

BCU FLATWATER NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008

Wrapping up the 2008 season has a number of issues to comment upon which you may not have seen on the Marathon Web site. Can I commend you to this as a place for information as inevitably it is more up to date than this kind of newsletter ever could be.

www.marathon-canoeing.org.uk

Beijing 2008

Whilst it has been said and done by way of print, web and event I would like to add the justified congratulations to all of our Olympic squad but especially Tim Brabants as our first ever Olympic Gold Medal Winner and David Florence with his Slalom silver medal. The ball that was held in the beautiful surroundings of Stoke Rochford Hall to commemorate the games was certainly one event that all the attendees will remember. Surprising how well canoeists scrub up when they want to!

ICF Congress

The ICF Congress has just finished and there was some good and bad news from there. The BCU President was unfortunately not successful in his attempt to become the ICF First Vice President. He still remains the President of the European Canoe Association and Vice Chairman of the British Olympic Association.

Ex-pat Richard Fox, five times World Slalom Champion who now lives in Australia was successful and is now Second Vice President of the ICF defeating the Brazilian Tomasini Schwertner who was the holder of the office and had been for the last 8 years.

Helen Reeves was appointed to the Slalom Committee and Alan Laws retained his position on the Marathon committee. With that committee Jorn Cronberg [Denmark] remains Chairman with Ruud Heigselaar [Holland]. New additions are Pedro Alegre [Spain] and Stefan Gustavsson [Sweden]

Tim Cornish remains special regional adviser for Africa and Robin Belcher becomes special regional adviser for Oceania. We say good bye to Maria Llevot who was not re-nominated by the Spanish Federation for some reason best known only to their president.

Istvan Vaskuti becomes the First Vice President of the ICF leaving behind a somewhat dubious tenure of four years as Sprint Chairman.

We welcome the appointment of the Canadian Frank Garner as Istvan's replacement.

Several major topics were decided during the Congress. The Congress accepted new name changes for the different disciplines; Flatwater Racing will now be known as *Canoe Sprint*, Slalom Racing is now known as *Canoe Slalom*, and Marathon Racing will be *Canoe Marathon*.

A new programme for Canoe Sprint will commence in 2009 in Dartmouth, Canada, which was approved by the Congress. This will include the return of the relay event in the World Championships programme for 2009 with the 3 least popular [and the definition of this is not yet clear to me] dropped out and in 2010 the return of long distance events but not at 10,000m but 5,000m. I am sure that there will be many who will utter a cry of "at last".

In addition, 7 new National Federations were officially affiliated to the ICF making a total of 147 countries as part of the ICF family.

The new Marathon rules as presented were approved which included the addition of an under 23 class for World Championships in men K1, women K1 and C1. The length of the Worlds can now be up to 3 days.

The proposed lowering of the Masters age limit to 27 was NOT approved and remains at 35.

DOGS PADDLERS

The DOGS [Dozy Old Gits] have been out and about again with a gathering at Worcester a couple of weekends ago. They celebrated John Talbot's 70th birthday in a good old fashioned style with a paddle to clear the head the next day. At least it did for those who got up early enough. Nothing much remarkable about that but on this occasion it was a bit special as they were treated to the sight of a collection of one of the DOGS old wooden Struer and other boats. These all have, or are being renovated to the highest standards and if you like the old wooden boats and want to see more then I suggest you contact me and I will put you in touch with one of the people around the country who have a collection.

Olympic Heritage Project

Still on the old boat and heritage kick the BOA in the form of the Chairman Lord Moynihan have launched a project to combine with the 2012 Olympics to celebrate and show off sporting memorabilia of all kinds. This connects with the fact that in the re-invented Games starting in 1898 up to 1924 medals were awarded for the arts and literature. In fact the modern games originator Baron de Coubertin resigned from the IOC in 1928 over the cancellation of these medals for the 1928 games. The idea of the project is to make sure that sporting memorabilia are kept and maintained to be a record of Olympics and sporting history. The BCU was represented by the Hasler Trophy and John Dudderidge's 1936 Olympic paddles and these raised some considerable interest from the people present.

Marathon Calendar

The new Marathon calendar should be on the Marathon website by now and will show the events for next year. The new yearbook is in course of preparation and will be out at its normal time in the New Year.

Marathon Committee

The committee meets near the end of the year to sort out its programme for the coming year and the following have come from this meeting.

