



# Annual Report

**2017**

# Contents

British Canoeing is the governing body for the sport and recreation of canoeing in the United Kingdom.

The Board and executive team of British Canoeing have some responsibilities which are UK wide and others which are confined to management and delivery in England.

This report is presented in two sections, separating out the UK and English responsibilities of British Canoeing.

<b>04</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>President's Report</b>
<b>08</b>	<b>Chief Executive's Report</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>British Canoeing Board Report</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Governance and Risk Committee Report</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>HR and Remunerations Committee Report</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Finance and Audit Committee Report</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Nominations Committee Report</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Financial Report</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Annual Accounts 2016/2017</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Report on the UK Activities of British Canoeing</b>
18	British Canoeing Canoe Polo Committee Report
20	British Canoeing Freestyle Committee Report
22	British Canoeing Lifeguards Committee Report
24	British Canoeing Marathon Racing Committee Report
26	British Canoeing Rafting Committee Report
28	British Canoeing Sailing Committee Report
30	British Canoeing Slalom Committee Report
32	British Canoeing Sprint Racing Committee Report
34	British Canoeing Wild Water Racing Committee Report
36	Coaching Strategy Group Report
38	World Class Management Group Report

41	Performance Wellbeing Group Report
42	British Canoeing Safety Panel Report
44	Access and Environment Advisory Group Report
47	Festivals, Competitions, Expeditions and Descents Report
48	International Relations Update
50	International Medals
<b>53</b>	<b>Report on the English Activities of British Canoeing</b>
54	The English Council Report
55	Cumbria Regional Development Team Report
57	East Regional Development Team Report
58	East Midlands Regional Development Team Report
60	North East Regional Development Team Report
62	North West Regional Development Team Report
64	South Regional Development Team Report
66	South East Regional Development Team Report
68	South West Regional Development Team Report
70	West Midlands Regional Development Team Report
72	Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Development Team Report
<b>74</b>	<b>Safeguarding Update</b>
<b>75</b>	<b>Governance Update</b>
<b>76</b>	<b>Membership Update</b>
<b>77</b>	<b>British Canoeing Executive Team</b>

# Chairman's Report



I joined the board as Chair in November 2016, just as the consultation on the Strategic Plan was drawing to a close. The consultation was comprehensive, inclusive and informative. It proved to be the ideal vehicle for learning of our members' priorities and this has enabled us to create the right plan for British Canoeing.

The process also emphasised that one of our great strengths is the breadth of interests in our membership; but therein also lies a challenge. Stronger Together addresses this through the eleven ambitions which fully reflect the breadth of matters our membership wants us to address.

Since the launch of Stronger Together, the Board has maintained a clear focus on ensuring the delivery stays on track and in holding the executive team to account for delivery and supporting the vital committees in their work.

We have seen progress in all 11 ambitions and membership has grown to over 35,000 for the first time. A full progress report on the first year delivery of the strategy will be published and circulated in March 2018.

2017 was a year of considerable change within the organisation. Cuts in grant funding from Sport England resulted in a reduction in staff numbers and a restructure to align the staffing to the delivery of the new strategy. Whilst sorry to see good staff leaving us we have also been fortunate to attract some excellent new members to the team. The staff report on page 77 shows the scale of the changes within the team this year. The organisation has adapted quickly to lower funding levels from Sport England and is definitely doing more with less. During the year there were also changes to the VAT accounting which also impacted during this year. This is detailed on page 14.

Ivan Lawler was appointed as President at the AGM in 2017 and it has been a pleasure to work alongside him as we have sought to better connect with and serve the whole British Canoeing community. The 2017 AGM raised the issue of the Board needing to assiduously address matters of athlete welfare within the World Class Programme in particular. These matters have been very thoroughly considered during the year, plans created, athletes involved and new capacity recruited to properly resource new development in this area. Good progress has been achieved, with more to follow in 2018.

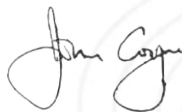
During the year we also met the challenge to become fully compliant with the UK Code of Sports Governance. This provides us with an external confirmation that we have modern governance and robust policies and procedures in place at the national level of our organisation.

I would like to thank the Board for the expertise and commitment they have brought to the organisation and to our staff team for their energy, enthusiasm and expertise. Equally I would like to thank all of those involved in delivering and developing our sport at local, regional and national level.

Together we have made great progress in 2017 and we can look forward to some exciting new developments in 2018.

We are definitely proving that we are stronger together.

**Professor John Coyne CBE**



Chair  
British Canoeing

# President's Report



My first year in the role of President has been inspirational, aspirational and perspirational!

Seeing the organisation from a very different perspective and at a time of huge change I have found very inspiring. British Canoeing itself has such a broad scope and appeal that my first job was actually to discover a sport I thought I already knew.

The 'Stronger Together' tagline which I had assumed to be just that, a tag line, is actually at the heart of the organisations ambition, and the staff and Board have a genuine desire to make this the backbone of all initiatives and changes. With this as a single identifiable goal I truly believe the sport/recreation can grow and flourish.

That is not to say there are not creases which remain to be ironed out, but the most positive aspect of the changes I have seen this year is the desire to address the weaker areas of delivery and the problems they have created.

Every area of the sport I have managed to visit, from slalom to open canoe, freestyle to bell-boating, is filled with experts and a passion for a sport that caters for pretty much any conceivable physical or personality type. The ambition to bring this passion together and out from its individual compartments is something that I believe could position paddlesport where it belongs, and that is away from the tag of 'minority' sport.

I see a sport which as a whole is very poor at selling itself and this is something we need to address from top to bottom. There is an awful lot of work being done behind the scenes which is invisible to members which needs to be publicised more, there are volunteers across the sport doing fantastic work that others don't hear about. River clean ups, participation events, adventures, environmental campaigns and initiatives all happen behind virtually closed doors. The power of all, or any, of these could easily change the public perception of what we have to offer.

The increased visibility of both the CEO and the Chair this year at events has been a huge step forward and I think board members will also add to this increased visibility in the coming year. On the international scene our CEO has made big inroads to improving our influence and voice at the highest level, this can only be a good thing.

Highlights for me through the year have been plentiful,

The coaches conference organised to reunite the clubs and performance department was a big success and a turning point in a strained relationship. Hopefully the new club partner scheme will strengthen this link further and produce athletes for the squads for a long time.

Being educated into the world of freestyle was a revelation. Asked to present team kit at the final training camp I met the freestyle gang and had my eyes opened to a discipline I was almost totally ignorant of previously. The quality of both the coaching and the athletes involved would equal any other discipline I have seen.

Getting involved in the access campaign has also been an unexpected turn for me. Triggered by meeting the Waters of Wales group I was inspired to get involved with what is clearly the single most important issue in our sport.

On the international front I have been involved with discussions with the ICF regarding future event for the Olympic Games and am heavily involved in the media coverage for both marathon and surfski. I represented British Canoeing at the Sprint World Championships in Racice where I met many of my international counterparts and held discussions on everything from media presentation to event selection and the role of British Canoeing in future plans.

