

# White Water



## bulletin

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### EDITORIAL

Despite the early season cancellations, some 'good' rainy weather saved the day in the last fortnight of October with rivers running high for the two weekends prior to the Dee. All three National Championship events took place according to plan - see Dee, Tees & Dart reports elsewhere in this issue.

The lack of rain upto late October does however jeopardise the growth of Wild Water Racing because of the lack of opportunity for newcomers to get promoted and for ranked paddlers to get enough practice to make the Div 'A's worthwhile. Perhaps this will cause us to consider (yet again) the possibility of shifting the focus of our season to March through July - taking greater advantage of dam releases to provide a fine weather calendar for ALL divisions as well as offering greater continuity for our international paddlers.

Such a move would not mean the end of Autumn WWR per se. The Autumn might be a good focus for 'fun' events such as the club and regional champs or for longer distance white water marathons (the Exe already exists - and we could easily add the Dee, the Tay, the Tees & the Wye with the added benefit of providing previews of the Div 'A' rivers). It is no surprise that the French already take this approach with club champs on the Cure in September & the Ardeche marathon in November!

Perhaps the Summer 89 drought will cause us to reassess our WWR calendar and to take a fresh view of our objectives in synch with our climate and with international WWR development. Naturally, the Exec can only be expected to make fundamental changes in response to grass roots opinion - why not exercise your brain as well as your arms this winter ....

### RACE REPORTS ....

#### National Championship - Autumn Series

The pattern of winners set at the Dee held true for all three races.

MK1 Alan Tordoff	- Leeds	LK1 Gill Berrow	- Fircush
C1 Steve Wells	- Notts KC	C2 Clough/Clough	- Leeds
MU18 Tim Suggett	- Leeds	MK1T Leeds A (Tordoff, Murray, Suggett, Kay)	

Congratulations all round - it will certainly need a concerted effort to change the championship outcome in the Spring in those classes. Only the Mixed Team seems really open with Nottingham & Leeds looking very close after the three races. Meanwhile the MK1 Veterans class has seen a

different winner on each occasion - honours being equally shared between Swallow, Morley & Kay, though greatest credit must go to 'old man Morley' for a major comeback into the top 12 after a couple of dour seasons.

Dee - 5th November

The Dee was raced at a very difficult medium water level with plenty of breakout opportunities on the Tail as tested in detail by both Stamps & Swallow on the Saturday. Even Alan Tordoff swam at the Town in practice. The challengers were more interesting than the winners (who were a little predictable) - Karen Porter, Twigger/Simpson & Nick Pink all put in good second place results.

Tees - 12th November

On the Friday evening the Tees was in epic flow - but by race day the level was disappointingly lower than the March selection. Nevertheless the Dee winners kept on winning. The biggest change was that the wing converts were not so fervent - no depth (by the Dart only Joe Lyons remained in the top flight)! Shirley Bain graduated to 2nd Lady and Ross Pearton rose through the C1 ranks whilst Neil Blackman took advantage of a rare Wayne Boss error to break into the top 4 in MK1.

Dart - 19th November

Most paddlers were glad that new organiser Guy Sellwood did not cancel. The river was low but acceptable and the surrounding countryside was as beautiful as ever - and a good deal warmer than up north. In Mens K1 Robin Murray ousted Neil Stamps from the silver medal slot. Neil Blackman, Ian Tordoff & Andrew Tomlinson (who? - oh, Tomo!) consolidated their top 7 rankings in a race that saw first outings for Trickett & Kay. Credit to Guy & his team of helpers for a well organised event with printed results available at the prize giving and even a commemorative tee-shirt. More of the same please!

Man of the Match Award

Actually this is the 'Person of the Autumn Series' award - and it goes to 16 year old Tim Suggett. Not since the arrival of Neil Stamps in the mid-eighties have we seen such promise from such a young paddler. Tim is renowned in Leeds for his determination and his cardio-vascular fitness and he is now proving a threat at the highest level with three top 11 placings and two outstanding Team event victories to his credit. For Tim, the target must now be the Junior worlds at Albula in June 90 .... and it looks promising though he will still be a year below the age limit.

5th Domestic Rapid Racing Series

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Alan Heaume of Bedford reinforced his position with a win in the Tees double-points final and so came out overall winner. The other classes were won by Shirley Bain (Ladies), Ashley Mason (ul8) & Tim Suggett (ul6). A three-way tie in the Under 16 event was decided on number of individual victories, placing Tim above Dean Thompson & Jonathan Folland.

