

CANOEING MAGAZINE

CANOEING

N°46 SEPTEMBER 1981 FIFTY PENCE



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CANOEING MAGAZINE

CANOEING

INCORPORATING CANOEING IN BRITAIN AND CANOEING MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER — NUMBER 46

Editor: Mike Clark

Canoeing Magazine, Editorial and Advertising
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For over two years literally many hundreds of canoe enthusiasts, competitors, parents, friends, persons both from within the sport and from outside in Britain have been working towards one aim — the success of something called CANOE '81.

The concept was the staging of triple World Championships for canoeing; at Bala in North Wales the staging of World Championships in Wild Water Racing and the World Championships in Canoe Slalom; at Nottingham the staging of World Championships in Sprint Canoe Racing. Over the last three weeks of July 1981 Britain was to play host to the world of canoesport — the first country ever to hold World Championships in three disciplines of our sport in one year.

At Bala competitors from twenty-one nations were to compete, while at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, competitors from thirty-two nations were to compete — the largest ever World Championship in Sprint Canoe Racing.

In appreciation to all those persons involved in the staging of CANOE '81, all those persons behind the scenes, all who have put in work preparing the sites over the last two years, all those who contributed and built up an organisation capable of staging World Championships, all those who on the actual days worked to ensure the smooth running of the competitions and yet may not have ever seen a canoe or kayak actually on the water, to all those involved no matter how small their effort, I can do no better than quote from the words of Mike Haslam, Director of Canoe '81 — Nottingham:

'Much will have been said, written and recorded about Canoe '81 by the beginning of August 1981.

Many hopes and aspirations both on and off the water will have been fulfilled or found wanting by the time the last medal has been presented and the last spectator has gone home. All the effort and human energy put into the planning, financing and execution of Canoe '81 by the hundreds of people involved in its organisation, will be but a memory to be recalled. The real sacrifices that they have made for the sport of canoeing can only be fully appreciated by others within the family that has been created by the event.

It is with particular sincerity, therefore, that I wish to record publically in these few lines, my deepest thanks to all those 'hundreds' who have worked with dedication and enthusiasm during the past two years to make CANOE '81 a reality.'



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Notes & News

'Notes and News' for this issue are those that apply to the World Championships — notes, news and press releases that were published with the last few days of build up towards the Championships . . .

HONOUR FOR DIRECTOR

As canoeists prepared to compete for medals at Bala, one man was already assured of his medal.

He is Captain Stan Cooper, Director of Canoe '81 — Bala, who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List announced on 13th June.

The honour came out of the blue for Stan, who lives in Oswestry, Shropshire, but who is based at the West Midlands Army Headquarters, Shrewsbury.

'I was absolutely staggered to be honoured in this way,' said Stan. 'I had no idea and still cannot believe it. I would like to say though that this is not just a medal for me. It is a medal for everyone who belongs to the team which is helping to stage these Championships.'

Stan was more nervous of going to the Palace for his investiture than he was of organising the World Championships!

MEDALS GALORE

If the Great Britain slalom team needed a confidence booster before the World Championships they got just that in Merano, Italy. (13th/14th June)

Top canoeists from most of the nations that were expected to compete at Bala were in Merano for the last major international before the World Championships. And this was our record of success there:

Mens K1 — 1st Richard Fox: Womens K1 — 1st Liz Sharman, 2nd Jane Roderick: Mens C1 — 2nd Pete Keane, 3rd Bill Berrisford: Mens C2 — 3rd Young/Munro: Mens K1 Team — 1st Great Britain: Womens K1 Team — 2nd Great Britain: Mens C1 Team — 1st Great Britain.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

When the West Midlands Centre of Excellence was set up in 1977 few people could have imagined it would be such a success. But at the end of the World Championships you can be sure the Canoeing School will be counting its medals.

People who have been there this year are Richard Fox, Liz Sharman, Jane Roderick, and Bill Berrisford while Albert Kerr and Nicky Wain have also been training there.

BRITISH HOPES FOR MEDALS

British hopes of winning medals are high in both the slalom and wild water sections. The following are all expected to figure in the medal tables:

Slalom

Richard Fox of St Albans and Stafford and Stone canoe clubs who came third in the 1979 world championships in Canada at the age of 18 and with Albert Kerr and Alan Edge won the men's team event.

Liz Sharman of Bury St Edmunds Canoe Club. Silver medallist in Canada and second in Europe in 1980.

Martyn Hedges of Windsor and Bath University canoe clubs. European C1 champion in 1980, current British champion and perhaps the fastest ever C1 paddler.

Jock Young and Alistair Munro of Forth Kayak Club in Scotland. Bronze medallists in 1980. Britain's most successful C2 paddlers ever.

Wild Water

Bob Campbell. Won a silver medal in the 1979 world championships in Canada behind Jean-Pierre Burny, the legendary Belgian paddler.

David Taylor. Won the Men's K1 in the pre world championships at Bala last year.

Jeremy Hibble. Current British champion in Men's K1.

SITE FOR INTERNATIONALS

Tremendous work has been done on River Tryweryn site at Bala for the World Championships — and benefits will be reaped for many years to come.

The river banks have been landscaped to make it easier for spectators to walk and watch, while on the river bed itself rocks have been moved and water rechannelled to make it bigger. A major improvement has been to close one arch of the bridge and a steepening and narrowing of the channel drop at the end of the top slalom course.

The Sports Council has sunk £100,000 into the site (there's a nice pun there! maybe it should read 'has sunk £100,000 into the river . . .!'), and the Welsh Water Authority has carried out the work. The site will be used for future training and internationals.

Canoe '81 Director for Bala, Captain Stan Cooper said: *'It is now the best slalom site in Britain. It is the first real attempt at a purpose built site on this scale.'*

Judging platforms have been built, there is a concrete jetty at the start of the slalom course, a purpose built administration centre, and a special start and finish for the wild water course.

The Tryweryn is now primarily a site for internationals and money spent will establish Bala as one of the top centres for canoeing in the world.



The new slalom start platform at Bala

TIME COSTS MONEY

Sophisticated timing equipment is required to gain accurate results in the World Canoeing Championships, so only the best will do. And where better than to go for your timing equipment than the Olympic Games?

For the Moscow Olympics the athletes were timed by equipment provided by the Swiss firm of Heuer. This equipment has now been purchased at a cost of £26,000 for the Championships. It will, of course, be used for future internationals at Bala.

Now that the Bala site has been made a permanent one with numerous improvements plus the added bonus of the best timing equipment there is, Britain should be playing host to many canoeing internationals on the Tryweryn in the future.

Not so lucky was the new timing equipment that was to be installed for the World Championships at Holme Pierrepont. The suppliers, Logica, apparently ran into a number of difficulties involving both the supply of the hardware — a new Computer Timing System — and because they had considerably underestimated the complexity of the job.

At the end of May they advised the Sports Council that they could not give a guarantee to complete the project in time for the World Championships. Thus at a top level meeting involving representatives of Logica, the Sports Council, The National Water Sports Centre and Canoe '81, it was agreed that it would be far too dangerous to try and implement an untried system which at best could be ready only a few days before the Championships began.

Roger Gibbs from the National Water Sports Centre was able to make contact with Hird Smith who provided the new Timing System for the Wild Water and Slalom Championships, and it was agreed that Hird Smith would install a temporary system at Holme Pierrepont for the July regatta and the World Championships.

The Logica Computer Timing System is to be installed at Holme Pierrepont and will no doubt be completed towards the end of the year.

CROSSING DISCIPLINES

While Martyn Hedges crosses disciplines between slalom and wild water — a fairly natural crossing — two young ladies, one British, are crossing between rough water and flat water.

For the British Team, Anne Plant, a 25 year old teacher from Birmingham, will be competing in the Womens K1 of the Wild Water Racing Championships, then



Above: Elizabeth Blencowe of Australia
Below: Anne Plant and Martyn Hedges



dashing off to Holme Pierrepont at Nottingham where she will compete in the Sprint Racing Championships paddling number 4 in the Womens K4 event.

Another young women who will be just slightly busier than Anne is Elizabeth Blencowe from Australia. Elizabeth, a 20 year old student from Northcote, Victoria, competes the Women K1 in the Wild Water event, then goes on to compete the Womens K1 in the Slalom, again dashing off to join the Aussie sprint team at Holme Pierrepont where she will compete the Women K1 500m event and . . . stroke the Australian Womens K4 — some girls those Aussies . . .

