

Flatwater Newsletter

August 2008

The time has come for another look into the flatwater world at the moment and for the next few months.

The Sella Marathon took place on the 9th August and in the past few years the number of entrants from BCU has continued to rise. There were 60 paddlers in 38 boats. This is a record as far as I can remember.

Christine and I having been looking after the entries for quite some years now but I should add that although Christine has handled most of the paperwork here, we have received some considerable help from Andy Goodsell at BCU HQ. This by the way is just another example of the service for paddlers that is provided by the combination of voluntary and professional help within the BCU organisation.

On the downside of the welcome number of entries is the fact that as usual there are those who cannot believe that a deadline for entries is real. Having looked at the information that was produced I suppose there would be a case for saying that some of the confusion could have arisen from the fact that there was a deadline from the BCU and a later one from the race organisers. The two different dates are because of the time it takes to get the paperwork completed here in time for everything to be sent to Spain. So for 2009 we will make sure that the information is made as clear as possible and ask that the decision to race be taken as soon as you can. Late entries for this kind of race do make for a lot of extra work.

For those of you that have never been to this race I exhort you to go. Where else can you enter a Marathon race with over 1500 competitors and more than 100,000 spectators? Yes that's the correct number of zeros; there really is that number of people watching this 13 mile race. They are on the bridges, on the roads bordering the river and there is even a special train that follows the race as the track is close to the course of the river. Jump on the train in a mad scramble just after the start and go for a mile or so. Then jump off and run over the field down to the river to watch the crews come by. Then it's back to the train for the next viewing spot as it waits for you

to come back. At least, it does if you are quick and want to follow the lead crews.

I look forward to the reports that come back from those who fare well and also for those with broken boats and tales of woe. I hope that the former tales are in the majority. Good luck to all for whilst the winners are always paddlers of high quality some others might need a bit of luck to go with their ability.

There have been meetings of both the Sprint and Marathon committees since the last newsletter and a number of items are perhaps worth a mention.

On the Marathon front with great regret the committee has had to increase the amount paid by the paddlers selected for GB teams. For about the last 15 years it has been £50 per person per event. If inflation is taken into account this amount has obviously reduced considerably in value. There is a current budget deficit of about £7,000 this year that will have to be taken out of reserves. The current level of reserves will not stand that amount being taken from them for long.

So the contribution next year will be increased to £100. This is not a decision taken lightly and it has been with genuine regret. The objective the committee has is to take the paddler with the most ability and performance potential regardless of their financial situation. However with the current financial situation getting ever more difficult an increase is essential if standards of team preparation are to be retained.

Indeed the current objective is to continue increasing the team preparation over the winter always having in mind the need to tie in with the Performance Department calls on paddlers. The winter development programme budget has been increased again this year to make this possible. Team sizes will be largely the same as this year, as ever depending on the results of the assessment races.

All team kit is now provided free of charge where in the past there has been a payment made by the paddler.

Compared to some other disciplines the MRC provide more for less. Ideally all disciplines would do as the Performance Department teams do, making no charge at all, but the ability to do this comes

from their considerably larger budget levels. The fact they can do this should be applauded and the BCU are certainly aware of the need to raise the level of finance to that of the PD for all the competitive disciplines. Like all financial matters however there is a difficult balance to be struck in the way funds are spent and which part of the income is husbanded into reserves for future problems and larger potential expenditure. Replacement of the team Mini bus for example and the fact that every 4 or 5 years the World Championships are held out of Europe which inevitably increases that years team costs by a large amount. 2011 for example will be in Singapore. Both the MRC and SRC have been successful over the years in striking an excellent balance in this respect, a fact that is not always appreciated.

The attention of the committee has been turned by a number of people to the current situation with the K2 divisions and structure. This spilled over into having to deal with the departure of Mike Head as Rankings Officer. He has worked very hard at this job for many years now and has only reluctantly given it up as he is going to work abroad. Thanks Mike for your work at this largely thankless task.

Roland Lawler will be taking over from him and indeed by the time you read this will be actively looking at the rankings. He will be taking advice and information from the regional advisors before making any changes. The committee is aware that there might be a need to rationalise some of the K1 divisions, as there are some imbalances at the moment. As this review may have an effect on the K2 divisions no change to these will be made now.