### 5th Ardeche Marathon

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For the second year there were two British entries amongst around 200 starters in this 24 mile descent of the Ardeche Gorge. The grade of water is only 2+ but this is more than compensated for by the spectacular scenery and the size of the event. There were top international competitors in all classes (4 WWR classes plus K1 & K2) with French sprint, slalom & WWR team members racing alongside all comers. Adrian Trickett, Melvin Swallow & Dave Kay made the trip from England and familiar visitors included the Bauchs, Harzheim & Klatt from Germany & Ceccatto & Mulazzi from Italy (with their new driver - one M Previde - the mafia still lives on!)

Once more it was an excellent race - especially in K2 where there were fierce battles between 1st & 2nd and between 3rd & 4th (Swallow/Kay) with such notables as Vitali finishing out of the frame. Benezit was outstanding in sprint K1 (using twisted wings) and Marie Laure Etienne gained a strong victory over Sabine Kleinhenz in Ladies sprint K1. Everyone took over 2 hours and the winners were justly rewarded with a marvellous selection of prizes (video recorders, paddles & cash for 'rush' splits). Let's get our calendar in order - this is a race to be at!

1. Legras/Vavasseur	K2	2h 01m	6. Claude Benezit	K1	2h 08m
2. Leroux/Doux	K2	2h 02m	9. Cezare Mulazzi	K1WW	2h 15m
3. Masson/Hanot	K2	2h 04m	25. Marie L Etienne	K1	2h 24m
4. Swallow/Kay	K2	2h 04m	36. Harzheim/Klatt	C2WW	2h 26m

[50 Adrian Trickett - 1st WWR to the Pont d'Arc then enjoyed the scenery]

### Follow Your Impulses - THINK PINK!

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Following negotiations with Mike Dalton (MAD Sports / Nomad), Nick Pink is setting up his own company - IMPULSE - at the Llangollen Mill End factory. He has licensed the full range of Nomad WWR & slalom designs and has also entered into an exclusive agreement with MIDI-BIP to take on their range of WWR designs. The Obsession Kayak & the Perspective C1 are already available and Nick has been assured of previews of forthcoming Lyonnais designs for the 1990 season - watch this space.

Because of the positive relationship with MIDI-BIP whom Nick visited for a week in the summer, Nick will be able to trial designs at a very early stage without pushing the British paddlers into last minute purchases and unnecessary design changes.

Also good news for the paddler is that Nick has completed tests on a range of epoxy constructions that offer low weight boats at good prices. There are two kevlar epoxy options at less than £500 per boat and also a full diolen epoxy construction with carbon reinforcement for significantly less.

#### River Leven - Open Days

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The Leven Tests series has not run for a few years - but the river itself is still open to paddlers for 8 days each season. Access is strictly limited to the agreed dates (there is a very strong fishing interest) and is also limited to 60 paddlers on each day. Bibs should be booked in advance from Angela Strue, 28 Newton Road, Dalton in Furness LA15 8LS (0229 66063). The remaining 89-90 dates are as follows :

January 7th, February 11th, March 4th & March 18th

The river is only 1.25 miles long, running from the Swan Hotel at Newby Bridge (South end of Windermere) to above the weir at Backbarrow. There are three good falls and a number of rapids making almost continuous wild water with little chance of damage when the lake is high. With a driver you can do six runs in a single session!

#### Boats for Sale

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Obsession kayak - 10kg - full Kevlar - well used but a good practice boat  
Offers around £175 - Contact Adrian Trickett - Daytime - 0831 405743

Winner C1 - very good condition - full kevlar - including Bushdeck  
& two C1 paddles - £165 - Contact Mark Elower - 0203 348513

Premier II Slalom Kayak - full kevlar - good condition - only scratches  
Offers around £160 - Contact Dave Kay - 0663 34730

#### Selection for 1990 Internationals

Your training schedule for the 1989-90 winter season can now be adjusted to take into account a selection policy!

The Executive has determined the outline selection policy to be used for paddlers in teams for the 1990 International season.

Julie Ashton LK1, Neil Stamps MK1, and Steve Wells C1 are preselected.

Selection for remaining team places will be based solely on results at the three ranking races:-

Grandtully	March 10/11	1990
Tees III	March 18	1990
Washburn	April 7	1990

These races will be used for selection for all of the Junior, Youth, Senior A and B teams. The exact criteria of using the race results and the number of team places available is yet to be decided.

#### Conduct at River Races

Don't forget that even canoeists should behave like "legal, decent, honest, and truthful" citizens. This applies to as all at river race. Over exuberance or thoughtlessness is not an excuse for misconduct. Anyone infringing the code of conduct or the rules of wild water races this season risks disciplinary action. Be warned but have fun !