DOUBLE FOR BUSHY

One canoeist is unaffected by the friendly rivalry between the slalom and wild water camps of British canoeism. He is Martyn Hedges who will be paddling in both the slalom and wild water racing events.

Martyn, who is a student at Bath University, is hot favourite for the C1 Slalom event after winning the Pre-Worlds on the Tryweryn last year and the three



Europa Cup events. Not content with this, Martyn will also be paddling C1 in the Wild Water Racing event in the first week of the Championships.

Martyn is on a sports scholarship at university where he is studying microbiology.

UP THE CREEK WITHOUT A PADDLE!

When the organisers of the World Canoeing Championships at Bala, North Wales, found they were short of transport to move equipment lent to them by the Army, Pickfords Removals rushed to the rescue!

The RAOC base at Hereford lent over £70,000 worth of equipment to Canoe '81, but the organisers were unable to collect everything. With only weeks to go before the start of the event, Pickfords heard about their plight and immediately offered to lend one of their large pantechinons.

Pickfords' Hereford branch manager, Mike Lawry said: 'We were only too happy to join forces with the Army, to ensure everything got there in time.'

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Notes & News

SEPTEMBER 1981

XII World Canoe and Kayak Wild Water Championships



BRITISH TEAM

Mens K1

Jeremy Hibble
David Taylor
Bob Campbell
Jerome Truran

Womens K1

Susan Hornby
Anne Plant
Fiona Mitchell
Amanda Mylett

Mens C1

Bob Evans
Martyn Hedges
Ian Freestone
Graham Goldsmith

Mens C2

Peter Goode/ David Williams
Colin Pannock/ Colin Woodgate
Dennis Cooper/ Simon Haydock
David Kay/ Ross Pearton

Mixed C2

Isobel Joce/ Tim Perry
Elizabeth Evans/ Harry Evans

PARTICIPATING NATIONS

Australia: Austria: Belgium: Federal Republic of Germany: Canada: Czechoslovakia: France:
Great Britain: Hong Kong: Netherlands: Ireland: Italy: Japan: Luxembourg: Norway: New
Zealand: Poland: Sweden: Switzerland: United States of America: Yugoslavia.

Thus it was that Britain applied to the International Canoe Federation to host triple World Championships through the summer of 1981 — World Championships in Wild Water Racing, World Championships in Canoe Slalom, and World Championships in Sprint Canoe Racing. Permission was granted and after all the frenzied work, the triple World Championships, under the designation Canoe '81, came to fruition with the opening of the World Championships in Wild Water Racing at Bala on the 15th July. But first what of Bala itself and background to the Championships . . .

Bala is a small market town to the north-east of Llyn Tegid or Bala Lake, and little more than a cluster of houses and shops straddling the A494 that runs between Ruthlin and Dolgellau. At times it seems that many of the local inhabitants resent having their town invaded by hundreds of canoeists, despite the obvious money that paddlers spend in and around the town. But with the World Championships, Bala is now an established Wild Water and Canoe Slalom site and will no doubt see very many more international competitions on the Tryweryn River.

The town's early history is somewhat obscure, but it is claimed that there was a settlement there in Roman times. From the small settlement by the lake, Bala grew into a town of religious and economic importance.

Due to the establishment of several religious academies within the town, Bala became known as the 'Athens of Wales'. It was at Bala that the Rev. Thomas Charles, famous as the founder of the British and Foreign Bible Society, translated into reality his great dream of providing the Scriptures to the people of the world in their own language.

The College which overlooks the town was established in 1937 by Dr. Lewis Edwards as an Academy for aspiring young ministers of religion. In 1963 it ceased to function, but later was given a new lease of life when it opened as a Welsh Presbyterian Youth Centre. Nearby stands Bodiwan, a private house, but once the College for young Welsh Congregationalists whose first principal, the Rev. Michael D. Jones, founded the Welsh Colony at Patagonia.

Many small industries thrived in Bala years ago, with perhaps the woollen industry the most important, and there is ample evidence that ancillary industries also thrived. Hand-knitted woollen stockings and gloves were taken to markets as far afield as Shrewsbury, and up to 200,000 pairs sold annually. With the advent of machinery, the effect was disastrous. The Tryweryn factory, famous for blankets and stockings, flourished until the early forties, when it ceased to produce and was subsequently demolished. That was also the fate of New Mill which had served the local farming community by producing flour from local grain.

Today, Bala is one of the most popular inland resorts in North Wales, and is, together with the surrounding district, meeting the increasing challenge of tourism with enthusiasm — despite the fact that not a single public house in Bala bothered to apply for a drinking licence extension during the whole period of the World Championships, — a period when there would be well over 2000 competitors and organisers in Bala, not to mention the expected 15,000 spectators over competition days. However, if the publicans were a little slow on the uptake,

other aspects of Welsh crafts and industry was well represented in the very wide range of Canoe '81 souvenir merchandise that was available — right from Welsh Pottery, Welsh Dolls, Welsh Slate, T-shirts and Posters, all carrying the Canoe '81 motif.

Over the past two years much work has been carried out on the Trywern River to make it suitable for the World Championships. And much work was needed, from the redesigning of the river involving the moving of rocks, closing one arch of the bridge of the top slalom site, the narrowing of parts of the river banks, the laying of gravel paths, the contouring of sections of the river banks, the building of judging platforms, the building of a proper start area, and the building of a purpose administration centre.

The river itself has been engineered to allow a powerful flow of water to be released when required, guaranteeing water of a high competitive standard. The work on the river bed and on the river banks combines to give one of the most beautiful settings for the World Wild Water and Canoe Slalom Championships. From three years ago when organisers on the Trywern were crying out for judges on competition weekends, when gates were strung from 'handy trees', when there seemed no earthly chance of our rough water people pulling together an organisation capable of running a top International, let alone a World Championship, the challenge was accepted, taken up and overcome to produce an efficient organisation and a World Championship venue technically equal to any in Europe — but regrettably no where near the ferocity or spectacle such as at Bourg St.Maurice. Bala was ready for the World Championships all that was needed now was some decent weather . . .

All the frenzied activity of preparing the site, the energy and enthusiasm was no less reflected in the preparation of the British Wild Water and Slalom Teams. Indeed from the coaches and paddlers, it seemed almost a forgone conclusion that our paddlers would gain medals — and not just bronze at that. After all our paddlers were on their home water, performing

before a home crowd, the Slalom Team had come back from Merano weighed down with medals, while our Wild Water paddlers had good results from Monschau and even better at the International Invitation event on the Trywern — where it really mattered — in May. Ah . . . but if only such confidence could be reflected in the results at the World Championships.

With all the speeches over, all the parading, the flags, the bands, the practise — it was 17th July and the Individual Events of the World Wild Water Championships.

The water pounded down the Trywern, advantage points crowded with spectators, the first paddlers in the Mens K1 were on their way. The total entry was 73 paddlers, a maximum of four paddlers per country, with a seeding or grouping system being used so that the fastest men — and thus the winners — would come from the fourteen who made up Group 3 (the grouping is calculated on results from the previous World Championships).

