

## BRITISH CANOE UNION

### FLATWATER NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2006

The season proper has now got well under way but the weather seems not to know that. I suspect that many recreational competitors have had their season delayed by the cold. Hopefully this can be made up through the season. Talking of cold weather, Easter draws ever nearer and all the DW competitors will [or should] be as ready as they ever will be by this time. We wish them all well and the next newsletter will carry a report of the outcome.

Just before Easter is the first regatta on 8/9 April at Holme Pierpont. There have been many query conversations about the future of the pond as to what might happen when the current contract comes to an end. My understanding is that it is still some years in the future and although Sport England have been rumoured to be withdrawing support we all know that until it happens the reality will not be clear. One of the more fanciful ideas has been converting the far 1000m into a Marina. This does seem unlikely as the cost of constructing a lock to deal with the difference in levels between the pond and the river would be very substantial indeed and make the whole thing financially questionable.

At this first regatta there is an urgent need to secure the services of some replacement raft boys/girls. The scout group who previously helped have informed us they cannot do so again this year. So help is requested from all who would wish to support. The lads and lasses would only be required to do a stint and not be there all day. They would be clothed, fed and watered and there is also the chance of some financial assistance. Indeed there is no age restriction and if any club as a group or individuals can assist then please contact Peter Morley whose contact is in the BCU RACING HANDBOOK.

The BCU AGM took place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 06 and was unusual by virtue of the fact there was actually a motion to change the BCU Rules which had caused some intense e mail and phone activity in the last few weeks. Despite this activity there were only 5 people there at the meeting outside board members. The original motion to increase the number of members required to call an extraordinary general meeting of the BCU to 5% of the membership was amended to 1% and passed. The reason for the change was the high cost of calling such a meeting and there was a wish to prevent any frivolous callings depleting the Unions funds. As a guide, the cost was reckoned to be in excess of £27,000. The amendment seems to be a satisfactory compromise to achieve the original end and still allow the membership to call such a meeting when the situation so requires.

You may all know that the three main International races this year are;  
*Zamora in Northern Spain on 10/11 June 06    Trecin in Slovakia on 8/9 July 06*  
*Tremolat in the Dordogne region of France 23/24 September 06 (World Championships)*

The web sites for all three are up and running although the quality of the information is mixed. There will certainly be a Masters race for singles on the Wednesday and doubles on the Thursday before the worlds in Tremolat.

My understanding is that there will also be master's events at the other two although this is not yet certain. If you need more information then please look at the web sites or ask me through e-mail please.

Please do not forget that all entries must be through the BCU office and you must be members of the BCU

No favouritism at all from the editor but the Lincoln race is on 26<sup>th</sup> March!

Alan Laws

## MARATHON RACING

**The new HRM programme is VERSION 2.0** HRM version 2.0 can now be downloaded from Wiki Daniel's website <http://web.onetel.com/~wiktoriadaniels> If you have difficulty contact Wiki on [wiktoriadaniels@onetel.com](mailto:wiktoriadaniels@onetel.com) **What changes are there in Version 2.0?**

## **1. It incorporates the new promotion/demotion rules**

In the last Newsletter we reported changes to the promotion and demotion rules in the Hasler Series. The **new rules** are included in the 2006 Racing Handbook and will **come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006**, notes of the important ones are on the following page.

We have written to all clubs with Hasler races up to and including the week-end of 25/26 March to confirm that they should apply promotions/demotions on the old rules and should use the HRM version 1.3.

All races on and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 should apply the new promotion/demotion rules and organisers are strongly encouraged to use the new HRM version 2.0 which will be programmed to calculate these automatically.

We have also written separately to organisers of all Hasler races to be held in April to remind them of the changes and to use HRM 2.0.

## **2. Lightning Classes**

There are now separate sheets for each of the Lightning classes – under 10 boys; under 10 girls; under 12 boys and under 12 girls. These correspond to the classes in the Marathon Lightning Series and we encourage clubs to include these races at their Hasler events.

## **3. Fun Races**

There is provision for a doubles fun race in addition to a sheet for a singles fun race.