Being invited to coach at the Open Canoe Association symposium reawakened feelings I have had since childhood when we made a Thames trip in an open canoe. Paddling around Windermere with a bunch of enthusiasts makes you realise how much more there is in this diverse sport than just the small sections we bury ourselves into.

I continue to be involved with athlete welfare and am happy to see it heading in a much better direction.

My position has led me to be the point of contact for many who have grievances and though not everything can be solved I would hope that this part of my job has proved useful. I very much appreciate people's confidence and trust in approaching me.

I look forward to a productive year in 2018 and am very open to hearing what it is members want and to suggestions as to what I could do better.

In summary, the year has been a very positive experience. There remain areas that us 'moaners' can highlight and we should continue to do so. What I do believe now though, is that those moans will be listened to and acted upon which may not have always been the case in the past. For our part, as members, if those moans can be framed as suggestions and come packaged with possible solutions the momentum will build and 'Stronger Together' will become a reality.

We already are beginning to see a rise in membership and there is a much more positive drive toward getting more water, all we need now is more time to benefit from it!!

**Ivan Lawler MBE**



President  
British Canoeing

# Chief Executive's Report



2017 was a year which brought both challenges and successes for British Canoeing.

The year got off to a difficult start with news that in line with other national governing bodies, British Canoeing was to receive a significant reduction in funding from Sport England for the next four years to 2021 (£500k per annum). As a direct result we had to reduce staff numbers and costs and this work was completed by March 2017.

Following extensive consultation, the new strategic plan – Stronger Together was also launched in March 2017. During the remainder of the year, there were several early signs that many of the key groups and stakeholders were keen to play their full part in helping British Canoeing to become a more united organisation and in achieving the ambitions and targets within the plan.

A full progress report on the 11 ambitions and 67 targets contained within Stronger Together is reported separately within the Annual Review of 2017, but there are several developments which occurred during the year which are worthy of note. We gathered lots of baseline data during the year which will allow us to track membership, coach and volunteer satisfaction levels annually in the future.

A review of membership categories was completed and the new membership scheme will be launched in mid-2018. Membership grew to over 35,000 for the first time ever. A review of the Coach Award was completed and a new funding model for coaching across the UK was also agreed between the national associations. More than 40 new trails were launched. Work was started to create and launch an Access Charter in 2018.

The milestone targets for the Olympic and Paralympic programmes were achieved and seven British Canoeing athletes became senior World Champions during 2017. Across all of the disciplines athletes from British Canoeing enjoyed remarkable success winning more than 90 European and World medals during the year. British Canoeing also secured the rights to host three international events in the UK in 2019/2020.

The year presented some serious challenges around matters of athlete welfare and these issues were fully investigated. A part of the investigation has still to report, but real progress was made during the year to improve the confidential systems for athletes and coaches to provide honest feedback and in creating a Performance Wellbeing Group and action plan. Many of the policies and procedures in this area of work were also reviewed and revised during the year.

In October 2017 British Canoeing completed all of the work necessary to be recognised as fully compliant with the UK Code of Sports Governance. Work also began between the national associations to more clearly clarify the relationship between the four bodies and to define these matters within a new UK Agreement to be finalised in 2018.

Work also began in 2017 to review the committee structure and terms of reference for committees within British Canoeing. I would like to record my thanks to the staff and committee members who worked so well together during the year, to deliver the many actions to plan and budget. The collective work and effort at club, regional and national level was hugely significant and has put us in an excellent place to keep moving forward in 2018 and beyond.

**David Joy**

Chief Executive  
British Canoeing





Photo: Palm

# British Canoeing Board Report

## Composition of the Board

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Professor John Coyne CBE | Chair  |
| • David Belbin             | Vice Chair and Independent Director                      |
| • Stephen Craig            | Director nominated by Canoe Association Northern Ireland |
| • David Wakeling           | Director nominated by Canoe Wales                        |
| • Steve Linksted           | Director nominated by Scottish Canoe Association         |
| • Clare Dallaway           | Director nominated by English Council                    |
| • Dee Paterson             | Director nominated by English Council                    |
| • Greg Smale               | Director nominated by English Council                    |
| • James Fry                | Independent Director                                     |
| • Richard Boreham          | Independent Director                                     |
| • Bronagh Kennedy          | Independent Director                                     |
| • David Joy                | CEO  |

## In attendance:

Ivan Lawler as President attends the Board meetings as an observer in a non voting capacity.

David Wakeling attended Board meetings from March 2017 as a Director nominated by Canoe Wales and was appointed at the Board meeting on 11 June 2017. This followed the sad passing of Alan Baker who will be missed by all.

The Board met five times during 2017:

### 28th January 2017, London

#### Attendance 91% Apologies: Alan Baker

- The finance report confirmed that British Canoeing activities had delivered a small surplus position across the organisation
- Report given to the Board by the Independent Auditor
- The Board approved the year end accounts for the year ended 31st October 2016
- The Board approved the 2017-21 Strategic Plan to be launched in March 2017
- Recent investments from UK Sport and Sport England were noted
- The Board agreed to proceed with bids for 2019 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup, 2020 ECA Canoe Slalom European Championships and 2021 ICF Freestyle World Championships
- The Board agreed that surf kayak could be reinstated as a discipline of British Canoeing
- In accordance with the Code for Sports Governance David Belbin was appointed as the Vice Chair and a Senior Independent
- Amendments to British Canoeing's governance policy were approved by the Board
- The Board approved its priorities for 2017

## **26th March 2017, Manchester**

### **Attendance 100%**

- The Chair noted the longstanding contribution of the former President, Albert Woods and congratulated new President, Ivan Lawler on his appointment
- Paul Ratcliffe appointed as Performance Director and the Tokyo Strategy launched
- Succession plan for Board directors agreed
- Board noted the requirements for UK Code for Sports Governance Code compliance
- Board considered the early discussions which had taken place between the home nations and British Canoeing on a UK Agreement
- Agreed the coaching and qualifications framework needed to change to meet consumer demand
- Noted British Canoeing had been awarded the 2021 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships

## **21th June 2017, Nottingham**

### **Attendance 100%**

- Equality training took place for all Board members
- Digital strategy update from consultants 7 League and confirmation to appoint a Head of Digital
- Membership review update from Two Circles on the proposed new membership categories
- A Performance Welfare Group had been established
- Report received on athlete welfare and noted
- Performance update was received and Canoe Slalom International Panel was approved
- New coaching awarding body model agreed
- The Board approved Paddle Clean – the new anti-doping education strategy
- The Board accepted David Wakeling onto the Board as the new Canoe Wales director subject to approval at next AGM

## **24th September 2017, Nottingham**

### **Attendance 75% Apologies: Dee Paterson, Bronagh Kennedy and Steve Linksted**

- Membership review complete and new membership strategy approved
- Commercial strategy and implementation plan was presented
- Coaching and leadership plan 2017 – 2021 approved
- World Class programme report was received
- Performance Wellbeing Group terms of reference and action plan approved
- Places to paddle and access developments update was received
- Directors' duties training for all Board Members
- Nominations Committee established

## **3rd December 2017, Nottingham**

### **Attendance 83% Apologies: David Wakeling and Dee Paterson**

- Budget for 2018 approved
- Annual safeguarding report received
- Values and self-evaluation work commenced
- Results from UK Sport culture health check presented
- Annual Plan 2017 - the balanced scorecard showed a completed score of 74.25%
- Annual Plan and balanced scorecard for 2018 noted
- New partnerships with the Paddler magazine noted

A full summary of Board meetings can be found on the British Canoeing website:  
<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about/governance/>

# Governance and Risk Committee Report

---

## Governance and Risk Committee

Chair: James Fry      Independent Director  
Richard Boreham      Independent Director  
Stephen Craig      Director nominated by Canoe Association Northern Ireland

### In attendance:

David Joy      CEO  
Urvasi Naidoo      Head of Governance and Compliance

The Committee has met three times in 2017 - May, September and November.

