

Twenty Fourth Annual Report of the BCU Board 2003

This report is presented for the information of all members of the incorporated British Canoe Union and refers to proceedings and activities from 1 November 2002 until 31 October 2003.

BCU Annual Review 2002/2003

The British Canoe Union set out in 2003 to complete its new Memorandum and Articles of Association and the associated Board Regulations in order to introduce a new federal and streamlined structure representing the full interests of Canoeing in the UK. In addition it was anticipated that the organisation would establish a new National Canoeing Development Centre at Holme Pierrepont. The structural changes were completed on time; however, the establishment of the National Canoeing Development Centre has been delayed due to funding issues within Sport England.

The British Canoe Union returned record membership figures in 2003 with BCU individual and club membership reaching 46,787.

The competition season was extremely busy with BCU teams attending World and European Championships. Olympic qualification featured high on the priorities with three boats gaining places for the Olympic Games in Athens. Expectations of further boats qualifying early in 2004 remain.

Ben Brown became the Junior Marathon World Champion and Simon Hammond became World Surf Champion. World Championship medals went to Hayleigh Mason, Jenny Spencer, Deb Pinniger, Richard Chrimes, Jonathan Schofield, and the Women's K1 Slalom Team. Both the Men's and Women's Canoe Polo Teams won Bronze medals at the European Championships.

Gaining greater Access for Canoeists to Inland Rivers has remained high on the BCU's Agenda. Negotiations and discussions with Ministers and other interested parties being a constant theme of 2003.

The year closed with the BCU being recognised as one of the top ten UK sports that will continue to receive support from UK Sport, Sport England, Sport Scotland and the Sports Council for Wales

Financially, the BCU achieved a surplus arising from increased membership. This will be invested in additional resources during the year ending 31 October 2004.

BCU Structure

The BCU is managed through its board of directors who are ultimately responsible to the membership. The Directors delegate certain functions to Management Committees:

The Sports Management Committee oversees the activities of the competition disciplines and, in particular, co-ordinates grant aid for the international programmes.

The Coaching Management Committee deals with all matters associated with the co-ordination of coaching across the UK.

The World Class Management Group manages and administers all aspects of the World Class Programme.

The English Council oversees the operation of the BCU's activities within its English Division (Canoe England).

Officers of the Union

President	Albert Woods
President of Honour	John Dudderidge OBE
Vice President	Ralph Tyas
Vice President	David Gent
Vice President	David Wain OBE
Chairman	Brian Chapman
Chief Executive	Paul Owen
Honorary Treasurer	David Belbin

Chairs of Management Committees

Board	Brian Chapman
English Council	David Gent
World Class Management	Albert Woods
Sports Management	Albert Woods
Coaching	Graham Lyon

Board of Directors

English Council	David Belbin, Vic Brown, Graham Lyon, Mike Twiggs, Albert Woods
Canoe Assn of Northern Ireland	Mike Harron
Scottish Canoe Association	Brian Chapman, David Rossetter
Welsh Canoeing Association	Phil Blain, Alan Baker

All members of the Board are Directors of the Company

Nominees of Specialist and Regional Committees Accountable to English Council

Access	Colin Kempson
Sports Management	Albert Woods
English Coaching	Graham Lyon
English Development Team	Mike Twiggs Anne Collins Vic Brown
Elected Members	Ian Janes Sue Janes Andy Cook

Michael Twitchen

Nominees of Specialist Committees Accountable to SMC

Canoe Polo	Curly Barker
Freestyle	Mike Birkbeck
Surf	Andrew Hawker
Marathon	Brian Gandy
Sailing	Philip Robin
Wild Water	Peter Schofield
Slalom	Ian Campbell
Racing	Roland Lawler

The English Development Team oversees the non-competitive forms of canoeing and co-ordinates the work of the ten English Regions providing a local interface with BCU members and clubs.

Members of the English Development Team accountable to the English Council

Lifeguards	Jason Sadler
Sea Touring	David Evans
Disabilities	Viv Kendrick
Whitewater Rafting	Claire Lovell
Cumbria	Roger Ward
Eastern	Mo Moule
North East	Vic Brown
South West	Peter Longden
East Midlands	Bernard O'Connor
North West	Karen Davies
West Midlands	Peter Jones
London & South East	David Waine
Southern	Kevin Dennis
Yorkshire	Mike Twiggs
Co –opted member	Ann Collins

Our supporters

The achievements in the following report would have been quite impossible without all the unpaid volunteers working to ensure that all can enjoy the sport and recreation of canoeing. The thanks of the BCU are extended to all of you for your hard and unstinting efforts. Equally the BCU records its thanks to the many outside bodies who have contributed to provide financial and advisory support. Worthy of special mention are UK Sport and Sport England, the British Olympic Association, Sports Coach UK, The Central Council for Physical Recreation, The Environment Agency, British Waterways and Nottinghamshire County Council.

