

## BRITISH CANOE UNION

### FLATWATER NEWSLETTER OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2006

There seems to have been quite a lot happening in the last few weeks since the last issue of this newsletter. You will recall that Christine and I have asked for items for all the issues and it seems that despite this and the efforts of just a few there has been little response. Thanks to those that have put finger to keyboard those items are really welcome. Please send more.

The Sprint annual meeting has come and gone and I am pleased to say that the attendance was greatly up on previous years. This was heartening. The meeting saw the first change in Chairman of the Sprint committee for many years. Our thanks go to Roland for his sterling efforts in steering us through a difficult time. Despite the fact that he depreciates his success most of us recognise that he has worked tirelessly to increase participation and the quality of paddling. Just looking at the results of international regattas sees that GB is now an international force to be reckoned with. Medals are being won and even though we might want more there is talent showing through. I am loath to mention names as all the team have performed with enthusiasm and real quality effort. However if I have to pick one persons performances it must be Tim Brabants European Gold and World Silver medals. With the back problems he has had and the lay off to enhance his career these results must rank as quite amazing and clearly demonstrate his talents. No doubt Alan Williams the Performance manager could also identify lots of others and we should salute their dedication.

One area where Roland felt he had not succeeded was in was how the Marathon and Sprint paddlers had been brought together. He made his opinion clear that more could be done to use the benefits of Marathon to enhance Sprint and vice versa. The Performance department do assist Marathon greatly wherever they can but this is restricted by the rules laid down by the paymasters. The perceived resistance by sprint coaches to allow sprint paddlers of all ages to compete in Marathons is well documented so I will not dwell upon it here but it is still a strong topic of conversation.

Peter Moule takes over as Chairman and I am sure we all wish him well and will give him all the support we can. I await with interest the next meeting where he and Mo will be on the same committee. A husband and wife team can be quite formidable and their combined forces should bring a real power to the action in the future.

Ken Darby-Dowman reluctantly relinquished his position as he felt he must devote more time to other things but again we recognise his great efforts over the past years.

The Hasler final was held at Bedford and was extremely well run with a large entry of enthusiastic paddlers. Reading were the winners with Elmbridge Second just one point ahead of Wey. The layout of the course used the facilities that were available to the full in great part helped by the excellent weather.

The Marathon Worlds were held in Tremolat on the Dordogne River in South West France over the weekend of 23/24 September. On the Wednesday and Thursday before there was one of the largest ever entries for the masters events. This was run over the course that would also be used by all the World Champs entrants and was 3 laps totalling 21.75km. The British were there in force and came home with a sheaf of medals.

Roger Bell, Brian Greenham [2], Sharon Colley, Tracey Dresch, Isebel Meikle, Sue Gray, Olly Harding, David Howie, Tony Nolan, Andrew Kelly and Melvin Swallow all gained silver medals.

Gail Battison, Tamsin Phipps, Andrew Kelly, Andrew Kelly, Chris Skellern, Ali Pendle, Melvin Swallow all gained bronze medals

Thanks should go to Melvin Swallow who arranged for special GB tops for all the masters paddlers.

In the “main” events the stars were definitely the girls with Anna Hemmings again showing the world she is the tops. Louisa Sawyers did the golden double in the junior classes, in the K2 with her partner Jessica Walker.

Andy Daniels and Stuart Hastings just missed out on gold to take silver in the junior men K2. Such was the standard of our junior team that we face the future with real hope of senior success. We must give them all the support they need in the coming years but for now we offer our congratulations to all the team members whatever their result.

In the senior men we saw some really gutsy performances as the standard just gets harder and harder. For me anyway, the performance of the day in the men’s K1 was that from Ben Brown. He hit the front group of 4 from the start and despite all the other three’s efforts to shake him off hung in there to be right in with a chance at the home sprint. That he did not make a medal did not detract from the performance as a whole. More please. The South African Shaun Rubenstein beat Manual Busto to the line with Marchaud from Spain getting bronze in a photo for second and third.

Mentioning the Spanish paddlers brings to mind how close their relationship is and yet how far apart. They come from separate parts of Spain and so compete at maximum level. Surprisingly however they told the World Champs officials that they both suffered from a skin allergy that prevented them from fixing the intermediate timing device provided by the organisers to their wrist. These were very light watch like devices that were accepted by every competitor but these two. Seems however that the allergy only applied to the skin around their wrist and not around their ankle. After some “discussion” with the officials they accepted that perhaps they should wear the device in the same place as everyone else.