Attendance 100%

The key areas of work completed by the Committee during 2017 have included the following: Code for Sports Governance compliance and the revision of numerous policies and processes as required by the Code; risk management; safeguarding; disputes; disciplinary; selection policies; legal actions and planning for the AGM.

Other significant work has included considering negotiations and developments with regard to the new UK Agreement and commencing work on the committee structure review.

# HR & Remunerations Committee Report

---

## HR and Remunerations Committee

Chair: Bronagh Kennedy      Independent Director  
Clare Dallaway      Director nominated by English Council

### In attendance:

David Joy      CEO  
Lisa Bryant      HR Manager

The Committee has met three times in 2017 – February, June and September.

Attendance 100%

The key areas of work completed by the Committee during 2017 included the following: working on staff consultation and re-structure; reward and recognition for staff; pay and grading review; Board and senior staff succession planning; Board skills matrix; updating HR policies and establishing the new Nominations Committee.

# Finance and Audit Committee Report

---

## Finance and Audit Committee

Chair: David Belbin	Independent Director
Dee Paterson	Director nominated by English Council
Craig Wagstaff	Independent Co Opted Member

### In attendance:

David Joy	CEO
Susan Hicks	Finance Manager

The Committee has met four times in 2017 - January, April, July and November.

Attendance 77% - Apologies Dee Paterson.

The key areas of work completed by the Committee during 2017 included the following: amendment to terms of reference to allow co-option of an independent member; recruitment of co-opted independent member; review and approval of year end accounts; annual external audit; VAT audit and subsequent amendment to VAT calculations and principles; the review and approval of the financial policies and procedures; review and recommendation to the Board of the 2017/18 budget and four year financial forecast.

# Nominations Committee Report

---

## Nominations Committee

Chair: Professor John Coyne CBE	Chair
David Belbin	Independent Director
Richard Boreham	Independent Director
Clare Dallaway	Director nominated by English Council
James Fry	Independent Director

### In attendance:

Urvasi Naidoo	Head of Governance and Compliance
---------------	-----------------------------------

The Committee was newly established during the year. It convened once via email to confirm the appointment of Mark Bache (subject to AGM approval) as an Independent Director and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee from March 2018.

# Financial Report

British Canoeing recorded a small surplus of £2,207 for the financial year ended 31st October 2017. This break-even result for the year reflected the budget set and challenges faced by the organisation.

The year started positively with confirmation that funding from UK Sport for the Olympic and Paralympic programmes, alongside an award from Sport England for talent development, were to be maintained at current levels for the next four-year cycle 2017-2021. Strong income growth especially in membership saw over 35,000 members of British Canoeing registered by the end of the financial year.

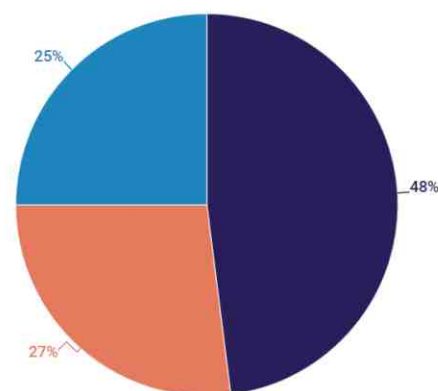
However changes in the Sport England strategy resulted in a considerable reduction in public funding for participation programmes that led to a consultation process and reduced staffing levels with increased pressure on costs in order to maintain a breadth of services.

British Canoeing undertakes a periodic VAT review with expert external advice against current income and activity of £10m a year to provide the assurance for an appropriate basis to be used for future plans and budgeting. Changes in the treatment of VAT from the most recent review impacted on the core results by £94,000 for the year due to a more limited VAT recovery and, when combined with grant funded activities, resulted in a voluntary declaration of VAT to HMRC of £317,000 in respect of the current and prior accounting period.

The accounting policy for the recognition of income has also been reviewed this year and, where applicable to areas of activity, has been aligned with current common practice for sports governing bodies and the most appropriate accounting principles. An adjustment to reflect the specific commitments and timing of delivering benefits and services over a membership year has resulted in a reduction in net assets of £235,000 but does not impact on available cash resources nor the continued approach to budgeting to deliver the services and development activity.

# Annual Accounts 2016/2017

Profit and Loss Account	2017	2016
Income	9,549,914	10,467,128
Expenditure	(9,539,929)	(10,468,638)
Operating Loss	9,985	(1,510)
Interest Receivable and similar income	2,849	12,262
Taxation on ordinary activities	(10,627)	(9,125)
Profit / (Loss) on activities after interest	2,207	1,627



● UK Sport ● Sport England ● Membership, Clubs & Competition

Balance Sheet	2017	2016
Fixed Assets	1,409,801	1,690,406
Current Assets	3,722,937	3,929,189
Current Liabilities	(3,574,106)	(3,978,373)
Long-term Liabilities	(794,604)	(879,401)
Net Assets	764,028	761,821
Profit & Loss Account	641,845	645,196
Other Reserves	122,183	116,625
Capital and Reserves	764,028	761,821

Income	2017	2016
UK Sport	48%	55%
Sport England	27%	28%
Membership, Clubs and Competition	25%	17%

Income from UK Sport and Sport England is used to fund the performance programmes.

The 25% income from membership is spent in the following way.

## Running Costs 2017

Membership Services	11%
Waterway Licences	11%
Insurance	3%
Coaching	19%
Safeguarding	6%
IT and Digital	7%
Finance Charges and Tax	5%
Executive	16%
HR	3%
Discipline Support Grants	3%
Communications and Events	16%