## **4. Split starts**

Some regions are experiencing large fields in the lower divisions, notably in division 9 K1, and at many races organisers have had to have two separate starts. Version 2.0 now has a facility for split starts to enable boats allocated even numbers to be in the first start and those with odd numbers to be in the second start. Where clubs have made a pre-booking their paddlers are usually allocated consecutive numbers, so splitting the competitors up into odd and even numbers can well avoid all the members from the same club in that division from racing together.

## **5. Illegible numbers**

Rule 15 states that “any paddler not displaying a number plate at the start of any race, or whose number is not clearly legible will not score club points”.

The HRM now includes a box in the “Finishes” worksheet which, if ticked, will still give the paddler his/her time, position and (if applicable) promotion or demotion, but he/she will not score club points.

## **6. Printing entry forms and results**

These are now in a larger font to make them easier to read – particularly the results when they are posted on your notice board.

The version mostly follows the procedures and disciplines of earlier versions so operators will be able quickly to find their way round the new programme.

Clearly the system works best if you are familiar with it. Most of us use it just once a year so it is well worth the organiser and those on his team who are to work the computer and results to refresh their memories with a short trial run a few days before the event. It is likely to pay dividends, but that is part of the message to get across at the race organisers meeting to be held on 22nd April at Reading – see one of following pages.

The MRC have expressed their thanks to Wiki for the work she has put in to upgrade the HRM: we are most grateful to her. Wiki is willing to help you if you need it. Her contact address is above, but remember - she, too, is a volunteer.

## **THE 2006 MARATHON RULES FOR COMPETITION**

The 2006 Racing Handbooks should now be with all race organisers. It is important that race organisers read the rules in full, but the following notes may help you find the more important ones.

### **Rule 5(i) Safety.**

This makes it clear that the penalty for infringing any safety rule is disqualification from the race.

### **Rule 6 Discipline**

The rule has been drawn to make clear that where there has been a breach of discipline, it is the Protest Committee at any race that determines what action should be taken, if any, and whether the complaint should be referred on up to the MRC.

### **Rule 15 Boat Numbering**

There are some minor changes to the first paragraph. The main change is that any paddler not displaying a number plate at the start of any race, or whose number is not clearly legible will not score club points.

### **Rule 26 Promotions**

The intention is that these now apply immediately from the day of the race. \*\*

### **Rule 27 Demotions**

The intention is that these now apply immediately from the day of the race. \*\*

\*\* See the following article.

### **Rule 36(b) Paddler eligibility**

Makes it clear that all assessment races count as qualifying races for the Hasler Final.

### **Rule 39 Points at the Hasler Finals**

Please note that, because of the changes to the promotion and demotion rule, clubs are no longer awarded one point for each promotion gained during the season. This rule applies to the whole of the 2005/6 Hasler season.

### **Rule 44 (f) National Championships**

There will in future be a race for Under 14 Men's Canoe at the Nationals.

### **Rules 49 to 57 Marathon Lightning Series**

The rules for Lightning races are now incorporated.

### **Page E20 BCU Membership and Event Tickets**

The charge for an Event Ticket has been increased by the BCU to £2.50.

Payment must be made to the BCU and sent together with the BCU's form.

## **ORGANISING AND RUNNING YOUR HASLER RACE**

### **Race organisers' meeting**

A meeting is to be held for race organisers in the Southern Region and clubs in neighbouring regions at Reading Canoe Club on **Saturday 22 April 2006** (not 25<sup>th</sup> March as some invitations stated) commencing at 1:00 p.m.

### **It is aimed at both experienced and new race organisers. It is free!**

It is sponsored by the MRC. We have large entries at regional races in the South and, to be blunt, it is felt that there is room to improve race organisation in several respects at most races, including the race run by the writer!

Do, please, send someone from your club.

Contact Andy Rawson to confirm your attendance on 01256 881162 or email him at

[Andy.rawson@integralis.com](mailto:Andy.rawson@integralis.com)

### **Another plea to use the HRM**

We have given plenty of coverage above, in the previous Newsletter and in the racing Handbook to encourage all clubs to use the HRM.

The MRC want to see it used at all races. It will increasingly make sense from the competitors' point of view for promotions and demotions. It hugely simplifies Mike Head's and Christine Laws' tasks.

So please do try the HRM system. Please ask for help if you need it. Your Regional Hasler Adviser will be able to help or contact any of the MRC committee.