The devices in theory were a good idea that should have provided spectators with intermediate time splits at each turn. Somehow the display boards never materialised which begs the question as to why the devices were still used. The time will no doubt come however when electronic timing will be fixed to the boat. The systems are not quite right as yet for canoes but my bet would be that within 5 years they will be the norm. The device I guess will be fixed to a specified fixing bracket that will be in the same place relative to the front of the boat for all competitors. There will then be the opportunity to provide instant relative time splits anywhere on the course which will be really helpful for officials spectators and TV alike.

The course, between two dams, was almost 200yards wide and deep with quite a strong current. The sunshine of the masters days turned to rain in heavy showers although the temperature remained quite high. The French Water company tried to hold back as much of the water to slow down the current as they could but towards the end of Sunday it was markedly faster. The Team Leaders Meeting had decided that to try and alleviate any advantage from the start draw there should be a boat/course marker in the middle of the river near the first bridge about 800m from the start. All paddlers had to pass to the right of this boat, that meant that the potential advantage of going up the left hand bank was taken away.

Consequently all the paddlers went to the right. The start pontoon was on the left hand bank and occupied about half the rivers width.

The portage had a good pontoon for exit onto thick soft sand. My, how that sapped the legs of those who do not like running, especially in the later stages. The question was whether the benefit to the backside was greater than the detrimental effect to the legs.

The entry was a dug out cut which was quite wide long and shallow but some seemed determined to test the strength of their rudders by sitting on them whilst they were in the river bed. Getting in again showed off the skills of those adept in this and the weakness of the others.

It was just a pity that the weather spoilt the overall feeling of “joi de vivre” as the soft grass areas were soon trampled into rather glutinous mud. This also made the area for the medal ceremony less populated than would be expected but this was well organised.

Overall a good championships and should give us all something to feel good about.

Alan & Christine Laws

---

---

### **PROMOTIONS AND DEMOTIONS AT THE SEPTEMBER REGATTA**

The weather conditions at the Inter-Club Regatta on September 2nd & 3rd., made a fair assessment of promotions and demotions impossible.

We would normally make quite a few promotions at this event, and obviously there were competitors worthy of promotion from both Boys and Girls D and C classes: their coaches will be aware in most cases who they are.

In order to ensure fair and close racing in April next season, please would coaches / team leaders make their own assessment of their paddlers with reference to the chart in the Racing Handbook (page B1), and forward both promotions and demotions to Roland Lawler.

diand roland@hotmail.com

## Spanish K4 races

STAFF Roland and myself travelled on the plane.

TRAVEL We flew to Valladolid with Ryanair on Thursday. Bus transport to the accommodation, was 15 minutes.

ACCOMMODATION We used adequate student accommodation on the edge of town, with twin rooms, 15 minutes walk to the race course, and 20 minutes to the regional kayak centre. Meals were provided there. The food was good.

BOATS New K4s were provided, and other than minor adjustments, and fitting footrest straps, they were very good.

THE RACE VENUES The Saturday race was 2 x 3km laps on the river below the weir, for those of you that know the river in Valladolid. There were 28 boats on the Start Line for the Senior/Junior/Vets race.

The Sunday event was on the natural lake at Sanabria, up in the mountains, close to Portugal. A 2 hour drive. This was 2 x 2.5 km laps.

THE COMPETITION There was a reasonable level of entries for an Invitation event, with 7 nations racing.

Saturday racing. There was very little wind, with the temperature over 30 degrees.

Our Junior under16 boat had an excellent start, close to the bank, and got in behind the front 2 boats of Spain & South Africa, on the first leg. They maintained this position after the clag up at the first turn, to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>, beating the Hungarian boat, stroked by Attila Jambor who were 6<sup>th</sup>!!! Our Senior boat got into a clag up in the first 200m., to finish a disappointing 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday racing. There was a little more wind, with the temperature again over 30 degrees.

Both our boats had reasonable starts in a field of 40. Again Spain and SA dominated the race, with the Hungarians 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Senior boat was 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Juniors 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Comments

It was a very enjoyable weekend, and we were very well looked after. Next year, we have agreed with the Organisers, that we should also race either K1 or K2 on the Sunday on the lake. Merchan raced 3 times, in K1, K2 and K4 and won all the race.