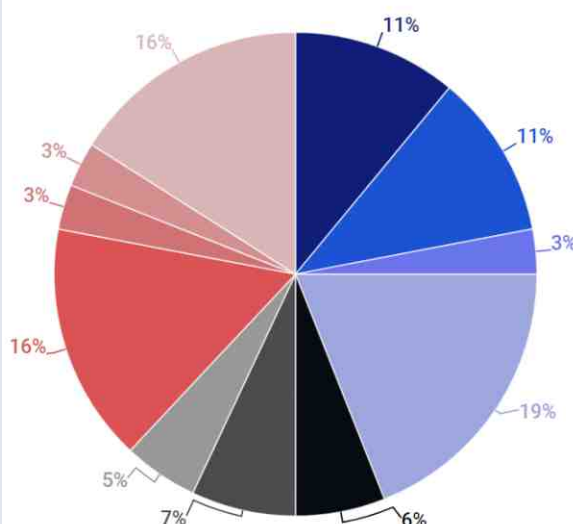


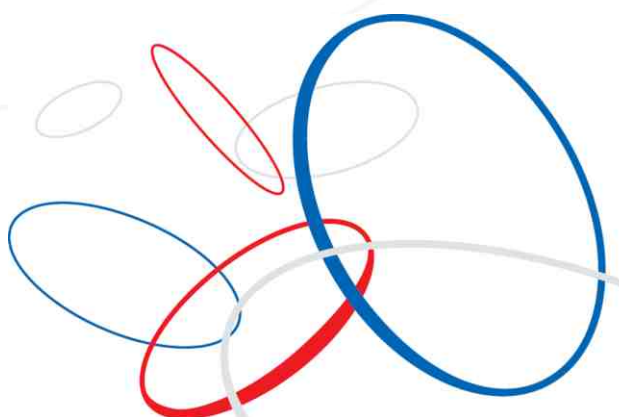
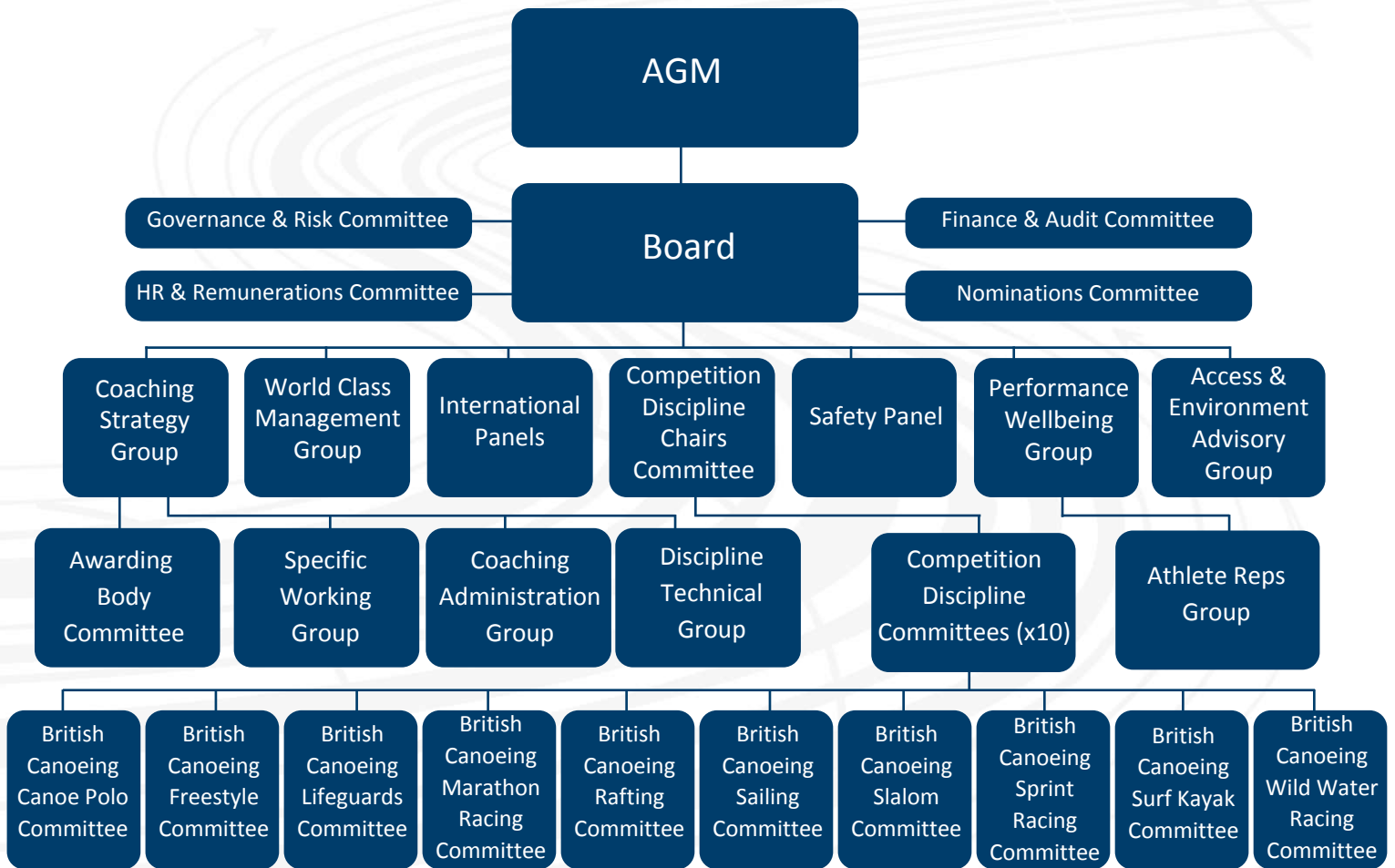


Photo: Peter Holcombe





# Report on the UK Activities of British Canoeing



# British Canoeing Canoe Polo Committee Report

**Name: Rich Potter**

**Position: Secretary**

This year has seen a number of changes for canoe polo, including a new chair of the committee, a restructured national league, and the reintroduction of the youth league, culminating in gold medal success for the U21 men at the European Championships.

## Highlights of 2017:

- European Championship gold for U21 men to add to 2016 World Championship
- Top-to-bottom restructure of National League
- First National Championships held at new Holme Pierrepont national venue

During the ACM last year and backed by the British Canoeing canoe polo committee, a decision was taken to look into the structure of polo competition in the UK with the aim to make it more accessible and cost effective for everyone.



Out of this plan came the decision to base the leagues around a 12 team format which would then split within the season into a top 6 and bottom 6. Those that were in the top half would have a slightly longer distance to travel but both leagues would be more evenly matched in skill level. As teams progress through the leagues they would find themselves with more commitment to travel but the idea is these teams are more committed to the sport.

We faced some challenges with pool time, in the South East a number of pools that have been used in the past are now unavailable. A full audit of pool time is taking place and we are looking at running the lowest leagues in 25 metre pools as more of the 33 metre pools become unavailable.

We will also be hosting our first major international, the ECA European Club Championships, at our new home venue in Nottingham in September 2018.

Our long term plan is to provide a Winter, Summer, and 4s league thus giving people more opportunity to play at both a national and regional level.

We have also been running referee courses and are making it easier for players to get assessed at grade 3 and grade 4 level; it is now possible to be assessed at a club session for these grades. Again the idea is to take the pressure off the National Leagues dates, and give teams the confidence that the officials are appropriate for the level they are playing at.

Our ICF referees continue to impress at an international level, five were selected for the recent ECA European championships: Zoe Anthony, Elan Winter, Mark Thomas, Brian Anderson and Steve Watts. Prospects are looking good for invites to the World Championships in Canada in August 2018.

We will also be hosting our first major international, the ECA European Club Championships, at our new home venue in Nottingham in September 2018. Hopes for home teams at this event will be high after a very successful competitive season for the GB teams. The U21 men and women and senior women all took home ECA medals to add to medals won by all four teams over the European tournament season.



