



***BCU FLATWATER  
RACING NEWSLETTER***

***DECEMBER/JANUARY  
2002/3***

**BCU FLATWATER RACING  
NEWSLETTER**

[www.bcu.org.uk/marathon](http://www.bcu.org.uk/marathon) or  
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## December 2002/January 2003

Welcome to the first issue of the Marathon & Sprint newsletter with the first change of editor since it started. This was more years ago than the retiring Editor Heather Brough would admit. Her efforts have been almost single handed and she deserves all the plaudits going.

The newsletter was originally for Marathon only but its ambit has recently been enlarged to include Sprint Racing. It therefore now operates as the Flatwater Newsletter.

The objective is to give clubs with a Flatwater interest information on as many aspects of the two disciplines as is practical.

Because of the voluntary nature of the venture information, articles and comments are all welcome, indeed they are essential as the editor must be that and not the sole creator.

The flatwater disciplines are essentially competition but for many it is competition with a recreational bias. The intention is to cater for all levels in the same way Marathon does with the divisional system and sprint with its performance groupings.

Both committees want to know your thoughts and ideas so letters are welcome e-mail preferred. We cannot guarantee to answer every letter or solve all problems & grievances but the intention is to air views for general knowledge.

Your continued support is much appreciated. The conclusion of this editorial is to sincerely thank and applaud Heathers work. We hope to see her on the water much more now she has the time.

We hope to send out as many copies of the newsletter by e mail to reduce costs. Please let us have your addresses as soon as possible to create a directory.

### MARATHON AGM

The AGM of the marathon Committee took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2002 at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

The election of officers did not require a ballot and the committee is now as follows

Chairman - David Green  
Secretary – Brian Gandy  
Treasurer – Tamsin Phipps  
Team Manager – Jim Rossitter  
Sprint/Marathon Liaison – Alan Williams  
Nat. Champs. Co-ordinator – Dave Enoch  
Coach – Roland Lawler  
Ladies Coach – Ronnie Thorogood  
Race Organiser Info & Calendar – Graham Simpkin  
Newsletter – Alan Laws,[ e-mail, christinelaws@lineone.net]  
Divisions Officer & Eastern Region Rep – Mike Head  
Committee member & Southern Region Rep – Andy Rawson

Selection Committee consists of David Green, Jim Rossiter, Alan Williams, Dave Enoch, Roland Lawler & Ronnie Thorogood.

Co-opted members  
English Coaching Mgr - Richard Ward  
WM Rep & Youth – Peter Jones  
Hasler Co-ordinator & Scottish Rep – Brian Chapman  
Race Records – Christine Laws  
National Development Coach – Graham Campbell.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jim Rossiter – reported a good though not spectacular year on the International scene. The unfortunate cancellation of the Czech World Championships due to flooding did increase the availability of paddlers from all nations to the replacement event in Zamora, Spain which produced some interesting results. (A full report appears later).

The Spanish Federation and in particular the Organisation in Zamora are to be congratulated on their amazing efforts to organise such a successful World Championships at only five weeks notice.

Particular mention should be made of the Junior Teams all of whom performed well and show much promise for the future as they all remain Juniors next year and can put their experience of this year to good use.

The Records Officer, Christine Laws reported a stable number of approximately 3000 paddlers on the Marathon register. It was emphasised the need for Club Team Leaders to return their lists with Christian names and BCU numbers checked ready for the updating of the Year Book and the Hasler race programme for 2003.

Approximately two thirds of the Race Organisers used the new Hasler Race programme this year producing regularised and in most cases speedy results. Emailing Of results to Christine and Mike Head (Divisions Officer) is to be encouraged as this also speeds up the notification of promotions and demotions & so helping to have paddlers in their correct divisions for their next race. Late results do cause confusion and unfair racing in some instances.

If results are emailed do not forget to post the levy!!

The treasurer Tamsin Phipps announced a fairly healthy set of accounts noting particularly the increase in revenue from the Hiring of the Bus. It was suggested that this money was put aside for the purchase of a new bus in the future.

The monies raised from the race levies after administration costs have been taken have now reached a level when they can be usefully used on special development programmes. These are to be discussed at the next development meeting.

## LIGHTNINGS

Common to both Marathon & Sprint the age groupings for the Lightning classes are to be altered for 2003 to under 10 & under 12. The

points system will also be altered to avoid the problems of last year.

## National Championships 2004

A club or consortium of clubs is still required to run this event. Any offers please contact a member of the MRC

## Hasler 2004

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## **SPRINT AGM**

At the Sprint AGM there were no motions & all committee nominations were adopted.

