

Flatwater Newsletter May June 2010

Here we are again with the latest and possibly the not so up to date news from the flatwater scene. Lots of little bits here and there to hopefully inform and help. No new items from the general populace though so its all down to the people who volunteer to help the sport run. There is a great deal on the BCU and Marathon web sites though so to be up to date keep looking at them.

Coaching.

Coaching guru John Handyside would like to remind all those coaches who are halfway through old style coaching system training to get into contact with him through the BCU office in Bingham to make arrangements for this to be completed.

There seems to be much confusion about just what has to be done on the new system even though there has been a great deal in print to make it clear that "old style" coaches do NOT have to do anything if they do not want to. All they have to do is to make sure their normal upkeep training is maintained. Those who want to train on the new system do not have to do everything all at once and can train over a period. Contact JH for all the information if you are not sure.

September Regatta 2011.

The September Regatta will be one week before normal in 2011 to allow for the pre Olympic Regatta to be seen by all those interested. Obviously this regatta to test the Olympic systems will be at Eton.

HPP Starting Gates

The gates at HPP are starting [sic] to get a bit tired now but are due to be refurbished. It is hoped that we will be able to get hold of the ex Olympic items to transfer to HPP. IT is now pretty certain there will be no legacy for Sprint from Eton. This is a shame but there seems to be no alternative. There will of course be the new Slalom course at Broxbourne which will be a real fillip for our sport.

D Class Timing

Just to remind you that for D classes there is only the bottom timing limit of 3.00 minutes

5K Racing

Bit of a joint effort here now that 5K racing is in the Sprint Worlds programme. For HPP regattas there will be entries for those paddlers that meet a satisfactory standard. No doubt your club

coach will be able to advise you. If they are in any doubt then Roland Lawler will be able to help.

From the Marathon perspective 5K races have been introduced to improve the standard of starting and racing in a group. Two have already been held. At Norwich and Longridge with some success. Can 5K race organisers please note that results should be sent asap to Sue Hawthorn. Her contact detail are in the yearbook.

Dave Shankland

Not a name that many of you will know except by looking at the trophy names in the Marathon section of the yearbook. I guess that most of you have spent many a happy hour reading through the details of these trophies and perhaps wondered how they came about. Dave was a paddler of some considerable note in the sprint and marathon world in the late 50's and early 60's retiring from competition in 1965. For some time he held the cross channel record. In about 1962 his wife suggested that as there was not a ladies trophy he should donate one and he did. His son recently enquired about the connection as he did not know it and as a result a new contact has been made and hopefully he will be able to come to the National Championships to present the trophy.

Marathon Race Results and the Marathon Website

You will be aware that the website has been renewed and refreshed by James Smythe. Di Bates has generously offered to put race results onto the website. Will all race organisers please send their results to her as well as Rosemary. Her details are in the yearbook.

If there are any problems with the HRM system race organisers can still contact Wiki Daniels as before.

Mini K2 in Marathon and Lightnings

For the attention of all Team Leaders, Coaches of Lightning paddlers and Race Organisers.

Changes in rules regarding the Geoff Sanders Trophy Series

The Marathon Racing Committee has amended the marathon rules regarding races applying to the Geoff Sanders Trophy Series. This has been done to encourage the holding of Mini K2 races in order to introduce crew boat racing to younger paddlers.

- The rules will apply from September 1st 2010.
- Please ensure that you read carefully the attached rules to ensure you have noted all changes.

Team Leaders / Coaches

- Note the requirement to notify Peter Jones, co-ordinator, of details of all paddlers involved in the Series. Email petercjones@blueyonder.co.uk.
- Be aware that paddlers need to compete in either Lightning K1s or Mini K2s that comply with the rules – see 52(a).
- Only those paddlers ranked lower than Division 8 are eligible.
- Note rule 59 (b) which encourages paddlers to take part in Division 9 races without affecting their ability to race in the Geoff Sanders Series. It is hoped this will help with long term development of younger paddlers.

Race Organisers

- Race Organisers should liaise with their Regional Marathon Advisor to decide whether to run a K1 or a K2 race, or whether it is possible to run both.
- No race levy will be charged.

Rules applying to the Geoff Sanders Memorial Trophy

With effect from September 2010

51) THE SERIES

- a) Race organisers of regional Hasler races are encouraged to include Lightning and Mini K2 races in their programme. These races will qualify for the Geoff Sanders Series in which teams compete for the Geoff Sanders Memorial Trophy. Races can also be run at other times as part of an inter-club event.
- b) The Series will run from 1st September to 31st August the following year.
- c) Races in the Series will not be awarded Hasler points.
- d) Races will be included in the programme of the Hasler Final, but will not be used in scoring for the Hasler Trophy.
- e) Lightning and Mini K2 races will be included at the National Marathon Championships, but are not part of the Series.