The GB squads' season culminated in a very successful European Championships. The open men finished 8th, whilst both U21 and senior women finished agonisingly one place outside the medals in 4th. The highlight though for the GB squads was the U21 men who won gold to add to their Worlds trophy from 2016.

Sadly, 2017 ended with the canoe polo community losing one of its best known figures in Pete Mitchell, who passed away in October.

Pete made an immeasurable contribution to canoe polo, from its inception in the UK right up until just before his death. He will be missed by the whole UK canoe polo community, and especially those at Viking, and the numerous paddlers whose career he has contributed to over the years.

# British Canoeing Freestyle Committee Report

**Name: Andrew Jackson**

**Position: Chair**

Freestyle in the UK has had a strong year both recreationally and competitively. Excitement about the many developments coming our way has created a positive outlook that has not been so strong for many years.

As we move towards and through the 2018 – 2021 period, development of our strategic goals will drive our promise and deliver an evolved freestyle that really understands what it is and how it should engage varied user groups.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **GB Freestyle wins bid to host 2021 ICF Freestyle World Championships – Freestyle is coming home 30 years after the last time a World Championships was hosted in the UK**
- **Euro/British Open/Club Championships has highest attendance – an amazing 65% up on 2016**
- **GB top of the medal table for the first time ever at the 2017 ICF Freestyle World Championships**
- **GB Athlete Claire O’Hara takes her total of World titles to 10 – already the most successful female athlete of all time, O’Hara continues her dominance with double GOLD in Argentina**

Substantial work on a new four year plan is coming towards the final stages of draft before a presentation and review process over the first months of 2018.

Late in 2016, talks started with British Canoeing about the possibility of bidding for the 2021 ICF Freestyle World Championships. In March 2017 this bid was successful and GB will host the 2021 ICF Freestyle World Championships at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

Events this year have been well received with increased numbers across the board. The approach of running events where multiple activities are on offer has been instrumental in this. The British Championships (Euro Open) and Welsh Open are good examples of this. Both of these were very well attended, with double digit percentage growth at the British Championships.

The success at the ICF World Championships in Argentina exceeded our expectations and the goal talked about as being set for 2021 – ‘to lead the medal tables’ was achieved. Claire O’Hara once again was at the forefront of the British charge with a gold medal on the first day in squirt and a second gold in K1 on the last day of competition.

Claire is by a long stretch our most decorated athlete. It’s easy just to focus on medals as GB won a hatful but across the whole team progress has been made.

Gold Claire O'Hara – Squirt and Senior Ladies, Otilie Robinson Shaw – Junior Ladies.  
Silver Alex Edwards – Squirt, Alex Walters – Junior Men.  
Bronze David Rogers – Squirt, Harry Price – Junior Men.

Congratulations to the athletes, coaching and management teams.



Photo: Peter Holcombe

Structure around our team relies heavily on volunteer efforts and these have been paramount to the achievements our athletes have made. It cannot be over stated just how important the support around our team is, yet we must be mindful that, to allow ongoing success, this will need to be bolstered year on year. Carefully considered resource growth led by our team management will need to be found and, in some instances, financed.

Judging is also an area where GB has been successful with Josh Wedgewood taking over from Peter Harmer as head judge at the 2017 ICF World Championships. GB has provided head judges for the last four World Championships.

In judging then, GB also leads the world. This has an impact on our success as we have access to their knowledge first hand and get to use these world class people in our domestic competition scene which in turn means our athletes are spot on with their performances.

I would like to finish talking about volunteering. To have a real chance of achieving our four year plan (FYP), we need more volunteers. People often say to me 'if you need help with anything let me know' but that relies too heavily on a few people driving the whole thing.

With this FYP we have an opportunity like never before to shape the future of our sport. All you have to do is take a look at the plan and volunteer for something you think you can help with.

For me, volunteering began as a kid and I have realised deeply that there are many things that make it an awesome part of who I am. Whether it is stretching me past my current abilities and offering personal growth or creating a warm glow of satisfaction when I know I have done something good for the world, I have to say volunteering is one of the most rewarding things you can ever do. All you have to do is offer.

# British Canoeing Lifeguards Committee Report

**Name: Martin Suzan**

**Position: Acting Chair**

The Canoe Lifeguards committee has been busy supporting the Swim Event Safety Award (SESA), Aquatic First Aid, including the new AED bolt-on award and developing a new project with Lowland Rescue for Canoe/Kayak Search and Rescue capabilities.

## Highlights of 2017:

- Training and awarding sessions for clubs
- Development work on the updates to Aquatic First Aid Level 2 – 16hr First Aid Award
- Initial development of the Paddlecraft Search Technician Award alongside Lowland Rescue & Mountain Rescue England & Wales
- Assessments for new trainers to deliver the Swim Event Safety Award (SESA) to meet demand

The Canoe Lifeguards committee has been busy in a number of key development areas, outlined above. We are continuing to work and support clubs and organisations that are supporting open water swimming/triathlon activities with training for paddlers in this area.

Our SESA award has formally been recognised by SH2OUT, the water safety partnership between RLSS and British Triathlon.

We've continued to develop and promote the aquatic first aid portfolio of awards, including updates to the Level 2 award (16hr) to make it more suitable for those in the paddlesport environment.

We also launched, towards the end of 2016, an AED/De-Fib module for the AFA courses, which we have continued to support the roll-out of.



In the latter part of 2017, we focussed our attention on a new development project with Lowland Rescue and Mountain Rescue England and Wales, to provide training and expertise to those operating from canoes and kayaks in the search and rescue environment, as part of missing persons search under the emergency services.

This has led to us developing a new award alongside these organisations, titled the Paddlecraft Search Technician Award, which will be piloted and rolled out throughout 2018.

