

Selection Policy for Muotathal World Championships 1973

Elected to the Selection Committee for the 1973 Worlds, Ken Langford found himself in a position to be able to propose a 'new' policy that would remove subjectivity from GB Team Selection.

The River Awe, which was not known to many paddlers, was considered to be of a high enough standard to stage a selection event. It had the additional advantage of being just over an hour from Grandtully and was dam-controlled. However, the water was only released on a Sunday.

The selection policy stated that the top twenty paddlers in K1M, (less for other classes), would be entitled to compete a week after the Easter Grandtully event 21st – 22nd April 1973

Selection for the 1973 World Championships policy would be based on THREE competition runs with no practice run. After the first run the top paddler would qualify for the team whilst the remainder competed again in the following runs. This process applied to the following two runs enabling three boats in each discipline to qualify, plus a fourth K1M paddler who would be selected from an average of all three runs.

This was to be Britain's first ever selection event. The Selection Committee was only allowed to decide 'cut-off' points; they could not change the order.

N.B. The information in this article is a consensus of the memories, opinions and perspectives of people who were involved in the event and is believed to be correct. However, we would welcome input from other individuals who may have been involved in the above competition to ensure that the information published is a true reflection of events.