Hopes were high of medals for Britain here. All our paddlers were in Group 3. Shouts and cheers all the way down . . . shouts in Dutch, French, German and a dozen other languages . . . Jean Pierre Burny from Belgium raced down the course looking ever bit the World Champion. Then shouts from British supporters, David Taylor raced down through the wild water of the top slalom site, through the split time

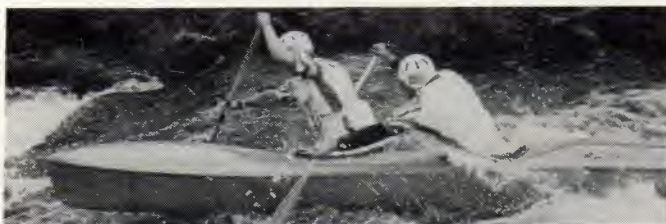
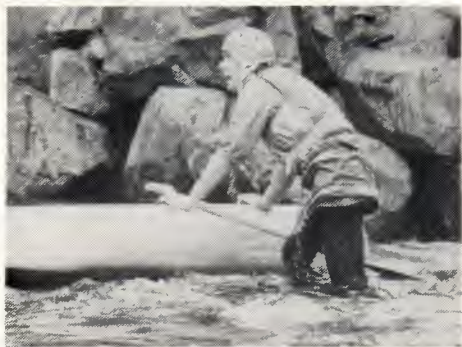
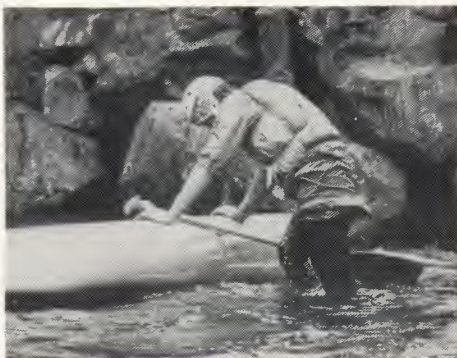
with 15 min 47.80 sec. the same as Jean Pierre . . . The time was bettered by Morin of France with 15 min 43.50 sec while Robert Campbell next down the course could only make 15 min 51.60 sec for the split and looked to be well out of the medals. Hollerieth from West Germany raced through with one tenth of a second better than Taylor, but still we had Hibble and Truran to come, and Taylor's time still looked good if he held the pace over the last part of the course. The Frenchman Benezit produced a fine 15 min 39.00sec at the split, only to be followed by Jeremy Hibble with a tremendous 15 min 32.00 sec — things certainly looked good for Britain. Bouffard for France followed with a very slow 16 min 03.00 sec and last man down the course Jerome Truran gained the split with 15 min 45.00 sec — another good time that should have put him well up if he continued the pace . . .

Over the finish, Jeremy Hibble had covered the 5½ mile course in his fastest time ever — 26 min 38.00 sec but this was nowhere near good enough to gain the gold, or even the bronze — fastest down the course was Claude Benezit of France with a superb 26 min 18.03 sec — somehow over the second part of the course Benezit had produced a fantastic 27 sec gain on Hibble — British paddlers were stunned. Marco Previde of Italy took the silver medal with 26 min 26.54 sec pulling up some 30 seconds on Hibble over the second part, while Bernard Morin again from France took the bronze medal in front of Jeremy with a finish time of 26 min 31.20 sec. Taylor was down to 9th place, Truran in 12th, followed by Campbell in 13th. Such a result was the last thing we had expected.

The Mens C2 event followed, and with the result a clear trend was set for the rest of the Wild Water Championships. The best British crew was that of Dennis Cooper/Simon Haydock coming from Group 1 to finish 7th overall with a time of

1. Gilles Zok of France, winner of the C1
2. The French K1 Team, gold medalists in front of Great Britain
3. American C1 paddler in the Team event
4. Canadian K1 team above the slalom chute
5. British C2 in trouble
6. British C2 in the Individual





Above: four photographs of Gay Goldsmith taking a capsize on the slalom chute
Left: American C2 crew

30 min 39.52 sec. But such a result, no matter how much an achievement for the crew or personal best, fades into insignificance when compared with the performance of the French crews.

Jean-Jacques Hayne/Daniel Jacquet, last off down the course produced a finish time of 29 min 21.33 sec, followed in 2nd place by Doux/Bunichon of France with 29 min 36.89 sec, and Bernard/Rigaut again from France in 3rd with 29 min 49.54 sec. How about that for grouping. Ah — what about the fourth French crew? Yes, that was a little off, right down in 5th place to be precise, just the Swiss crew of Wyss/Probst splitting the French. Just how do you credit such paddlers? Brilliant, superb, fantastic, incredible? Adjectives just don't seem enough . . .

The French featured again in the medals of the Mixed C2 event that followed, Germinal Peiro/Claudine Peiro taking the silver medal behind the American crew of Michael Hipsher/Elizabeth Johns. The American pair were way ahead, being over a minute clear. The bronze medal was taken by the West German pair of Eduard Berghausen/Petra Berghausen.

Without a break for lunch, the afternoons events continued with the Womens K1. Here surely the West German would break any run by the French — but it was not so . . . Dominique Gardette of France took the gold medal with a super 29 min 00.85 sec, just a few tenths of a second clear of Gisel Grothaus of West Germany with 29 min 00.93 sec. The split time here gives 18.06 to the French girl and 17.04 to the West German. The split time may well be incorrect — for it would mean that Dominique pulled up over a minute over the second half of the course. But whatever, she still produced the winning time! Karin Wahl from West Germany took the third place, but after a protest of miss-timing

was given a corrected time that put her way down in 12th position, the third place and bronze medal going to Anne Plant for Great Britain — we had gained our first Wild Water Medal of the Championships. Anne produced a very fine 29 min 38.73 sec, and was closely followed by Elizabeth Blencowe of Australia just another 12 seconds down. It is interesting to note that both these girls went on to compete the flat water World Championships at Holme Pierrepont.

For the Mens C1 we had no paddler in the fast Group 3, but Martyn Hedges was a good prospect and Robert Evans had gained a good result at Monschau. Along with Graham Goldsmith and Ian Freestone we had a very respectable team. Martyn managed to gain a time of 31 min 53.94 sec, nowhere near good enough to get in the medals at best an 8th place; Robert and Ian were way down 16th and 17th some three minutes down on the gold medal winner; while Graham made a terrible mistake at the chute at the end of the slalom course, capsized, and of all things failed to roll. Poor Graham's World Championship was over in the worst possible way. The gold medal went to Gilles Zok of France with a super 30 min 15.67 sec, team mate Luc Verger gained the silver with 30 min 37.98 sec, while John Butler of the United States gained third place and the bronze medal.

Thus the first day of the Championships closed. It had been a hard day for Britain to take — we expected so much — and ended with just one solitary bronze medal. The French were over the moon! From the fifteen medals that were won, France had taken nine; **4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze.**

WILD WATER TEAM EVENTS

Saturday 18th July — second day of the Wild Water World Championships and twelve more medals to be won or lost.

Competition started at 1300 hrs with 19

teams racing the Mens K1. First off were the Czechoslovakians setting a time of 16 min 35.70 sec at the split. Italy took off second and lowered the split 16 min 21.80 sec. Australia, Belgium and Austria followed, all making fine style, but outside the Italian time. The West German team of Hollerith/Pfeiffer/Graessl hammered down the course with a great 16 min 09.10 sec to the split, but the British team of Hibble/Taylor/Truran broke the 16 mins with 15 min 53.70 sec racing down the Tryweryn in great form and looked set for a medal. The following seven teams came nowhere near the British time — if . . . if . . . if the lads just held their pace down the course we could be out in front. Just the French and New Zealand teams to go . . . it had to be between Britain and France. The French came down through the slalom course looking like real champions, but the British had looked just as good. At the split it was the French out in front just a second clear of Britain, but as happened the previous day in the individual events the French paddlers were far and away very much faster over the second part of the course and it was no surprise to find they had taken the gold. The time was 26 min 39.45 sec, Britain took the silver with 26 min 57.27 sec, and the West Germans the bronze with 27 min 12.74 sec. The French had pulled up something near 17 seconds on the second (and shorter) part of the course.

Britain were first off in the Mens C2 Team event that followed, but made it no further than the VIP stand on the slalom course, one crew capsizing and failing to roll. The pair bailed out, the canoe bow shot up in the air almost like a Polaris leaving the water — a spectacular but sad finish to the British C2 Team run.

Having taken the first three places in the Individual C2 event on the first day, it was no surprise to find the French dominating the Team event. Their trio took the gold medal with a terrific 29 min 56.70 sec — no one else came any where near that! The West Germans took the silver medal, but over a minute down on time, with a fine effort by Switzerland to take the bronze medal. Of the nine teams entered only the British failed to finish.

The Womens K1 Team ran to form with the West Germans — Grothaus/Stupp/Wahl — taking the gold, followed by Switzerland and the United States. France took out the fourth place and ten British girls of Susan Hornby/Anne Plant/Fiona Mitchell gained the fifth place a minute and half down on the West Germans.

The last event of the day, the Mens C1 Team, produced yet another gold medal for France with Zok/Verger/Ponchon out in front, predictably dominating the event and almost a full minute clear of the United States. West Germany took the bronze and Great Britain slipped into fourth place.