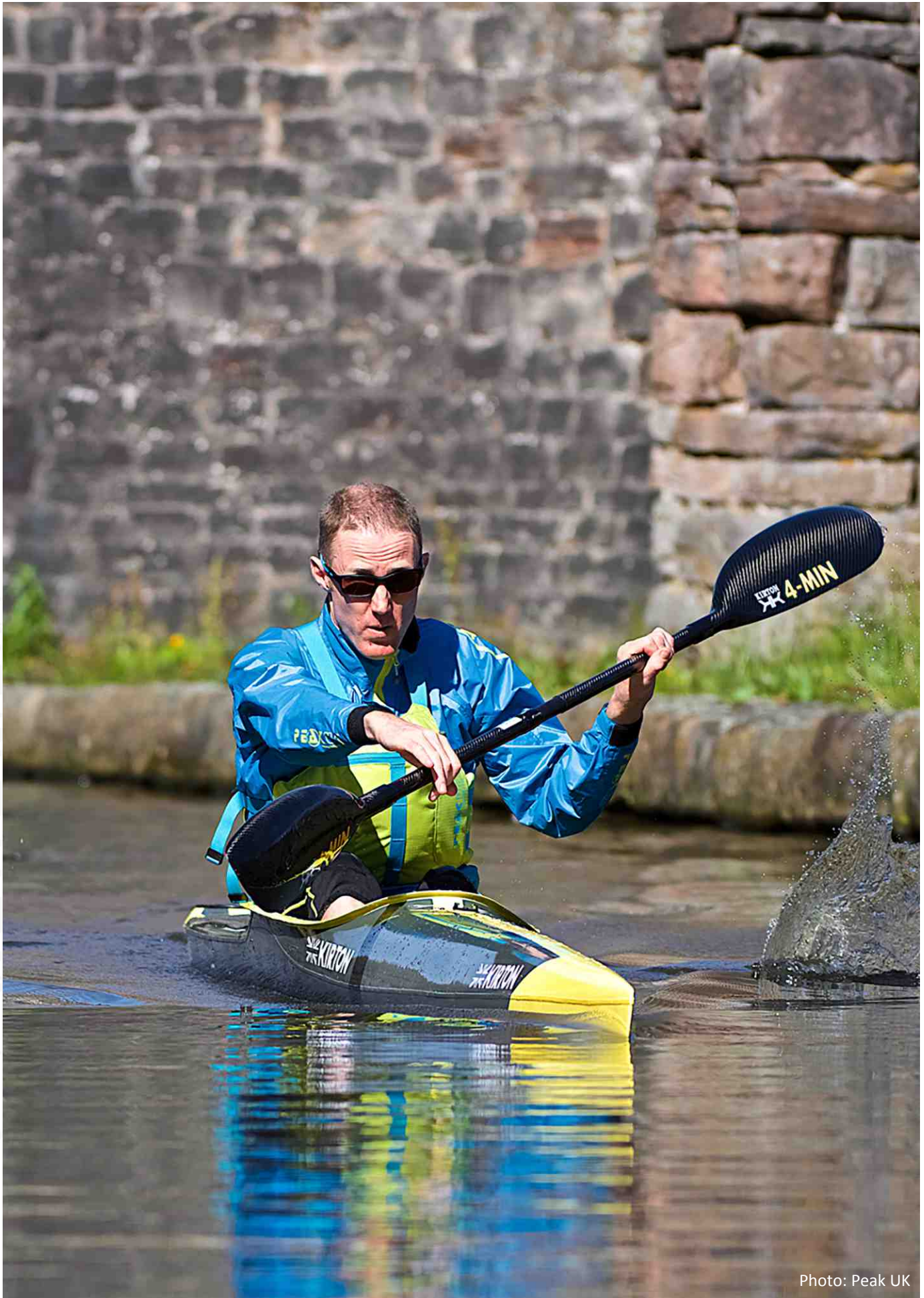


Photo: Peak UK

# British Canoeing Marathon Racing Committee Report

**Name: Stan Missen**

**Position: Chair**

An outstanding year for GB marathon paddling, which has seen growth in participation on the domestic scene and international medals won at all levels, culminating in GB's first World Champion since 2010.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **Lani Belcher World Champion**
- **Juniors win four medals from both Euros and Worlds**
- **Increase in domestic racing numbers**
- **Increase in participation of women**

## Domestic Racing

With a system designed to encourage all levels of competitor from beginner to top class internationals, the British marathon racing structure is the envy of the marathon canoeing world. The MRC relies on a strong club and volunteer structure to administer the discipline and run races. Much gratitude must go to all the racing clubs and regions who make this happen - and in particular to Pangbourne and Richmond Canoe Clubs for hosting the major championships.

Participation in domestic marathon racing continues to grow. A 5% increase in entry numbers for the 2016/17 Hasler season was matched by a similar increase of female entrants, who made up over 30% of the 11,589 entries during the year. The strength across the regions was again evident with six different clubs filling the podiums at the two major home championships.

Pangbourne hosted the National Championships which witnessed a landmark of more entries in the Women's Open K1 than the Men's race, as well as a new name on the trophy, when Lani Belcher beat five-time winner Lizzie Broughton (Richmond). Tim Pendle (Norwich) retained his Men's Open title, ahead of U23 paddlers, Zygy Chmiel (Nottingham) and Magnus Gregory (Longridge). Chmiel and Gregory went on to take the Men's K2 race, whilst Belcher doubled up to win the Women's K2 with club mate and international partner, Hayleigh Mason. The canoe races saw a renaissance of interest following their consolidation into fewer classes, and were dominated by Arthur Leech (Richmond) who won the U18, Open and C2 titles.

Of the 50 participating clubs, 31 made it on the podium at least once. However, for the seventh consecutive year, Norwich were the overall winners, ahead of Nottingham and Wey. Norwich also won the Spanish Galleon for U12 Lightning paddlers, from Poole Harbour and Cambridge, whilst Nottingham were winners of the inaugural National Women's Team Championship.

Richmond hosted the Hasler Finals – the culmination of 59 qualifying races held by clubs around the country. Competition was fierce, and the quality across the clubs evident as paddlers from 13 clubs won the 18 races, and 20 clubs were represented on the podium.



Chelmsford's dominance of the top K2 classes secured them the overall title for the third year in a row, ahead of Royal (their first Hasler Finals in 40 years) and hosts Richmond in third.

The Geoff Sanders trophy for U12 Lightning paddlers was equally hotly contested alongside the Hasler series and special recognition given to Glasgow CC for bringing a team all the way to Richmond to ensure overall victory.

## International Racing

Lani Belcher's World Championship title was the pinnacle of an outstanding year of international and domestic racing. Winning GB's first World Championship title since 2010, the Nottingham paddler also took the World K2 bronze with clubmate Hayleigh Mason, and K1 silver at the European Championships.



The performances from younger team members augur well for future titles. Charlie Smith (Leighton Buzzard) won World and European silver medals in JMK1 and Alex Lane (Longridge) took both bronze medals in U23 WK1. The JWK2 pair of Emma Russell (Chelmsford) and Freya Peters (Richmond) also won double bronze aged just 16, whilst Zygy Chmiel (Nottingham) won European silver in U23 MK1.

Paddlers from 17 different clubs were chosen to race overseas this year and won medals at every event demonstrating the wealth of talent and potential across the country. The World Cup saw another junior, Georgia Carmichel (Longridge) win double gold and Joe Petersen (Banbury) silver and bronze. The development teams also impressed, with multiple medals at the German National Championships and the Gent International, whilst the women's K4 were second overall in Spain.

Supporting athlete development, training days were held for the extended marathon squad, together with regional days for juniors and, as part of the commitment to increase female involvement, a Ladies' Only Day. In addition to the marathon-length assessment races, two 5km races were held at the May and June sprint regattas, in conjunction with the sprint racing committee, which helped athletes contesting both disciplines to take part.

# British Canoeing Rafting Committee Report

**Name: Malcolm Ferris-Lay**

**Position: Chair**

The year saw an increased participation rate for raft racing including more teams and clubs actively meeting and training. Fierce competition at international competitions proved the strengths of GB teams across all categories with 20 medals brought home.