Chairman – Roland Lawer

Treasurer – Mo Moule

Secretary – Ken Darby-Dowman

Committee Members – Peter Bland

Graham Campbell

Dave Enoch

Laurence Oliver

Ronnie Thorogood

Richard Ward

Alan Williams

Bill Lawrenson

Stan Cox

There was a discussion on the cost of running Regattas at Holme Pierpont as there was another operating loss for these events in 2002 which requires the committee and the regatta committee to reconsider entry fees amongst other things.

Welcome to Peter Morley who has bravely volunteered to run the events in 2003. His promotion from member of the organising team to leader is to be congratulated

Thanks must go to Bill Lawrenson for his considerable efforts in 2003.

2003 NOTTINGHAM REGATTA dates are as follows :-

April 12/13

May 10/11

June 7/8  
July 5/6  
Sept. 6/7

### **2003 INTERNATIONALS**

The World Cup & Championship calendar looks to be as follows, but it is subject to ratification by the ICF at this time.

|           |       |                        |
|-----------|-------|------------------------|
| May       | 20/26 | Sprint - Zegeid        |
| June      | 21/22 | Marathon - Bergen      |
| July      | 02/07 | Sprint - Zargreb       |
| July      | 12/13 | Marathon - Gedansk     |
| August    | 23/31 | Sprint Jun. - Komastsu |
| August    | 16/17 | Marathon - Tyn         |
| September | 08/15 | Sprint - Gainesville   |
| September | 27/28 | Marathon - Valladolid  |

### **DOMESTIC DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> December – Competition Coach Conference NWSC  
29<sup>th</sup> December – Ross Warland Memorial – 26 miles.  
5<sup>th</sup> January – Frank Luzmore  
9<sup>th</sup> February – Melksham to Bradford On Avon  
9<sup>th</sup> February – Assessment race at Elmbridge  
23<sup>rd</sup> February – Waterside A

The first selection race for Marathon will be a separate event to be held at Elmbridge on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Paddlers interested in putting their name forward for selection for Internationals should contact Jim Rossiter the Team Manager.

The selection policy for Sprint is obtainable from Alan Williams and will also be published in the Year Book due to be available at the first Waterside event on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2003.

### **LADIES EVENTS**

It is proposed that a separate race will be held at Assessment Races for level 'B' Ladies with the

anticipation that there will be opportunities for lower level International Competition in 2003. It is hoped that this will encourage more ladies to compete and also give first year Seniors a stepping stone to reach a higher level in the future.

Please contact Dyson Pendle for further details.

### **HASLER FINAL**

This years Hasler Final at Eton was a great success but disappointing in that the numbers of paddlers that attended the event was approximately 100 down on 2001.

A number of suggestions are being discussed and a proposal on some rule changes will be presented at the half yearly meeting at the National Championships at Worcester on the 26<sup>th</sup> July.

In the meantime it has been agreed that the event for 2003 would be opened to any paddlers who had completed 3 qualifying events per Rule 36. The paddler would qualify for individual prizes, be subject to promotion and demotion in the normal way, but would not qualify for Hasler Final points, only those paddlers whose clubs which had qualified would receive Hasler points and so compete for the Trophies as listed in Rule 40.

### **CONTACT NUMBERS**

A number of individuals have been mentioned for contacting in this newsletter. Your Year Book will give you addresses, phone numbers and where known e-mail addresses of these individuals. If you have any difficulties please contact the Secretary of the Committee concerned.

## Marathon World Champs Report

Following three passport 'incidents', a few hours at Madrid airport waiting for the Irish Team (Again), and a three hour bus journey, we arrived somewhere near our hotel sometime around midnight. Settled in after a quick meal and got to sleep.

No one quite knew what to expect the next day. The Spanish had only had a few weeks to organise a World Championship event. Bearing in mind it usually seems to take a year or two you can only assume they had their work cut out! There were questions as to who would and would not be coming given the late change of plans. A general air of scepticism surrounded the start lists, which appeared full but seemed to be a straight copy of the ones published for the ill-fated Tyn event a few weeks before. All of the big names were down and rumours circulated that a few of the sprinters had also taken advantage of the delay and extended their competition year to include the marathon.

On arrival at the course however all doubts were dispelled. All the major teams were already busy in preparation and the infrastructure was already in place for race day. The portages were already marked out, the stands were built and there were no signs that the whole thing had not been planned for months.

Our team was a little changed from that of recent years. The men's team was lacking some of the old faithfuls and unfortunately not all those attending were in peak form for one reason or another. The women's team did not contain either of our World Champions from last year, and was in fact as small as a women's team can get, with just one member. The junior teams were looking quite strong. The canoe team was also only one member, which sadly seems to reflect the whole state of canoe racing at the competition. Surely if something radical is not done soon then the class will become extinct. Certainly with competitor numbers at their current levels the competition seems to devalue the whole event, and the locker room chat is getting more anti every year. So if you are a canoe paddler and you value your sport then do yourself a favour and get out there and race. It might be hard but if you don't, then I think it is only a matter of time before you have no sport.