The Wild Water World Championships were over . . . Britain had taken just two medals — a silver and a bronze. The events had almost totally been dominated by the superb French, and one cannot praise them enough. They had trained hard, trained for the event, and had shown that endurance and staying power — rather than short sprint — was behind their winning. Where there was a comparable time with another paddler or crew at the split, invariably the winning time had come from speed over the second part of the race. How this will effect our British Wild Water training and thinking remains to be seen.

WW MENS K1

1. Claude Benezit	FRA	26.18:03
2. Marco Previde	ITA	26.26:54
3. Bernard Morin	FRA	26.31:20
4. Jeremy Hibble	GBR	26.38:00
5. Konrad Hollereth	BRD	26.38:96
6. Christian Frossard	FRA	26.41:54
7. Jean Pierre Burny	BEL	26.45:38
8. Degenhard Pfeiffer	BRD	26.51:47
9. David Taylor	GBR	26.57:19
10. Christian Pfund	SUI	27.10:76
11. Urs Duc	SUI	27.12:43
12. Jerome Truran	GBR	27.13:58
13. Robert Campbell	GBR	27.24:00
14. Peter Genders	AUS	27.24:43
15. Dan Schnurrenberger	USA	27.30:01
16. Michael Grassl	BRD	27.30:08
17. Alain Bouffard	FRA	27.30:70
18. Robert Alexander	USA	27.31:15
19. Terry White	USA	27.31:29
20. Jörg Winfried	BRD	27.32:17

WW WOMENS K1

1. Dominique Gardet	FRA	28.58:82
2. Gisela Grothaus	BRD	29.00:87
3. Anne Plant	GBR	29.26:22
4. Elizabeth Blencowe	AUS	29.38:73
5. Dagmar Stupp	BRD	29.40:47
6. Sabine Weiss	SUI	29.43:95
7. Anne Joelle Philippart	BEL	29.46:48
8. Susan Hornby	GBR	29.49:61
9. Claire Costa	SUI	30.07:42
10. Carol Fisher	USA	30.12:97
11. Morna Fraser	CAN	30.19:46
12. Karin Wahl	BRD	30.22:83
13. Marie-Pierre Le Cann	FRA	30.25:63
14. Kathrin Weiss	SUI	30.26:89
15. Leslie Klein	USA	30.29:97
16. Elisabeth Jouve	FRA	30.34:06
17. Elke Schauff	BRD	30.41:12
18. Christiane Amiot	FRA	30.46:62
19. Cathy Hearn	USA	30.58:36
20. Marcela Kubricanova	TCH	31.26:20

WW MENS C1

1. Gilles Zok	FRA	30.15:67
2. Luc Verger	FRA	30.37:98
3. John Butler	USA	31.31:76
4. Reiner Pioch	BRD	31.35:38
5. René Paul	SUI	31.38:67
6. Chuck Lyda	USA	31.50:82
7. Jean-Luc Ponchon	FRA	31.50:82
8. Martyn Hedges	GBR	31.53:94
9. Carlo Perli	ITA	31.54:18
10. Willi Fiedler	BRD	32.04:11
11. Rudolf Forrai	TCH	32.25:23
12. Oldrich Blazicek	TCH	32.30:68
13. James Underwood	USA	32.43:75
14. Joël Gazeau	FRA	32.51:18
15. Glen Gaynor	AUS	33.06:94
16. Robert Evans	GBR	33.07:59
17. Iain Freestone	GBR	33.13:61
18. Borut Cesek	YUG	33.24:44
19. John Evans	USA	33.36:22
20. Klaus Ernst	BRD	33.40:38

WW MENS C2

1. Jean-Jacques Hayne/ Daniel Jacquet	FRA	29.21:33
2. Michel Doux/ Patrick Bunichon	FRA	29.36:89
3. Gilles Bernard/ Jean-Luc Rigaut	FRA	29.49:54
4. Roland Wyss/ Peter Probst	SUI	30.05:48
5. Jean-Claude Delage/ Francois Picard	FRA	30.34:13
6. Jiri Benhak/ Ladislav Benhak	TCH	30.34:38
7. Dennis Cooper/ Simon Haydock	GBR	30.39:52
8. Reinhold Runo/ Josef Schumacher	BRD	30.51:93
9. Hans Proquitte/ Peter Gonschior	BRD	30.51:93
10. Reto Schlappi/ Martin Von Buren	SUI	30.52:56
11. Andreas Berngruber/ Andreas Bansleben	BRD	30.53:03
12. Peter Goode/ David Williams	GBR	30.53:28

13. Andy Bridge/ Howard Foer	USA	31.13:01
14. Colin Tannock/ Colin Woodgate	GBR	31.16:58
15. Marek Manslanka/ Ryszard Seruga	POL	31.16:61
16. Walter Weger/ Georg Hager	ITA	31.28:19
17. Zbigniew/ Jacek Kasprzycki	POL	31.31:82
18. Robert Crick/ Ken Butler	AUS	31.35:48
19. Anton Zimmerman/ Fürst Peter	SUI	31.40:10
20. Wojciech Kudlik/ Jerzy Jez	POL	31.40:55

WW MIXED C2

1. Michael Hipsher/ Elizabeth Johns	USA	31.01:88
2. Germinal Peiro/ Claudine Peiro	FRA	32.16:40
3. Petra Berghausen/ Eduard Berghausen	BRD	32.54:79
4. Rodney Jenden/ Claude Jenden	LUX	32.57:71
5. Eva Stupp/ Wolfgang Schumacher	BRD	33.24:67
6. Ruth Domgörgen/ Ralf Rendschmidt	BRD	33.38:26
7. Francoise Nicod/ Martial Chabbey	SUI	33.40:64
8. Gerda Aumayr/ Franz Baier	AUT	33.48:54
9. Timothy Perry/ Isobel Joce	GBR	34.30:90
10. Harry Evans/ Elizabeth Evans	GBR	35.23:51

WW MENS K1 Team

1. Claude Benezit/ Bernard Morin/ Christian Frossard	FRA	26.39:45
2. Jeremy Hibble/ David Taylor/ Jerome Truran	GBR	26.57:27
3. Konrad Hollereth/ Degenhard Pfeiffer/ Michael Graessl	BRD	27.12:74
4. Terry White/ Dan Schnurrenberger/ Bob Alexander	USA	27.36:75
5. Marco Previde/ Hansjorg Mayr/ Anton Plaikner	ITA	27.47:69
6. Jiri Mechura/ Jiri Kostal/ Jaroslav Horyna	TCH	27.58:07
7. Urs Duc/ Martin Barlocher/ Christian Pfund	SUI	28.20:76
8. Jean-Pierre Burny/ Marc Dervaux/ Patrick Hanssens	BEL	28.36:75
9. Miran Skok/ Zlatko Oblakar/ Zdravko Tumara	YUG	28.44:62
10. Don Irvine/ Robin Lang/ Jeff McColl	CAN	28.45:75
11. Ian Gardiner/ Peter Genders/ Tim Doyle	AUS	28.57:28
12. Chris Wallace/ Roy McCormick/ Peter Sutcliffe	NZL	29.28:81
13. Stefan Krammer/ Rudolf Waldmann	AUT	31.15:56
14. Carry Graus/ Martin Peters/ Kornelis Brouwer	HOL	33.02:80
15. Akinori Fujihara/ Tomokazu Oshima/ Ysunehiko Kimura	JAP	34.58:96

WW WOMENS K1 Team

1. Gisela Grothus/ Dagmar Stupp/ Karin Wahl	BRD	29.54:65
2. Sabine Weiss/ Claire Costa/ Kathrin Weiss	SUI	30.29:85

3. Carol Fisher/ Leslie Klein/ Cathy Hearn	USA	30.49:69
4. Dominique Gardette/ Marie-Pierre Le Cann/ Elizabeth Jouve	FRA	30.56:04
5. Susan Hornby/ Anne Plant/ Fiona Mitchell	GBR	31.17:49
6. Anne Jolle Philippart/ Monique De Prins/ Rosine Roland	BEL	31.34:58
7. Marcela Kubricanova/ Drahomira Pilnackova/ Marcela Kostalova	TCH	33.10:50
8. Morna Fraser/ Janice Henderson/ Kathy Allin	CAN	33.39:87