Using the HRM is not confined to those races where there is an electricity supply. If you do not have access to electrical power at the race, simply continue with your manual system but enter all results on the HRM and get these to Mike and Christine by email within a day or two of the race. It will speed up notifications of promotions and demotions. We hope in the near future to publish results on the marathon pages of the BCU website: we are working on it!!

### **Race Levies**

Under **Rule 13** clubs are required to pay the race levies within 7 days of the race.

We are getting far too many cases where levies remain outstanding for several weeks or months, despite reminders.

The levy is the registration fee for running a Hasler race. Please pay it promptly to avoid the risk of having your race removed from the calendar.

## **CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

A number of paddlers are members of 2 or more clubs, particularly regular services paddlers. Some also paddle for one club for Sprint and another for Marathon.

It has been noticed recently while tidying up the Marathon register for the Handbook and the new HRM programme together with the recent results from the Watersides and Thamesides events that the number of people entering under a different club has increased.

If you have changed club recently please ask your Team Leader to inform myself (Marathon) and Peter Morley (Sprint), of the change.

If you enter Marathons and Sprint under different clubs please ensure your respective Team Leaders are aware and your entries are correct.

If you enter Hasler Marathon events and hope to enter the Hasler Final with your qualified club please be sure you are entered correctly throughout the year so your points go to the correct club every time. This will particularly apply to services paddlers.

Changing club during the season sometimes becomes necessary due to relocation, this is acceptable provided both clubs are in agreement, but Pete and I are not psychic, please let us know.

**BE CONSISTANT**

Christine M Laws  
Marathon Records Officer

---

Set out on the next page is a summary of the accounts for the Marathon Racing Committee for the year to 31 October 2005. The full accounts will be presented to the next Annual Consultative Meeting on Saturday 12 August 2006 at the National Championships, Reading.

The income on the main account is made up mainly of the BCU grant and donations for the use of the mini-bus. This account shows a loss of £1,936 and, after adding back book-keeping reserves and including a profit on the sale of squad boats, a surplus of £5,114. The assets are mainly the mini-bus and the stock of medals for the Nationals and the Hasler Final, plus cash reserves.

The accounts look healthy enough, but funding could well be a challenge to the committee in future. The BCU grant has remained static for several years and may not grow in future as the BCU juggles with calls on its resources from other disciplines. The grant does not cover the cost of international competitions let alone pay for sending teams to development races and meeting running costs of the committee. We therefore acknowledge the support for the 2005 international programme received from the boat raffle sponsorship and also the substantial support from World Class which met the costs of the athletes on its programmes.

The Racing Scheme also shows a loss for the year. The income received from race levies is used to support the Hasler Series and the National Championships – trophies, medals and photographs; year books, replacement boat numbers and support for the computer programme. In addition we met the costs of some winter training sessions out of the Scheme. We introduced this winter these sessions and they were a great success & thanks should go to Steve Harris, James Smythe & Dyson Pendle for their efforts.

B E Gandy  
Chairman  
January 2006

## **BRITISH CANOE UNION MARATHON RACING COMMITTEE**

### **Summary Accounts as at 31 October 2005**

<b><u>Income</u></b>		<b>£</b>
BCU Central Grant	25,000	
Use of Mini Bus	8,500	
Bank Interest	251	
Boat Raffle	<u>6,089</u>	39,840
<b><u>Less Expenditure</u></b>		
Internationals	33,237	
Vehicle Maintenance & Insurance	2,238	
Boat repairs & insurance	210	
Depreciation	5,315	
Administration	<u>775</u>	<u>41,776</u>
Loss		-1,936
<b><u>Add exceptional items</u></b>		
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	426	
Reversal Provisions	<u>6,625</u>	<u>7,051</u>

Surplus 5,114

**Assets less Liabilities**

Fixed Assets 17,557

Stock 2,824

Bank 29,513

Debtors 922

**Total Capital Employed** 50,815

**RACING SCHEME**

**Income**

£

Race Levies 7346

**Less Expenditure**

Support for Hasler Series and Nationals 4486

Training 5080

Regatta 10km Entries 220 9785

Excess of expenditure -2440

Balance at 1/11/04 39672

Balance at 31/10/05 37232

The file below contains information on the Bedford Marathon to be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006.



Bedford2006\_Info\_A.pdf