The general topic of conversation among the athletes was how much training had been or not been done since Tyn was cancelled four weeks before. On balance it seemed that most people had stopped training following the cancellation and had got back to training when the news filtered through of the new venue. Most people it seemed had gone on a bit of a bender for one week fuelled by the disappointment and pent up energy. Everyone had a story to tell! The only people who had trained through were the few sprinters who had come on from Seville. How all this would affect people or results was yet to be seen.

Saturday came and with it the first round of K1 races. Juniors raced in the morning, Michael Goodall and Tom Daniels for the boys, Zara Dale for the girls and James Train in canoe. As someone who did not see the whole race it is impossible to give a blow by blow account but what was very evident was the standard was extremely high. The race was won by Carre from France who to be fair looked like he would have got a reasonable result in the men's race. Tom and Michael ended up fighting it out for 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> place. Neither were satisfied with their position despite appearing to perform quite well which is encouraging, with attitudes like that there should be no reason why both went on to better things. In the girls race Zara battled on as ever and managed to finish 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 minutes behind the winner Faldrum of Hungary. Tara Nutt our other entrant in the girls race was unfortunately on the sick list, contracting glandular fever a few weeks before the event. James Train survived a traumatic start with someone trying to climb on to his boat but could not make up the time and positions he lost eventually finishing 9<sup>th</sup>.

In the afternoon it was the turn of the seniors and for the first time in years the singles events would be contested without a realistic prospect for our team. In the men's Steve Baker and Ivan Lawler both ended

up in the third group though Steve only narrowly missed out on the front group when the break happened. Eventually finishing in 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> places, it is very evident that the way to do well in these races is to have a very high top speed. Endurance is all very well but races cannot be won from behind. This is something which our coaches and athletes need to take on board if we are to get back up into the medals in the near future. The race was won again by the Spaniard, Manuel Busto with the Danish sprinter Torsten Tranum taking second place. Jenny Spencer in the women's race held the front group for a while but eventually dropped off and was caught in the latter stages by Gomes of Portugal and finished a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place. It was a shame to see Anna Hemmings watching the race from the bank, it does seem a waste when the race was won by Intrioni of Italy (a veteran of the Moscow Olympics!) who realistically would not have had much chance of beating Anna. It is sad to see that the general attitude to marathon, which is fed by the World Class programmes and its officials, results in one of our best athletes passing up the opportunity to win a World Championship for both herself and the nation. We did not get any medal in the sprinting this year despite some cracking performances. Surely it cannot do our cause any harm to have a marathon world champion in our pocket when it comes to arguing our case for grants in the future.

Sunday was K2 day. The juniors were first off with Cox/Heath & Brown/Wycherley for the boys, Farish/Mason & Stevens/Brixey for the girls and no C2. The boys were off first Cox/heath appeared to make the front group comfortably but by the time the group came back from the turn they were nowhere to be seen and it had turned out Ed Cox had suffered some bizarre leg injury which prevented them continuing. This added to the fact that he had come directly from a family holiday made him one of the more unlucky competitors on the day. Brown/Wycherley however performed well above their form on paper and for me were one of our best performances of the weekend. In the girls Stevens/Brixey were very unlucky not to make the front group, they were very close for a while but eventually were outgunned by some quality crews, notably the Hungarian winners who paddled away to win by a considerable margin. Farish/Mason though not so impressive at the start pulled through to gain one of the teams best results to finish in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Only the men had an entry in the afternoon with Prestwood/Slater & Golder/Johnson. The K2 is always a spectacular event and this year was no exception, the Norwegian World Sprint Champions were there and Manuel Busto had teamed up to try and take the double. Opinion was divided as which way it would go. Both our crews had reasonable starts and were clinging on to the back of the group as they wet out of sight. When they returned Golder/Johnson were having the race of a lifetime and were still with the pack. To their surprise and I think to most other peoples they were to stay with the front group for most of the race only dropping off on the last lap. Easily the performance of the weekend and for two people who have not competed at this level before it was even more impressive. They finished in seventh place, under one minute behind the winners. The two Pauls were not so lucky and didn't enjoy their race half as much, eventually finishing in 18<sup>th</sup> place. The race was won by the Norwegian sprinters with the Dutch second and the Spanish third. Popular medals for the Dutch pair Dolph Te Linde & Edwin De Nijis who have had more fourth places than anyone should have to suffer.

So we came out of our first ever World Championships with no medals, but there were some performances which showed a lot of promise.

Many thanks should go to John Sage the Osteopath who kept the team in working order on the trip and to Di Bates who had the unenviable job of trying to make sure everyone was back in their own rooms after the party!

Report by Ivan Lawler