WW MENS C1 Team

1. Gilles Zok/ Luc Verger/ Jean-Luc Ponchon	FRA	31.12:58
2. Chuck Lyda/ Jim Underwood/ John Butler	USA	32.12:07
3. Rainer Pioch/ Willi Fiedler/ Klaus Ernst	BRD	32.54:32
4. Martyn Hedges/ Robert Evans/ Iain Freestone	GBR	33.07:96
5. Srecko Masle/ Borut Cesek/ Andrej Jelenc	YUG	34.09:70
6. Oldrich Blazicek/ Rudolf Forrai/ Ladislav Benhak	TCH	34.25:10
7. Daniel Balthazar/ James McColl/ Don Cohen	CAN	36.26:22

WW MENS C2 Team

1. Jean-Jacques Hayne/ Daniel Jacquet/ Michel Doux/ Patrick Bunichon/ Gilles Bernard/ Jean-Luc Rigaut	FRA	29.56:70
2. Reinhold Runo/ Sepp Schumacher/ Hans Proquitte/ Peter Gonschior/ Andreas Berngruber/ Andreas Bansleben	BRD	31.12:15
3. Roland Wyss/ Peter Probst/ Reto Schlappi/ Martin von Buren/ Anton Zimmermann/ Peter Furst	SUI	31.32:21
4. Andy Bridge/ Howard Foer/ David Jones/ Thomas Popp/ Mike Hipsher/ Elizabeth Johns	USA	31.52:02
5. Wojciech Kudlik/ Jerzy Jez/ Marek Maslanka/ Ryszard Seruga/ Zbignien Czaja/ Jacek Kasprzycki	POL	31.58:38
6. Helmer Steindl/ Heimr Mullneritsch/ Manfred Petz/ Hermann Pech/ Gerda Aumayr/ Franz Baier	AUT	33.44:33
7. Bruce Lord/ Steve Withers/ Dale O'Brian/ Darryl O'Brian/ Bret Finlay/ Warren Finlay	CAN	33.51:52
8. Eivind Scharffenberg/ Sverre Gulbrandsen/ Lars Fossum/ Terje Dahl/ Tom Just Johansen/ Steinar Kravik	NOR	36.07:17
British Team — Capsized		

XVII World Canoe and Kayak Slalom Championships



BRITISH TEAM

Mens K1

Richard Fox
Albert Kerr
Jim Dolan
Nicholas Wain

Womens K1

Liz Sharman
Jane Roderick
Susan Garriock
Sue Small

Mens C1

Martyn Hedges
Peter Keane
Jeremy Taylor
Bill Berrisford

Mens C2

Robert Joice Robert Owen
John Young Alistair Munro
Eric Jamieson Robin Williams
Andrew Smith Michael Smith

PARTICIPATING NATIONS

Australia: Austria: Belgium: Federal Republic of Germany: Canada: Czechoslovakia: France: Great Britain: Hong Kong: Netherlands: Ireland: Italy: Japan: Luxembourg: Norway: New Zealand: Poland: Sweden: Switzerland: United States of America: Yugoslavia.

With the close of the Wild Water Championships, there was three days of slalom practice before the actual competition started on 22nd July. Time to return home for a few days to dry out — but Wednesday 22nd July saw me once again in Bala in time for the first runs of the mens K1 Slalom.

Much work has been done on the Tryweryn over the last two years, and the major part of it has been concentrated on the World Championship Slalom Course, the upper site on the river. The river has been narrowed in places, rocks have been moved, part of the bed blocked off. The results was an interesting and technical course of thirty gates over 800-metres. Much of the river bank has been cleared and contoured to give spectators adequate viewing and access, concrete judging platforms have been built (and with a view to the typical Welsh weather, proper judging huts have been built), and two temporary bridges had been constructed — one with access to the VIP and restricted area half way down the course, the other crossing the river below the slalom course finish giving access to the trade exhibition areas. An excellent launch site and start area has also been constructed. The whole course now is technically as good as any in Europe.

Once again British paddlers began the slalom with great expectations of medals, but after the shocks of the Wild Water the week before, there maybe was a little reservation this time! But expectation or not, on form our slalom paddlers compare with the very best and it was right to expect good results from the coming competitions.

With competition restricted to just 800-metres of the Tryweryn and not the whole river as for the Wild Water Events, the banks were crowded with spectators — at times one had to fight for a place to photograph or stick to the VIP side of the course. Once again the paddlers and crews were seeded into groups — thus the majority of winners should come from the group 3 or latter end of group 2. 0900 hrs on the Wednesday morning and the first of the Mens K1 was off down the course. British supporters held their breath — our paddlers just had to make it good this time . . .

For Britain we had a superb team — Albert Kerr, Richard Fox, Jim Dolan, and Nicky Wain. Richard Fox had just come back from Merano with a gold medal, and the lads were right on form. Alas, at the close of the first runs it seemed that medals even in the slalom were to elude us. Fox had made the fastest time down the course, but had picked up 60 penalties and was nowhere near the front. Our best placing was Albert Kerr who dropped into the 8th slot with Nicky Wain right behind him. Neither Fox or Dolan featured in the first ten.

After the first run of the Mens K1 the lead was held with a brilliant clear run by Lubos Hilgert of Czechoslovakia and a time of 214.35 — Fox had managed 211.58, but with penalties a total of 271.58! Hilgert had come through from the first group, while Bernard Renault (from France — where else!) came from group 2 to take 2nd place, and again with a clear run and time of 220.61. Peter Micheler from West Germany gained 3rd with 222.52 including a 5 penalty . . . Hell — our paddlers sure had to pull their fingers out on the second run during the afternoon if we were to retain any vestige of pride and respectability — and pull their fingers out they did!!

Hilgert of Czechoslovakia, off number 37 in group 1 produced a super second run, faster than the first but was unfortunate to pick up a single 5-penalty to total 214.35. He had made two very fast and consistent runs over the course and certainly deserved to be in the medals — indeed up to this point he had made two winning runs on the course! Dolan was off number 51 and, although improving his first run total to 224.62, it would only be good enough to gain him 10th place overall. Richard Fox was off number 68 in group 3 — this had to be his best effort ever — Amid British cheers that grew as he raced down the course, Fox was out on the water giving a display of perfection . . . gate after gate was clear, the seconds ticking by . . . Fox looked every bit the champion. Over the finish — a clear run and a time of 211.94! Hilgert was pushed into second and a new name went to the top of the leader-board — Richard Fox, Great Britain. Now came the waiting. There were still eleven paddlers to go — could his time be beaten?

The Frenchman — Jean Yves Prigent — followed Fox down the course and had a good go making a clear run of 219.58. Jurg Gotz of Switzerland produced another clear run and a time of 222.61 but picked up a 10 down the course — now only Sattler, an ex-World Champion stood in the way of a British medal. He was fast, but not fast enough, and way off form picking up over 50 penalties on both runs. Last man to go was Albert Kerr of Britain — could he come anywhere near Fox. His time was slower than his first — but it did not matter, Fox was there with a gold medal for Britain. For once the British fans had something to cheer about . . .

Hilgert for Czechoslovakia held on to second place and the silver medal, with Prigent for France taking the bronze. In other positions, Shane Kelly for Ireland came through on his second run to take 7th place, just in front of Nicky Wain of Great Britain.

With raised spirits in the British camp we moved on to the Mens C2. From the morning run the leaders had been the French crew of Calori/Calori, while holding second place was the British pair of Jock Young/Alistair Munro. Alas the pairs second run was no improvement on the first and they were soon pushed off the leader-board.

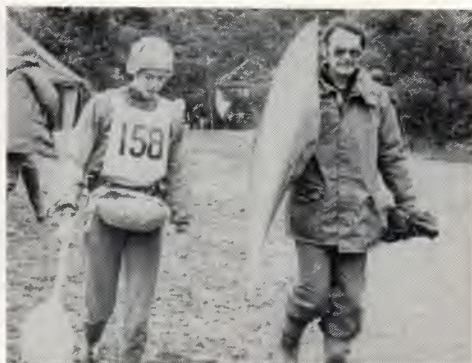
In Canadians, both double and single, the Americans have shown themselves to be the strongest nation, yet after the first run of the C2 their best placing was 5th — this was soon put to right! The last crew in group 2, Stephen Garvis/Michael Garvis, tenth after the first run, produced a fine 254.23 on their second and with penalties jumped into first place with a total 264.23. Earlier, Paul Grabow/Jefry Huey of the USA had produced a 272.78 total to go second on the leader-board, but Dieter Welsink/Peter Czupryna of West Germany, second to last off in the event, split the American crews at the finish. First fun leaders and last off in the class, failed to improve on time over the second run, and along with 70 odd penalties had to be content with 4th place. The British pair of Young/Munro finished in a good 6th place. In a class of over 30 boats there was not a single clear run, and most crews found the lower chute very difficult — causing many rolls and some four capsizes and bail outs.