Long term development

Set out below are some of the main achievements

- BCU membership reached record levels.
- Repositioned the International Canoe Exhibition alongside the Outdoors Show
- Paddlesport Development Officer support provided in all BCU regions.
- Access strategy published
- BCU identified by Sport England to receive £1.2m of funding from the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP)
- 20 Clubs submitted as part of BCU CCDP portfolio
- 46 clubs registered and working towards Sport England Club Mark and BCU top club
- An 8% Increase in the number of junior paddlers moving from the paddlepower programme into National Competition
- New web site developed
- New Federal structure implemented
- New English Council created
- Awarded 2006 Wild Water Racing World Championships
- Increased the number of representatives to ICF posts
- Champion 2012 launched in partnership with Westminster City Council
- BCU President Albert Woods re-elected as President of the European Canoe Association
- Alun Michael MP Minister for Rural Affairs and Urban Quality of Life opened International Canoe Exhibition
- In 2003 Great Britain's paddlers gained 24 medals in major international competitions. 4 Gold 7 Silver 13 Bronze
- Three boats qualified for Athens Olympic Games
- BCU commenced planning for a Long Term Paddler Development Programme, to create the best possible paddlers of the future

British Canoe Union – Medal Winners 2003

In 2003 Great Britain's paddlers gained 24 medals in major international competitions. 4 Gold 7 Silver 13 Bronze

1 Senior World Champion – Simon Hammond , Surf
1 Junior World Champion – Ben Brown, Marathon

Slalom

World Cup 1 – Penrith, Australia 11 May 2003

Silver Medal	Campbell Walsh	Men's K1
Silver Medal	Nick Smith/Stuart Bowman	C2

World Cup 3 – Seu d'Urgell, Spain 5-6 July 2003

Silver Medal	Paul Ratcliffe	Men's K1
Bronze Medal	Nick Smith/Stuart Bowman	C2

World Championships – Augsburg, Germany 22-27 July 2003

Bronze Medal Heather Corrie/Laura Blakeman
Helen Reeves Women's K1 Team

World Cup 4 – Bratislava, Slovakia, 31 July 2003

Bronze Medal Paul Ratcliffe Men's K1

Sprint Racing

World Cup 5 – Zagreb, Croatia 4-6 July 2003

Gold Medal Rachel Train Women's K1 200m
Bronze Medal Tricia Davey Women's K1 1000m
Bronze Medal Tricia Davey/Lucy Hardy
Rachel Train/Abigail Cattle Women's K4 500m

Marathon

World Cup Marathon – Bergen, Norway, 21-22 June 2003

Gold Medal Paul Wycherly/Ed Cox K2 Men Junior – 22km
Silver Medal Ben Brown K1 Men Junior – 22km
Silver Medal Hayleigh Mason K1 Women Junior – 22km
Bronze Medal Tom Daniels K1 Men Junior – 22km

European Championships – Gdansk, Poland, 12-13 July 2003

Bronze Medal Hayleigh Mason K1 Women –21km

World Championships – Valladolid, Spain, 25-28 September 2003

Gold Medal Ben Brown Junior K1
Bronze Medal Hayleigh Mason Junior WK1
Bronze Medal Jenny Spencer Senior WK1

Wild Water Racing

Junior European Championships – Garmisch, Germany, 23-25 May 2003

Silver Medal Jonathan Schofield K1 Junior (sprint)

Junior World Championships – Mayrhofen, Austria, 10-13 July 2003

Bronze Medal Jonathan Schofield K1 Junior

Polo

European Championships – Kilcock, Ireland, 12-17 August 2003

Bronze Medal Zoe Anthony, Kate Bridge/ Eleanor Bridgstock/Andi Fear-Ross/
Lianne Grayson/ Philippa Grayson/
Kirsty Sutcliffe,/ Antony Harmer Ladies Team

Bronze Medal Neil Edmunds/Peter Meakin/ Nick Archer/ Martyn Williamson/
Neil Parker/ Alan Vessey/ Neil Watters Mens Team

Freestyle

World Championships – Graz, Austria,

Silver Medal Deb Pinniger K1 Women

Bronze Medal

Richard Chrimes

K1 Junior Men

Surf

Gold Medal

Simon Hammond

BCU OFFICE STAFF

The BCU Board wishes to express its sincere thanks to the staff for their support and loyalty throughout what has been an exceedingly busy year.

VISION

Our long term goal is to become the best possible National Governing Body of sport, successful at home and abroad supporting the vibrant, dynamic and diverse sport of canoeing. As a creative, innovative, knowledge based organisation with a clear set of core values the BCU will work with its partners to provide excellent service to a growing membership, offering sustainable access for all into paddlesport at every level. The BCU also recognises its responsibility to improve the environment in which we paddle and to work to have a positive impact on society as a whole.

The BCU vision is to:

“Enable our members, partner organisations and the wider paddling community the best available opportunity to achieve their potential in all aspects of paddlesport.”

MISSION

Over the period of the next plan in working towards our long term goals we believe that our mission is quite simply ***“helping and inspiring people to go canoeing”***

To achieve the objectives of the plan all sections of the organisation will work to focus on three strategic objectives.

➤ **Paddler focus**

Working in partnership to help people paddle and enjoy the sport and recreation of canoeing with the BCU

➤ **International success**

Working to support the long-term paddler development opportunities required for people to achieve high-level performance in paddlesport.

➤ **Raising the profile of paddlesport**

Working to inform and publicise to all people the full range of canoeing activity.