 91

CLASS	----- 91 WORLDS -----		----- WORLD SERIES -----	
	GUARANTEED	DISCRETIONARY	GUARANTEED	DISCRETIONARY
	PLACES	ADDITIONS	PLACES	ADDITIONS
	on results	by Committee	on results	by Committee
K1 Men	2 + Stamps	1	4 + Stamps	1
K1 Ladies	3	1	5	1
C1	0	3	0	4
C2	0	3	0	3

3 Selection Races : Grandtully on 10 March plus Tryweryn on 16&17 March
Results formula as per 1990 except K1 winners only from Races 1&2

There will be no 'B' Team as the world series offers sufficient incentive.
There will however be a funded development squad trip under Denis Cooper.
The Junior Team will be selected at Tryweryn on 12th May on discretion.

THE ARCTIC CANOE RACE, Sweden/Finland - 4/11 August 90

In this first of two articles, Jerry Tracey describes his successful completion of the 540 km Arctic Canoe Race (ACR) in a wild water boat.
Next issue will contain his advice on equipment.

Those who know me well will remember me starting to talk about 'going to the Arctic Canoe Race one-day' in around 1985. This Summer I actually managed it; not only getting there, but completing the whole event as well!

The ACR. takes a week, with six paddling days and one (essential!) rest day. The first day is the longest, at 131 km., with the start at midnight the night before and 24 hour daylight providing an interesting novelty! Many of those who started were no longer present by the end of Day (2).

This year for the first time the event was run in the form of a series of race stages (26 in all) with transfer paddles in between them. A complex points system operates; the final results being an aggregate of race stage positions with penalties for any drop-outs from either race stages or transfer legs. My best positions were a second place in one of the stages on the first day and a third place during the last day.

I had set myself the personal goal of finishing the entire course, without any drop-outs. There were many times during the week when I thought that this was going to be beyond me, but somehow I succeeded in focusing my mind on the next check-point and then the next and the next and the next day and so on, until, finally, there was the finish buoy 537 km. later!! I ended up with 7th. place in WWR. class. I was extremely pleased with this as it was a much better result than I thought I was capable of.

I knew that it was going to be very challenging, but the race was much tougher and more gruelling than I had expected. Though there were sections of rapids of very good quality, particularly on the last day when some first-class big-water was encountered, a very large proportion of the course turned out to be flat. I was prepared for having to traverse large lakes, but the River Jokki itself has only a very gentle gradient and is not the major white-water river that I had anticipated. Nevertheless, the ACR. was a tremendous experience, with simply getting to the start being quite an adventure.

I would not have said so at the time, but with hindsight I would like to recommend this epic race to other WWR. paddlers and encourage them to give it a try. I am happy to share information about the ACR. and give advice to anyone who is thinking of going.
(phone 0434 683409, or see me at the Spring Div. A races!)

Many Thanks to Jeannie, my wife and support driver

Jerry Tracey.

TRIATHLETES - Ex-Wild Water - Heineken successes

Recent top Wild Water Racing kayakists Chris Humpage & Nick Walter both achieved excellent placings in the Heineken Triathlon at Portsmouth in September. Chris was featured on the TV coverage having finished the 1.5km swim with the leaders. He finished 13th in 2:06 with Nick Walter 2 minutes behind in 17th place. Congratulations and good luck for next year to both!

TRADE NEWS

* CANOESPORT have announced the latest addition to their paddle range. The 'STEALTH' is a variation on the Rasmussen Wing adapted by Neil Stamps for wild water. Rather than just reducing the length, the now accepted Rasmussen features have been scaled down to give a smaller blade area - perhaps similar resistance to pulling a 19cm Struer or a Schlegel. Prices range from Fibreglass at £60 to Epoxy Kevlar/Carbon with metal tip at £110. Contact Neil Stamps on 081 398 0678

* IMPULSE are now in production with the Obsession II which they have exclusively licenced from Antoine Goetschy. Nick Pink has now perfected a low cost epoxy diolen construction to make top WWR designs available to a wider market. Contact Nick on 0978 861875

* GAYBO may be introducing the latest Prijon design before Christmas. Whilst there has been some criticism of Prijon for putting out too many trial designs since the 89 Worlds, there can be no doubt about his track record for producing competitive racers over the years. Contact Gaybo on 0825 765891.

FOR SALE

Gaybo Fluo C2 - design used by GB 87 medal winning team - perfect condition kevlar construction - £350 ono - from Slade Warne 0268 285223
Slade also has an Impulse Joker C1 - perfect cond kevlar/carbon - £250 ono

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/s tern attachment - excellent condition - £300 ono - Dave Kay 0663 734730 (Eves)

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