Thus the first day of the World Slalom closed, and for Britain there was a Gold Medal to celebrate in the bars of Bala that evening.



C2 from the Individual and Team events on the slalom course and the lower chute





Far left: A very happy Ulrike Deppe, gold medalist in the Womens Slalom K1
Left: A thoughtful Liz Sharman
Below: American Mixed C2 pair



Thursday was for the Women's K1, the Mens C1 and the Mixed C2. Our hopes for medals lay with Liz Sharman in the Womens K1, she being a silver medalist in Canada and second in Europe during 1980, and in Martyn Hedges in the Mens C1, Martyn being the European Champion in 1980. Both had come back from the Merano International with 1st place wins. (Sharman in the Individual, Hedges in the Team). Alas medals were to delude us this day.

At the end of the first run of the Womens K1, Ulrike Deppe of West Germany was out in front, well clear of the field and with her team mate Susanne Erbers holding the second place. Jane Roderick for Britain held the 4th place behind the Swiss girl with Liz Sharman down in 6th. Cathy Hearn of the United States, gold medalist at Jonquiere was way down the field having picked up over a 100 penalty points.

With the second runs, Ulrike went on to confirm her supremacy in the Womens Class and clipping 10 points from her first run to produce a best 257.69. Cathy Hearn managed to get her act together and pulled herself from nowhere and into the silver medal. Her time was just a few fractions slower than Ulrike's first run and with only a single 5 penalty, the American girl made a best total of 262.79. The French girl Jocelyne Roupioz again pulled herself from the lower ranks and into the medal winning class. Both Jane Roderick and Liz Sharman improved their first runs, but their form was just not good enough and had to be content with 10th and 15th place respectively. Our girls should certainly have done better than this. For Ulrike Deppe it was tears at a gold medal win — a medal she has long deserved. Later I reminded her that my photo file carries many pictures of a very young girl competing at a number of

Monschau slaloms over the years — she came back immediately, 'Yes, and now I think you have many pictures of her "Grandmother" . . . Some Grandmother.

If the womens class was dominated by one paddler, then the Mens C1 was dominated by paddlers from one country — America. After the first run it was of little surprise to find Jon Lugbill leading our countryman and World Champion David Hearn, while Lugbill's brother Ron and Kent Ford took 4th and 6th places — all four Americans in the first six — but for Britain there was some elation for splitting the Americans was Martyn Hedges and Peter Keane in 3rd and 5th places. The first four paddlers had all made clear runs and the competition was tight.

First off on the second run of this tight group was Peter Keane. With 248.57 and a 10 penalty on his first run, Peter was out to improve time and run clear — regrettably he did neither. Kent Ford for the USA improved his time by a few seconds, but this was not sufficient to improve his 6th overall position. Martyn Hedges next down the course, faced a hard choice . . . just how fast could he go and still ensure a clear run — anything other than a clear would not produce a medal. He made the clear run okay, but his time was almost 10-sec slower than the first run and the Frenchman had pushed him in to 4th place overall . . . out of the medals.

With three Americans only split by two West Germans in the last five of the Class, the West Germans already way out of the running, the US was already assured of medals and it was only a matter of which one was going to take the gold . . . Ron Lugbill slightly improved his time to 243.25 but a 5 penalty cost him the bronze medal and pushed down into 5th place. David Hearn improved his time also and again

picked up a 5 penalty — that cost him the gold but was good enough to gain the silver. Jon Lugbill, last off down the course, improved his time and made it clear to take the gold medal . . . Surely with three superb paddlers like the Lugbills and Hearn there would be no competition in the C1 Team of the following day! Their skill and watermanship was sheer poetry.

The Mixed C2 event pulled a modest entry — three crews from the USA, one from France, one from Switzerland, and one from Norway. The USA took all three medals and after the first run it seemed that only the Americans would feature in the event, all the three other crews having capsized and bailed out . . . However, the crews from Switzerland, France and Norway all produced second run results.

Thus we come to the last day of the Championships. Four Team Events and twelve medals to be won. In the Mens K1 Team our paddlers were defending World Champions (Fox/Kerr/Edge the team in Jonquiere — Edge replaced now with Wain), while our girls not having shown form in the Individual Class were certainly capable of taking a medal in the Team Event.

The British Team was drawn 14th off the start, but from the moment they were on the water the confidence and style showed them to be real World Champions. The crescendo of cheers followed them down the course and peaked with each clear gate. Our boys were World Champions and out to retain that title . . . 20 penalties, a time of 244.23 . . . it was good enough to put them at the top of the leader-board! But the danger was Switzerland, this trio had just as much style and skill and there was certainly no let up or relaxing down the second run. Britain first, Switzerland second, the Italians third but not really in a

striking position (if one can say such a thing at a World Championship), France fourth — this was the position from the first run.

For Britain the second run drew even more cheers — our teams style and grace was second to none . . . this was what the fans wanted and this is what they got. The trio of Fox, Kerr and Wain were just fantastic, there was little doubt they were winners. 15 penalties only, the time improved to 231.55 — it was a winning run, even though the Swiss improved just as much — France pulled up to take the third place.

The spectacular Mens C2 Teams were off next and here the Poles showed some class with a very clear win after the first run. Their crews had only picked up 25 penalties and with not the fastest of times by any means, they were some 70 points ahead! The team from Czechoslovakia was in 2nd with the West Germans taking 3rd.

For Britain the trio was Jock Young/-Alistair Munro, Robert Joce/Robert Owen, and Eric Jamieson/Robin Williams. From the eight teams competing, our lads were placed 4th after the first run and second to last to go in the class. With the second runs the Polish trio improved their time, but picked up some 80 penalties, but their first total was still good enough to hold them in first place — suddenly — Great Britain FIRST! — Pardon? Great Britain FIRST! Sure enough, over the tannoy, young Witter was confirming that our British Team had come through to take the gold medal — a great time of 303.17 and 35 penalties. Certainly 'gold fever' was catching on among the British paddlers.

The first run of the Womens K1 Team put the USA girls way out in front and it looked as if they would retain the World Championship they took at Jonquiere. France was 2nd and our British girls were in 3rd place. Way down in 5th place was Deppe/Erbers/Kollmann of West Germany and this trio changed their 80 penalties of the first run to just 20 for the second and turned in the fastest time of all the crews with 283.10 — a best run total of 303.10 that gained them the gold medal — for Ulrike it was tears all over again! But for Britain it was cheers — our girls came through to take the silver medal — two golds and a silver for the last day of the Championships — these were the results we looked for. Now if only our C1 team could gain through also . . .

The C1 Team just goes to the Americans — there were no other teams in the event. Maybe this is a little unfair to the fine performance put in by the French who capsized on the first run and then pulled through to take the silver medal behind the Americans, and even to our British Team who looked good on the water, but only good enough to take 4th place behind the West Germans — No — there was only one TEAM — Jon Lugbill/David Hearn/Ron Lugbill . . . hell, you're truly magnificent! A clear run on the first, a time of 260.12 a mere 5 penalties on the second and a time of 246.02 . . . take your pick, either was a gold medal run! There are few words that can describe what these guys looked like on the water — they were brilliant and looked World Champions from the first paddle stroke to the last. Cheers resounded down the course as they paddled through — cheers not just from the American supporters, but I am sure from the whole crowd who were given a display of skill and sheer top class watermanship that will certainly not be seen again in Britain until that trio returns . . .



Thus ended the Slalom World Championships . . . it was time to pack up and move on to Nottingham and Holme Pierrepont for the Sprint Canoe Racing World Championships.

But what of other aspects of the Championships at Bala? The Trade Exhibition for example. Well it was there — but the expected crowds were not. The weather — as usual at Bala — was miserable, almost a total disaster. It just rained and rained, and this was supposed to be summer . . . it was mud everywhere and most cars had to be towed out with a tractor at the close of the Championships. But that's how it goes — some you win, some you lose . . . we just seem to lose more than we win at Bala.