52) QUALIFICATION

- a) To qualify paddlers must compete in a Pyranha Lightning K1 or, in specified races, in a Mini K2 (maximum length 5.6m, minimum width 50cm) or Rocket K4.

- b)** Those who compete in K1 races in other craft will not be eligible for points. Race organisers will need to show these as a separate 'Fun Race' if they wish to include these craft.
- c)** Paddlers with a marathon ranking of Division 8 or above shall not be eligible to compete in the Series.
- d)** Lightning races at the Hasler Final are open to all Lightning paddlers, whether their club has qualified or not.

53) COURSE

- a)** The course shall be 2-4 kilometres in length with no hazards.

54) CLASSES

- a)** There will be four classes in the Series: Boys under 10, Girls under 10, Boys under 12 and Girls under 12.
- b)** All ages as at January 1st preceding each race.
- c)** Teams must inform the Series Coordinator (Peter Jones) of the date of birth of each paddler.

55) POINTS

- a)** Points shall be awarded in each class at each event with 20 points for the winner, 19 points for second and so on, down to 1 point for each paddler who completes the course.
- b)** Points shall be awarded in each class at the Hasler Final event, with 40 points to the winner, 38 points for second and so on down to 2 points for each paddler who completes the course.
- c)** Points are awarded in crew boats on a per seat basis.
- d)** Points shall be awarded to all paddlers in the Series irrespective of whether the paddler is out of region.
- e)** At August 31st each paddler's two best scores from the season will be counted towards their team's total. This will be added to the points won in the Lightning and Mini K2 classes held at the Hasler Final.
- f)** The winner of the Geoff Sanders Memorial Trophy will be the team with the highest score as determined in e) above.

56) PRIZES

- a)** Race organisers are encouraged to award prizes for the first three places in each class when holding a race. Marathon Committee certificates are available from Regional Marathon Advisors to give to all entrants, to encourage participation.
- b)** The Marathon Racing Committee will provide medals for the first three places in each class at the Hasler Final event.

57) RESULTS

- a) Results of all races in the Series should be forwarded to Peter Jones, the Geoff Sanders Coordinator. Email: petercjones@blueyonder.co.uk.

58) SAFETY

- a) The wearing of life jackets or buoyancy aids is compulsory for all paddlers.
- b) The requirements of Rule 5 (see Marathon Rules) must be observed in all respects.
- c) Race organisers must conduct a specific risk assessment for Lightning and Mini K2 races and, taking into account their age and experience, provide adequate safety cover (e.g. rescue boats and signage) over the whole course where considered necessary.

59) PROMOTIONS

- a) The lightning programme aims to introduce young paddlers into marathon racing and it is important that they do not remain too long in the class. Paddlers in the under 12 age group will be monitored and, having scored more than 80 points in a season, be recommended by the coordinator to transfer to Division 9.
- b) As part of their long term development, before promotion paddlers are encouraged to compete in Division 9 without affecting their eligibility to race in the Series.

60) RACE LEVY / EVENT TICKET

- a) Lightning races are classed as Group C races: no race levy will be charged.
- b) Paddlers who are not BCU members or not members of a BCU affiliated club with a registered youth section shall be issued with an Event Ticket to provide insurance cover. The BCU has agreed not to make a charge for the Event Ticket for Lightning paddlers.
- c) To promote racing at this introductory level, the MRC recommends a standard entry fee of £2.50.

Canoe England

Saturday 24th April saw an irregular gathering of the various sections that make up the administration of Canoe England. It might be useful for some at least to deal with the history of how and why Canoe England exists when to all apparent purposes it is the British Canoe Union that is the sport governing body in this country. The BCU was formed in 1936 and is currently

recognized as the governing body of canoeing by the UK government and the sports international governing body, the International Canoe Federation. This brings the usual pleasure and pain situation. Funding is paramount if we are to succeed with a sport that has not yet been fully embraced by the media. With pressure from the UK and England funding bodies the BCU became federal organisation in 2003. Canoe England looks after English matters and the BCU Board has recently updated the arrangements. The first meeting took place on 24th April and was hosted by ITT Water and Waste, who are working with the BCU and have made a donation.

Stats show that overall paddling participation is up 1.5 to 2 million, including disability and female groups, however it was felt that these stats were light.

We were informed that there is a committee to deal with life after London (Olympic Games 2012) as it is believed that funding and present levels of support will not continue at the same level.

General discussion took place regarding frequency of meetings for the English Council with agreement that meetings should synchronize with timings of Board meetings and acceptance that the English Management Team would meet monthly.

The English Council elections should have taken place, but, the only way to put this politely is to say that due to a breakdown of communications, the majority of the assembled audience members felt that insufficient information had been given regarding the positions and the nominees.

It was agreed that David Gent and Alan Laws would take the roles of chairman and vice chairman in a temporary caretaker capacity, until (a.s.a.p.) later in the year, when there would be a more formally arranged election.

That's all for the moment, as ever contributions will be received with gratitude and surprise.

Alan and Christine Laws

Editors