The Annual Consultative meeting will be held on the Saturday evening of the National Championships on the August Bank Holiday weekend at Worcester (see Worcester CC website for details) and there will be a chance for you to express your views on the subject of the divisions and the K2 structure as well as any other burning issues. Brian Gandy would appreciate you letting him know well beforehand which topic you want to raise. Preferably not 5 minutes before the meeting starts.

Andy Goodsell looks after many of the issues relating to international teams along with Dave Enoch. A recent situation occurred with a paddler at an international event where current medication was not disclosed resulting in a failed dope test. Please ensure that all paddlers disclose the current medication to Dave Enoch for Marathon and either Alan Williams or Andy Goodsell for Sprint well before going to international races.

The Regional Hasler advisers work hard in the background and the committee felt that it would be helpful for them to meet up and discuss what is needed. To this end Brian Gandy has created a "job description" for discussion, this and their problems and to see if the committee in general could share their work would form the basis for their meeting. If anyone has any comments as to the job itself then these would be welcome.

We have been informed by the organisers of the Calder 2 Marathon has had to be changed from the 31st August to the 14th September. Please update your calendars'.

The Marathon Worlds take place at TYN in the Czech Republic over 20/21 September. As usual the masters events take place on the Wednesday and Thursday before. Entries must be made through BCU office and Andy Goodsell will be co-ordinating these.

The MRC have been concerned lately about the number of people racing who were either Basic members of the BCU or not BCU members at all. Therefore a number of checks have been going on from race entries and those in error have been advised. Race Organisers have the responsibility to check the entries but it seems there is a need for back checking.

In similar vein the SRC have taken this matter up and will be checking BCU membership for future regattas.

There has been some confusion over juniors and 200M racing and this note is to confirm that juniors cannot race over this distance.

The Sprint Annual Consultative Meeting will take place at HPP 30 minutes after the end of racing on Saturday 6.9.08. Although this is a formal meeting there will be the chance to discuss the general subjects of both Veteran and Lightning racing.

The Racing Standards have been the subject of much debate and the fact they need to be altered to bring them close in line with increasing international standards Accordingly the standards set out on the next two pages will apply as from the April Regatta 2009 at HPP.

STANDARDS FOR RACING

K1/C1 times on a fast course

MARATHON		HC	1000m	500m	SPRINT	
Div 1 Men	1.033		0	3.30	1.38	<World Champion K1 Men's A Kayak
			1	3.34	1.40	
			2	3.38	1.42	
			3	3.42	1.44	
	1.067	P	4	3.46	1.46	
Div 2 Boys	1.083	D	5	3.50	1.48	World Champ. C1 & WK1
			6	3.54	1.50	Mens B Kayak
	1.117		7	3.58	1.52	Boys A Kayak
			8	4.02	1.54	Womens A
	1.150	P	9	4.06	1.56	Canadian A

Div 3 Women	1.167	D	10	4.10	1.58	Mens C Kayak
			11	4.14	2.00	Boys B Kayak
	1.200		12	4.18	2.02	Canadian B
			13	4.22	2.04	Womens B & Girls A
	1.233	P	14	4.26	2.06	Masters A
Div 4 Girls	1.250	D	15	4.30	2.08	Mens D Kayak
			16	4.34	2.10	Boys C Kayak
	1.283		17	4.38	2.12	Canadian C
			18	4.42	2.14	Womens C & Girls B
	1.317	P	19	4.46	2.16	Masters B
Div 5	1.333	D	20	4.50	2.18	Boys D Kayak
			21	4.54	2.20	Girls C Kayak
	1.367		22	4.58	2.22	Womens D
			23	5.02	2.24	Masters C
	1.400	P	24	5.06	2.26	
Div 6	1.417	D	25	5.10	2.28	Girls D Kayak
			26	5.14	2.30	
	1.450		27	5.18	2.32	
			28	5.22	2.34	
	1.483	P	29	5.26	2.36	
Div 7	1.500	D	30	5.30	2.38	
			31	5.34	2.40	
	1.533		32	5.38	2.42	
			33	5.42	2.44	
	1.567	P	34	5.46	2.46	

Div 8	1.583	D	35	5.50	2.48	
			36	5.54	2.50	
	1.617		37	5.58	2.52	
			38	6.02	2.54	
	1.650	P	39	6.06	2.56	

1.667 D

P (Promotions) / D (Demotions) are possible on 1000m and/or 500m and marathon results.

The H.C. is the number of seconds longer that it takes to paddle the distance a zero paddler covers in one minute. Placid Water Racing Tests show recommended starting standards.