Aside from the canoeing, there was some excellent boardsailing evenings on Lake Bala led by Alan Jones of Whitewater Sports, Dave Patrick of P & H Fibreglass Products, Andrew Ainsworth of Shepperton Design Studios, and Chris Lovelock of Krakatoa Mouldings . . .

Top: All smiles from the West German Womens K1 Team after a gold medal win. Above: and below: The British Womens K1 Team — silver medal winners





Gold medalists for Great Britain — our super Mens K1 Slalom Team.
 Top Photos — worry and thoughts after the first run. Below — all smiles at a first place win

SLALOM Mens K1

1. Richard Fox	GBR	211.94
2. Lubos Hilgart	TCH	214.35
3. Jean Yves	FRA	219.58
4. Bernard Renault	FRA	220.61
5. Peter Micheler	BRD	222.34
6. Jurg Gotz	SUI	222.61
7. Shane Kelly	IRL	222.70
8. Nicholas Wain	GBR	223.94
9. Wolfgang Kremslehner	AUT	224.59
10. James Dolan	GBR	224.62
11. Miroslav Simek	TCH	226.29
12. Ivan Cibak	TCH	226.75
13. Dan Isbister	USA	226.79
14. Albert Kerr	GBR	226.80
15. Anton Prijon	BRD	227.80
16. Milo Duffek	SUI	228.28
17. Lars Bundesmann	BRD	228.90
18. Henryk Popiela	POL	228.93
19. Urs Steimann	SUI	230.84
20. Andy Wolffhardt	AUT	230.97

SLALOM Womens K1

1. Ulrike Deppe	BRD	257.69
2. Cathy Hearn	USA	262.79
3. Jocelyne Roupioz	FRA	270.10
4. Yuri Kusada	USA	274.47
5. Marcela Kostalova	TCH	274.73
6. Marcela Kubricanova	TCH	277.44
7. Zdena Grossmannova	TCH	280.19
8. Susanne Erbers	BRD	285.30
9. Gabriele Kollman	BRD	288.67
10. Jane Roderick	GBR	289.85
11. Sabine Weiss	SUI	292.33
12. Claudia Kerckhoff	CAN	311.07
13. Renate Weilguny	AUT	314.20
14. Eileen Murphy	IRL	317.13
15. Elizabeth Sharman	GBR	318.05
16. Linda Harison	USA	320.36
17. Susan Small	GBR	327.03
18. Susan Norman	USA	330.31
19. Sylvie Arnaud	FRA	331.35
20. Beatrix Wolffhardt	AUT	332.00

SLALOM MENS C1

1. Jon Lugbill	USA	234.58
2. David Hearn	USA	234.92
3. Jean Sennelier	FRA	246.27
4. Martyn Hedges	GBR	247.39
5. Ron Lugbill	USA	248.25
6. Kent Ford	USA	252.23
7. Peter Heane	GBR	258.57
8. Milan Gaba	TCH	262.79
9. Gerald Moos	BRD	269.75
10. Herve Madore	FRA	273.24
11. Fred Zimmermann	BRD	275.10
12. Edward Florian	POL	275.10
13. Piotr Sarata	POL	279.08
14. Jean Salame	FRA	279.12
15. Juraj Ontko	TCH	283.90
16. Jorgen Schnitzerling	BRD	283.96
17. Joze Vidmar	YUG	284.95
18. Dietmar Moos	BRD	287.39
19. Srecko Masle	YUG	287.84
20. Bill Berrisford	GBR	292.95

SLALOM MENS C2

1. Stephen Garvin/ Michael Garvis	USA	264.23
2. Dieter Welsink/ Peter Czupryna	BRD	271.68
3. Paul Grabow/ Jeffry Huey	USA	272.78
4. Jacques Calori/ Pierre Calori	FRA	277.36
5. Christoph Studer/ Ernst Rudin	SUI	277.51
6. Jock Young/ Alistair Munro	GBR	281.25
7. Wojciech Kudlik/ Jerzy Jez	POL	282.02
8. Bernd Gerharz/ Thomas Klein- Impelmann	BRD	284.04
9. Jiri Benhak/ Ladislav Benhak	TCH	284.26
10. Dusan Zatko/ Ludovit Tkac	TCH	288.28
11. Carl Gutschick/ Paul Flack	USA	292.14
12. Robert Joce/ Robert Owen	GBR	292.47

13. Stephan Koppers/ Jurgen Lohrwald	BRD	294.22
14. John Felton/ John Christensen	AUS	294.39
15. Zbigniew Czaja/ Jacek Kasprzycki	POL	295.44
16. Marek Maslanka/ Ryszard Seruga	POL	296.25
17. Gary Nelson/ Kevin Songberg	AUS	297.21
18. Eric Jamieson/ Robin Williams	GBR	297.64
19. George Strickland/ Richard Hill	USA	299.08
20. Frantisek Silhavecky/ Vrantisek Vavrik	TCH	301.82

SLALOM MIXED C2

1. Elizabeth Hayman/ Fritz Haller	USA	355.12
2. Barbara McKee/ John Sweet	USA	442.58
3. Karen Marte/ Brett Sorensen	USA	464.39
4. F. Nicod/ M. Chabbe	SUI	697.96
5. Claudine Piero/ Germinal Piero	FRA	701.85
6. Barbro Hillestad/ Egil Knutsen	NOR	781.63

SLALOM MENS K1 Team

1. Richard Fox/ Albert Kerr/ Nicholas Wain	GBR	246.55
2. Jurg Gotz/ Urs Steyemann/ Milo Duffek	SUI	251.58
3. Jean-Yves Prigent/ Thierry Junquet/ Bernard Renault	FRA	252.37
4. Lubos Hilgart/ Miroslav Simek/ Ivan Cibak	TCH	255.46
5. Dario Ferrazzi/ Urbano Ferrazzi/ Alfred Platzer	ITA	285.47
6. Eduard Wolffhardt/ Andy Wolffhardt/ Wolfgang Kremslehner	AUT	316.55
7. Silvan Poberraj/ Peter Kauzer/ Janez Skok	YUG	345.98
8. Chris McCormick/ Dan Isbister/ Hank Thorburn	USA	346.88
9. Shane Kelly/ Paul Moroney/ Eunan Malone	IRL	255.72
10. Theo Van Brusselen/ Guy Dessers/ Wilfried Machiel	BEL	361.57
11. Dieter Poenn/ Stan Woods/ Gary Barton	CAN	369.31
12. Peter Micheler/ Anton Prijon/ Lars Bundesmann	BRD	371.99
13. Nicholas Kerkham/ Gregory Bell/ Eric Horwood	NZL	375.04
14. Henryk Popiela/ Kazimierz Gawliowski/ Krzysztof Pochwala	POL	377.08
15. Lennart Owen/ Sixten Bjorklund/ Goran Hedstrom	SWE	399.58
16. Robert Delderfield/ Paul Foye/ Peter Strazdins	AUS	405.12
17. Jose Juan Olazabal/ Juan Ramon Urtizberea/ Pedro Miguel Galindo	ESP	407.26
18. Nilo Peters/ Romain Staar/ Ermy Klares	LUX	508.36
19. Cornelis Brouwer/ Michel Geenen/ Guido Crevecoeur	HOL	579.19
20. Roar Laugerud/ Jan Fasting/ Andre Pedersen	NOR	651.75

SLALOM WOMENS K1 Team

1. Ulrike Deppe/ Susanne Erbers/ Gabrielle Killmann	BRD	303.10
2. Elizabeth Sharman/ Jane Roderick/ Susan Small	GBR	326.80
3. Linda Harrison/ Cathy Hearn/ Yuri Kasuda	USA	333.69
4. Jocelyne Roupioz/ Myriam Jerusalem/ Sylvie Arnaud	FRA	356.36
5. Zdena Grossmannova/ Marcela Kubricanova/ Marcela Kostalova	TCH	439.14
6. Renata Weilguny/ Beatrix Wolffhardt/ Romana Zwillink	AUT	519.99
7. Sabine Weiss/ Alena Krejza/ Bernadette Donni	SUI	591.12