## Highlights of 2017:

- Seven teams selected to represent Great Britain at the International Rafting Federation (IRF) European and World Rafting Championships
- 13 medals at the IRF World Rafting Championship in Miyoshi, Japan (2 gold, 2 silver, 9 bronze)
- Seven medals at the IRF European Rafting Championship in Borjomi, Georgia (1 gold, 5 silver, 1 bronze)
- One third increase in numbers of formal teams training and competing across the UK, increased numbers of participation across events and regular training sessions

## Alignment to British Canoeing

The 2016 AGM agreed for British Rafting to align more closely to British Canoeing. Much work was undertaken to review and align policies, create and adopt a constitution to fall within British Canoeing remit and alignment to the International Rafting Federation.

The 2017 AGM unanimously voted to accept the constitution and alignment to British Canoeing.

The Committee has successfully delivered selection policies, events and media and marketing campaigns with the assistance of British Canoeing specialist resources.

## IRF Championships

The national selection event, held at Holme Pierrepont in March, saw thirteen teams across gender and age categories compete for the right to represent Great Britain at the International Rafting Federation (IRF) European and World Rafting Championships. Seven teams were selected.



## Increased participation

Investment from British Canoeing for the purchase of four new rafts has meant an ability to allocate rafts to more teams across the UK. There has been an increase in enquiries from clubs and centres in running raft race training and sessions.

Each event in 2017 saw an increase in the number of teams participating most notably in the Under 19 and Under 23 categories. We were able to run have-a-go rafting sessions at the British Open in September and have agreed to run these at all future events.



## Focus areas for 2018

- Increased participation across all gender and age categories. An International Women's Day raft race will be held in March at Lee Valley White Water Centre to promote women in paddlesports.
- Further work on engaging clubs around the UK to develop raft racing.
- Development of a star awards syllabus for raft racing is due for launch in 2019.
- Delivery of more have-a-go rafting sessions at each of our events to be able to introduce newcomers to team paddlesports.



# British Canoeing Sailing Committee Report

**Name: Steve Clarke**

**Position: Chair**

International Canoe (IC) sailing is one of the oldest established water sports organisations in the world representing highly competitive, lightweight and very fast sailing dinghies using the latest carbon fibre materials and yet tracing their roots back to the narrow and long hull shapes of paddling canoes.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **2017 World Championships held in Pwllheli, Wales**
- **British podium positions Gold and Bronze**
- **World Champion, Robin Wood from South Wales in a British designed and built boat**
- **New York Challenge Trophy dating back to 1860s won by the British Team**

Any British canoe sailor who had the misfortune to be inactive from his/her sport in the last two years deserves sympathy as he/she has missed out on what can only be described as an extraordinary period of canoe sailing culminating in the 2017 World Championships at Pwllheli, North Wales from which a new World Champion, Robin Wood (GBR329) claimed a well-earned victory.

International Canoe sailing has moved into a new era where the new measurement rule, introduced in 2009, has enabled designers and builders to take advantage of modern materials to create much lighter, narrower and faster canoes than in previous eras. The class has still managed to find ways of attracting canoes to compete from previous eras and in fact there is an active project underway to help newcomers into canoe sailing through an easy built, one-design canoe.

At the World Championships in Pwllheli, craft from six nations competed in a closely fought championships. Although a previous World Champion, Chris Maas from Seattle, USA, sailing his own design and home built IC, a beautiful creation, was much fancied to win the championships, it was Robin Wood from Newport, South Wales who once again demonstrated his mastery of canoe sailing.

Robin had won three previous World Championships, his first win being in 1987. Robin's canoe, designed by the famous dinghy designer Phil Morrison with his usual preparation, dedication and practice behind him in the run to the Worlds, Robin restated his dominance of the class.



The Championships attracted sponsorship from Hytera Communications who were particularly interested in being associated with this, the oldest small boat racing class in the world as well as the prestigious New York Canoe Club International Challenge Trophy, a team race sailed between the top two canoe sailing nations, usually at a World Championships.

In 2017, the USA was defending the trophy against a strong challenge from the UK. The trophy is decided in the best of three races sailed on one day during the championships. Gareth Caldwell, Robin Wood and Alistair Warren sailing for the UK showed superb form to win the trophy back for the UK, the first successful challenge by the UK since 2005.

The defenders, Chris Maas, Willy Clarke and Todd Twigg had their moments during the racing with Chris Maas having great boat speed but it was Gareth Caldwell who had the edge on everyone in the choppy conditions prevailing throughout the racing.



Fifty eight canoes competed in the World Championships. There were divisions for the previous one design rule canoes, canoes with asymmetric spinnakers, classics and even for German National Canoes; a true canoe sailing spectacular. The oldest canoe was built in 1967 and completed every race.

Whilst the focus in 2017 was obviously on the World Championships, a National Championships was staged early in the year at Weymouth also won by Robin Wood. Various open events took place around the country starting in April and running through to October.

World Championships are held once every three years which give canoe sailors the opportunity to plan, have built or build their own canoes, tune and race to a standard necessary to compete at the highest level at that all important World Championship, the next one being in Australia. The Europa Cup is held in non-World Championship years and canoe sailors are looking forward to Berlin in 2018 and Bordeaux in 2019.

With two professional builders in the UK and plenty of very capable amateur designers/builders, canoe sailing is enjoying good times.

# British Canoeing Slalom Committee Report

**Name: David Spencer**

**Position: Chair**

2017 has been another rewarding year for canoe slalom in delivering a strong domestic programme, supporting athletes of all ages and abilities and enjoying success in International competitions.

## Highlights of 2017:

- Extensive range of slalom competitions providing a standard of racing for all ages and abilities and supported by many dedicated volunteers
- Continued progress in developing young athletes and securing success in international competitions across all age ranges
- Continued success at all levels in International Competitions, from World Championship through ECA Junior Cups

## Domestic Competition

The domestic racing programme continues to support racing opportunities across the board:

More than 70 competitions provide standards of races for novice paddlers in Division 4, through to World Class athletes at the top of the Premier Division.

Competitions take place across the country, from Aberdeen to Dartmoor and from Kent to West Wales. Competitors are from all parts of the United Kingdom.

The British Open, as part of the British Canoeing Super September Series, attracted some 230 competitors including international entries and showcasing other disciplines, freestyle, rafting and extreme slalom.

Nearly 1,400 athletes were ranked, posting over 10,000 individual competition entries during the 2017 season. With a further 500 trying slalom at the beginner level. Athletes vary from those under 6 to those in their seventies.

2017 saw the successful introduction of an online entry system, supporting some 27 competitions and over 2,500 race entries. This is expected to be further used in 2018.

## Athlete Development

The talent programmes in each home nation continue to prepare young paddlers for racing at domestic and international competitions:

England Club Partnership Programme launched with the aim of established joint-funded coaching roles in canoe clubs.



More than 80 British junior athletes competed abroad at ECA Junior Cup races.

For the first time, a full representative team was selected for the Junior World Championships in Germany demonstrating the rising standard amongst our junior athletes.

### **Volunteers and Officials**

The comprehensive programme of competitions could not take place without the dedication and enthusiasm of many volunteers:

Club members throughout the country have again freely given many days to support and run the domestic slalom calendar. Without these volunteers the discipline would be much poorer.

Many of the British competition volunteers are also qualified ICF International Officials and have been selected to officiate at major European and World Championship competitions throughout the year.