The committee as usual allocates jobs to its members and this has been done as follows

Secretary	Diane Bates
Treasurer: Nationals co-ordinator and trophies	David Enoch
Rankings officer	Roland Lawler
Lightnings development	James Hinves
Newsletter	Alan Laws
Hasler Finals co-ordinator	Andy Rawson
Team Manager	per event
Calendar compiler	Ollie Harding
Athlete development	James Smythe: Dyson Pendle
Web site	Tamsin Phipps

The selectors for the international teams for 2009 will be

Brian Gandy

Alan Laws

Roland Lawler

David Enoch

Dyson Pendle

Alan Williams

The team Managers for these events will be James Smythe for two of the main races and Dyson Pendle one.

Hasler race organisation. It was agreed to change the classes racing at the Hasler races as follows

There will be separate K1 and K2 classes for all divisions. Divisions 9-4 will be offered at all regional Hasler events. Races for divisions 1,2 and 3 will be alternated with some events offering 1K1 and 3 K1 plus 2K2 and others offering 1K2 and 3K2 plus 2K1. All nine K1 and K2 divisions will be run at future Hasler finals. Brian Gandy will be putting together an explanatory paper that will clarify the rule changes for race organisers and club leaders that will be issued shortly. Watch out for this on the web site.

Annual Coaching Conference

The Annual Coaching Conference takes place on January 17/18 and will include items on;
The Olympic Experience
Paddling Sessions
Training Modules
Ergo Sessions
Contact Nigel Robinson at nige@nigerobinson.co.uk for more information.

Racing in the North

Gareth Field, Paddlesport Officer for the North employed by Canoe England sent in an item asking for your help.

“One of my main areas I want to focus on next year is the development of flat water racing in the North. I would like to see there being more opportunities to develop for people to have a go at racing and to participate in Fun sessions that promote racing on the flat.

I have chatted to many of you in the past about how we can develop racing and it's promotion.

I tried last year to run a Sprint regatta in the North and as you are aware no one booked on the event. I also tried to run the 3 lakes challenge and again no one booked on the event.

I would like to try and run both again next year. What I am looking for is your buy in from your clubs to come along to these events and make them run.

Questions I need answering from you guys is

When would be a good time of the year to run a regatta?

(I felt last year between the 1st and 2nd regatta would have worked as a way of bringing on your new paddlers to develop confidence before they go to Nottingham)

When would be best time of the year for the 3 lakes challenge?

I would like to run a summer evening series of races around the N West and Yorkshire. Venues like Chester, Macclesfield, Manvers(Rotherham), Roundhay etc... that could run as a series where we gain points for each event for you to go towards and overall competition. I would like to aim this as not only for competitors as part of their training but also for non racing paddlers to come along and have fun competitions within their clubs etc...

I would appreciate your thoughts on if you think that you would support these evenings, not only in your area but also around the region?

I would like to see more opportunities for non racing paddlers to have a go at Racing and see it in a positive light. My role and experience is not focused on developing top athletes performance but increasing the opportunities for finding the next top athletes.

IF you could drop me an e-mail with how you think you could be involved in this and any other thoughts in these ideas.”

gareth.field@bcu.org.uk

Masters Sprinting

At the Sprint Racing Section Annual Consultative Meeting on the 6th September there was considerable debate about the future development of Masters' racing.

The general consensus at the meeting favoured increasing the Masters ability classes to 4 groups (A, B, C & D) by raising the standard of Masters A to that of Men's B. Consequently the Sprint Racing Committee agreed this could be trialed in 2009.

Therefore the 'Racing Standard' for 2009, Masters A is as Men's B: Masters B will be as Men's C: Masters C as Men's D: Masters D equivalent to Womens D.

In 2009, Men of 35 years (born before 1974) currently ranked in Men's B can choose to transfer and race (be ranked) as Masters A or remain and race (be ranked) as Men's B. Therefore Master paddlers that finished 2008 ranked as:

Masters A in 2009 will be Master B:

Masters B in 2009 will be Master C

Masters C in 2009 will be Masters D

Hopefully this change will make for interesting Masters racing in 2009.

Laurence Oliver

He was nominated by the SRC for a BCU Volunteer Award recently and this has now been confirmed. Laurence had for many years been the GB Junior Team Manager amongst other things including a longtime member of the SRC. He has also been the Chairman of Lincoln Canoe Club since God was a little boy and so this award is well deserved and we send him our congratulations.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Alan Laws