SLALOM MENS C1 Team

1. Jon Lugbill/ David Hearn/ Ron Lugbill	USA	251.02
2. Herve Madore/ Jean Sennelier/ Jean Salame	FRA	292.69
3. Gerald Moos/ Freddie Zimmermann/ Jurgen Schnitzerling	BRD	333.38
4. Martyn Hedges/ Peter Keane/ Bill Berrisford	GBR	354.10
5. Juraj Ontko/ Milan Gaba/ Karel Toupalik	TCH	378.29
6. Srecko Masle/ Joze Vidmar/ Faruk Radoncic	YUG	433.72
7. Alain Meister/ Pierre Dubath/ Peter Fahrni	SUI	650.86

SLALOM MENS C2 Team

1. Jock Young/ Alistair Munro Robert Joce/ Robert Owen Eric Jamieson/ Robin Williams	GBR	338.17
2. Wojciech Kudlik/ Jerzy Jez Marek Maslanka/ Ryszard Seruga Zbigniew Czaja/ Jacek Kasprzycki	POL	356.30
3. Carl Gutschick/ Paul Flack Jeff Huey/ Paul Grabow Mike Garvis/ Steve Garvis	USA	395.14
4. Jacques Calori/ Pierre Calori Richard Hernanz/ Mare Labedens Robert Platt/ Christophe Pregent	FRA	415.95
5. Dieter Welsink/ Peter Czupryna Bernd Gerharz/ Thomas Klein- Impelmann Peter Heierhoff/ Achin Moller	BRD	426.92
6. Dusan Zatko/ Ludovit Tkac Jiri Benhak/ Ladislav Benhak Frantisek Silhavecky/ Frantisek Vavrik	TCH	428.85
7. Rod Kirkham/ Mark Heard Bruce Lord/ Steve Withers Dale O'Brien/ Darryl O'Brien	CAN	800.69

XVI World Canoe and Kayak Racing Championships



BRITISH TEAM

Mens K1 1000m

Kevin Smith

Mens K1 500m

Andrew Sherriff

Mens K2 1000m

Chris Ballard/Neil Robson

Mens K2 500m

Grayson Bourne/Jeremy West

Mens K4 1000m

Alan Williams/Andrew Sherriff/

Chris Canham/Stephen Brown

Mens K4 500m

Grayson Bourne/Jeremy West/

Womens K2 500m

Lucy Perrett/Frances Wetherall

Womens K4 500m

Lucy Perrett/Frances Wetherall/

Gaye Clough/Anne Plant

Mens C1 1000m

Stephen Train

Mens C1 500m

William Reichenstein

Mens C2 1000m

no entry

Mens C2 500m

Stephen Train/Andrew Train

Mens K1 10,000m

Kevin Smith

Mens K2 10,000m

Chris Ballard/Neil Rodson

Mens K4 10,000m

Alan Williams/Chris Canham/

Stephen Brown/Stephen Jackson

Mens C1 10,000m

Marcus Gohar

Mens C2 10,000m

Stephen Train/Andrew Train



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With the closing ceremony of the Wild Water and Canoe Slalom Championships at Bala, the focus of the canoeing world moved to Nottingham and Holme Pierrepont. Between the closing of Bala and the opening of Nottingham, there were five days — time enough to spend a couple of days in London to finish last month's magazine and of course to take in a rather grand firework display in Hyde Park on the Tuesday evening. Television might give you a grand-stand view, but I can assure you it is no substitute for actually being there and viewing at first hand. That last star burst must have been all of 400-feet across and does tend to lose its effect when restricted to the small screen!

Wednesday 29th July was no time to be in London if you planned on going anywhere other than to a certain wedding! Thus it was an overnight drive to Nottingham, with time to watch the main events of the day before sorting out press accreditation at the Albany Hotel and attending a press conference on the coming regatta in the late afternoon.

The opening ceremony for the Sprint World Championships was sponsored jointly by the Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, and was also to celebrate the Royal Wedding. The evening spectacular took place at the Harvey Hadden Stadium at Bilborough, a little north-west from the centre of the city. The evening entertainment comprised cycle racing, hovercraft display, a steel band, Royal Marine Display Team, Trapeze act, gymnastics display, much, much more, and of course the parade of nations — 32 teams with national flags lead by the Band of the South Notts Hussars. The evening went superbly well, almost to time (the speeches in three languages got a little long and lost the interest of the crowd), and was finished off with a great firework display — fireworks two nights running . . . I was being spoilt!

For Nottingham we had invited the world and the world came — paddlers from 32 nations, the biggest World Championships ever. Now all we needed — like Bala — was the weather!

The Nottingham International at Holme Pierrepont is now firmly established on the International Canoeing Calendar, but over the last few years, although we have had tremendous support from the top canoeing nations with countries like Soviet Union, Democratic Republic of Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, all sending their top teams, the venue had gained a reputation of being a very hard and rough course — the weather conditions just have not been kind. I am sure there must be some who believe Holme Pierrepont was designed as a surfing venue and not at all for flat water sprint racing! For the first time, a domestic regatta there this season was totally cancelled after just three races — conditions were so bad that most of the kayaks sank! And this was the site on which we had planned to hold World Championships . . .

Thus, not only in the interests of the World Championship, but in the very future of Holme Pierrepont and the International Canoe Regatta, we just had to have good conditions over the July/August period . . . And didn't we come up trumps! Maybe it was just a little windy on the Saturday for the semi-finals (although this was dead behind paddlers and gave fast and fair conditions), but for the Thursday, Friday and Sunday we had the most perfect

conditions ever for a regatta at Holme Pierrepont. For the finals on the Sunday it was exceptional — there was hardly a ripple on the pond, we could just not have asked for better. Certainly with such conditions Holme Pierrepont really IS the best canoeing course in Europe . . . But to the racing.

For World Championships, the competition is held over four days: Day 1 — 1000m heats in the morning, repechages in the afternoon: Day 2 — 500m heats in the morning, repechages in the afternoon: Day 3 — semi-finals of 1000m in the morning, finals in the afternoon: Day 4 — semi-finals of 500m in the morning, finals in the afternoon, also the long distance events. However, for the benefit of this report, I will go through one event at a time from heats to finals.

The British Team for the World Championships was well prepared, but our sprinters have never been under any illusions as to the degree of competition offered by the Eastern European nations. To get through to the finals was the goal, but thoughts of a medal? Well . . . our paddlers are certainly improving, and this must also be said of the competition. Thus medal chances were remote and even a single bronze would be the biggest boost to our team if such were possible. In the short distances there seemed little chance, but the long distance and particularly the crew events offered the best prospects.



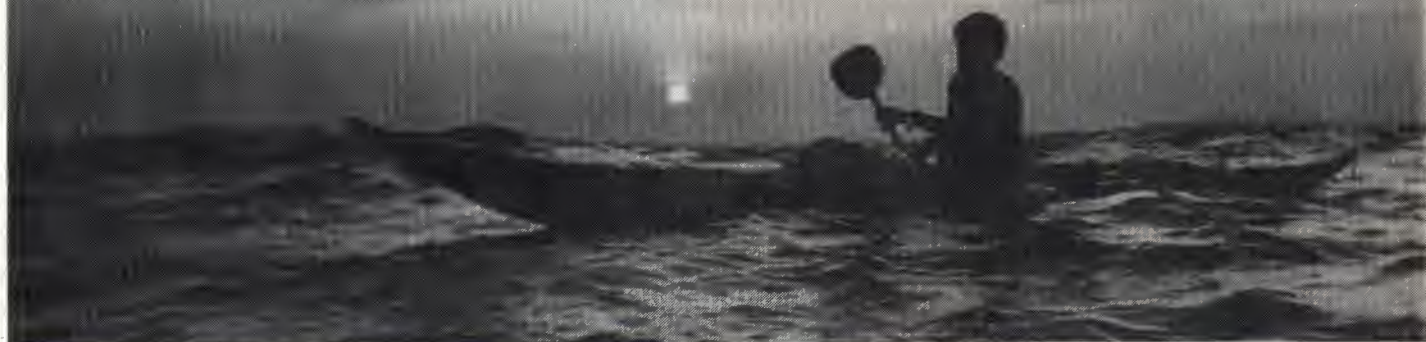
British team members and perfect conditions for sprint racing at Holme Pierrepont



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