Jim Rossiter



## FLADBURY MARATHON RACE

Midland Regional Hasler Event

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER 2006

**VENUE:** River Avon Evesham Rowing Club

**CLASSES:** Division 1-9 Singles  
Division 3/4 5/6 7/8 9 Doubles  
Mini K1, TC2

**Courses:** 1 to 3 Singles 3/4 Doubles 12 miles 2 portages  
4 to 6 Singles 5/6 Doubles 8 miles 2 portages  
7 to 9 Singles 7/8 9 Doubles 4 miles  
Lightning K1, TC2 2miles

### **Times:**

Check-In	Singles	Doubles
9.00-10.00am	Div 7,8,9	Div 7/8 9
10.00am-12.00pm	Div1/2/3/4/5/6	Div 3/4 5/6

### **Racing**

Div 7/8/9 singles 7/8 9 doubles                      Div1/2/3/4/5/6 singles 3/4 5/6 doubles

Briefing:	10.30am	Briefing	12.00pm
Start:	11.00 am	Start	12.30pm

Lightning and TC2 2.00pm

**Rules:** As per Racing Handbook 2006.  
**All Div 7/8/9 paddlers should wear approved Buoyancy Aids**

**Parking:** Next to Evesham Rowing Club.

**Refreshments:** Competitors will be issued with vouchers to exchange for food and drink.  
Other snacks will be on sale for everyone.

**Fees:** Seniors £5.00  
Juniors £4.00  
Lightning K1 TC2 £2.00  
Late Entry Fee: Seniors £6.00 Juniors £5.00

**Entries:** All entries should include BCU No, Singles Ranking and Correct Fee.  
Closing date Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**Race Organiser :** Steve Train                      Email: [stevetrain@btinternet.com](mailto:stevetrain@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 07941 592110

## GUDENA 2006

We had hoped for a report from one of the senior paddlers to give a different aspect on this unique Marathon Race, however this has not been forthcoming so we just include a summary of the results as provided by the Team Management.

### **120 Km Course      5 Stages**

#### Senior Men K2

Winning time		08.09.34
7 <sup>th</sup>	Ben Bradshaw/Martin Layang	09.00.05
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Pearse/Phillip Pearse	09.05.33
13 <sup>th</sup>	Glen Thorogood/Phillip Thorogood	09.38.48

#### Senior Men K1

Winning time		08.27.32
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Simon Fennemore	08.30.48

#### Under 18 Men K1

Winning time		09.03.32
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stuart Bennett	09.45.33
5 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Rowell	10.11.20

### **87 Km Course      4 Stages**

#### Senior Women K2

1 <sup>st</sup>	Linda Dawe/Jenna Hawkey	06.41.24
-----------------	-------------------------	----------

#### Senior Women K1

Winning Time		06.43.28
4 <sup>th</sup>	Kathryn Hall	07.27.44

### **57 Km Course      3 Stages**

#### U16 Mens K1

1 <sup>st</sup>	Daniel Barber	04.10.12
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sam Rainey	04.10.16
5 <sup>th</sup>	Matt Welch	04.14.38
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Childerstone	04.23.51

## HASLER RACE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The information below is for the operator of the HRM programme of your Hasler event and is as a result of increased security issues associated with Firewalls.

If you try and install HRM straight after receiving it the local computer may refuse to run the executable because of “incorrect permissions for your computer” or something like that.

If this trouble is being experienced then it is likely to do with something with computer Firewall settings. To overcome the problem you should use a Windows File Manager type application and check the properties of the HRM executable file. (Click on the files and then right click and select ‘properties’). In the window that appears you may find that there is an option at the bottom that says the file is blocked – if so select the unblock button.)

Once this is done it is possible to run the HRM executable file. I have also noticed that it is best to run the executable from the “RUN” command in the Start Menu as running by double clicking or using the “Run Command” on the file in a Windows file manager application may result in the install process failing (another error message).

Mike Head  
Wikki Daniels

Note if you do experience any problems with the HRM programme please do email Wikki ([wiki.daniels@googlemail.com](mailto:wiki.daniels@googlemail.com))