### **International Competition**

GB continues to enjoy success in international competitions in all age classes; junior, under 23 and senior:

Significant achievements in Junior Europeans and Junior Worlds with more athletes progressing to finals.

Senior and Under 23 athletes have secured medal success at World Cups and World and European Championships.

At the Senior World Championships in Pau, France, Mallory Franklin was crowned World Champion in the Canadian (C1) women's event and became Britain's first female World Champion since Lynn Simpson in 1995.



# British Canoeing Sprint Racing Committee Report

**Name: Alan Laws**

**Position: Chair**

2017 has been a year of considerable change within Canoe Sprint, both internationally and within British Canoeing. The alterations to the Olympic programme have created new opportunities with the inclusion of women's canoe and the switch from MK4 1000m to MK500m, but this has been at the expense of MK2 200m, in which Great Britain has excelled over the last two Olympic cycles.

The impact of these changes is already evident with a noticeable increase in quality and size of fields in the new Olympic events, particularly at senior International competitions.

There have also been substantial changes within our international teams, with a number of athletes and staff retiring and others leaving, having represented Great Britain and British Canoeing over many years. These include 2012 Olympic Champion Ed McKeever and two times Olympian Louisa Gurski along with John Anderson, Alan Williams, Trevor Hunter, Alex Nikonorov and Miklos Simon. Our thanks go to them all for the significant contribution they have made to our sport.



Throughout this period of change our athletes have continued to progress and build on our 2016 Olympic, U23 & Junior successes, winning medals, achieving 'A' finals and personal best performances in every international competition we have attended.

At the World Championships, Liam Heath proved he is still on top of the world, taking gold in the men's K1 200m to claim a canoe sprint 'Grand Slam' winning Olympic, European and World titles. The K4 women's squad reached the 'A' final in the K4 500m. Congratulations must go to Rachel Cawthorn (K1 1000m bronze), Hannah Brown and Angela Hannah (K2 200m bronze) and Lani Belcher (5K bronze).

Our Junior & U23 teams have also enjoyed success. The highlight was Ieuan James becoming a European and World Junior Champion in the K1 200m, the first British canoe sprint athlete to win a world junior title since Tim Brabants and Paul Darby-Dowman 22 years ago.

We also sent representative teams to the Piestany International Regatta, the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) in Gyor and also to the Olympic Hopes International Regatta. In particular the EYOF provided a valuable multi-sport games experience for six U16 athletes with a mix of competition and educational activities.

Our athletes acquitted themselves well on and off the water, the highlight being a bronze medal in the mixed K2 200m (Enya Dale, Zoe Clark, Ed Nightingale, Alex Greaves) and Enya Dale winning a bronze in her individual K1 200m event.

In total, 29 clubs have been represented across our international championship teams this year. The support received by the athletes from many coaches, parents and helpers from the clubs deserves note and appreciation.



UK Sport continues to provide the majority of funding for our international teams along with the Home Nation Sports Councils who provide some support to our development teams to supplement athlete contributions.

In addition, the Sprint Racing Committee provided funding to support a number of athletes to compete in non-Olympic events and men's canoe events at Senior World Cups and Championships, events that cannot be supported by UK Sport lottery funding.

## Paracanoe

2017 has been very much a build year with the established athletes taking a step back to focus on elements of their performance that will make them more resilient athletes through the remainder of the four year cycle. At the same time we are working to recruit new athletes to strengthen the squad for both 2020 and beyond. We still need more athletes and it is possible that there are athletes already in the system/clubs that would classify in paracanoe.

The British paracanoe team remained top of the medal table at the European Championships with seven medals. Six out of the seven medals were in current Paralympic events with the other medal coming in the VL3 men's event.

At the World Championships, Great Britain won the most medals again with six, with Australia closest behind with four medals. In the current six Paralympic events we won two gold, a silver and a bronze medal despite not contesting in two of the events, KL3 Women due to Anne Dickins' retirement and Nick Beighton KL2 who stayed at home due to the imminent arrival of his second child.

Special mention needs to go to Jeanette Chippington and Emma Wiggs who both now hold the grand slam of Paralympic, World and European Champions and also to Jonny Young who won gold in VL3 men and bronze in KL3 men events.



## Home Regattas

The quality of the GB team owes much to the support received from UK Sport and the British Canoeing performance department staff. However, without the home competition the pyramid of development would not occur. The five National Regattas held at Holme Pierpont show just how regattas should be run to ensure that all paddlers of a reasonable standard may enjoy the benefits of competition.

These regattas do not organise themselves and are the result of immense hard work from the dedicated volunteers. The end result comes from the small Regatta Committee headed by John Hoile.

The SRC has created its development plan for the next four years and is now working towards its implementation. To ensure that GB continues its upward trend internationally there is a pressing need for more club and regional regattas and this forms the main thrust of the committee work.

# British Canoeing Wild Water Racing Committee Report

**Name: Peter Schofield**

**Position: Chair**

It has been another excellent year for Wild Water Racing (WWR) with Hannah Brown's bronze medal at the joint Slalom and Wild Water World Championships in Pau, France. World-class performances from all our younger up-and-coming athletes gives real confidence for the future. Pau was a great showcase for our sport and WWR has been invited to take part in the 2019 Olympic demonstration event in Tokyo.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **Hannah Brown's World Championships bronze medal with Jon Schofield and Rachel Houston's sixth places against the fiercest competition**
- **The Junior and U23 team's performance and Calum Gingell's 8th place at the World Championships in Murau, Austria**
- **Scotland's executive committee has continued to expand WWR**
- **Strong regional race series across England, Scotland and Wales. The Barrow, Burrs, Matlock and Southern race series continue to attract significant support**
- **Banbury Canoe Club won the Wavehopper Club Team Championships**

Scotland's WWR executive committee has continued to expand with the Scottish Championships at Tully this February.

We will be running the Club Wavehopper Championships at the Nene this March and the WWR GB Open at Holme Pierrepont in September as part of British Canoeing's festival of paddlesport. The ACM will be back in Hexham this autumn as part of the WWR Tour of the North Series on the North Tyne and North Tees.

Developing performance and participation remain our major aims. Making our competitions accessible, family friendly and welcoming to all remains the key area we continue to work on.

## Improve Pathways to Performance and International Success

This year we have the World Championships Classic and Sprint event at Muota/Muotathal, Switzerland at the end of May and the World Cup races at Celje, Slovenia and Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina in June. The Junior/U23 European Championships will be in Skopje, Macedonia at the beginning of August.

Fielding a larger GB Team at World Championships and World Cups with competitors in all canoeing and kayak categories shows our long-term intent to continue supporting international competition.

## 2017 Senior World Championships

Hannah Brown claimed the bronze medal for Great Britain at the ICF World Wild Water Championships. Hannah produced a storming run in a time of 52:37 seconds but the French duo of Claire Bren and Manon Hostens, paddling in front of their home crowd, denied Hannah of her third World title, just 0.64 seconds off the winner.

## 2017 Junior and Under 23 World Championships

The Wild Water Junior and U23 World Championships took place in the picturesque Austrian town of Murau, Austria. The British team had a great time at an outstanding competition. In the Sprint racing, Calum Gingell put in an extremely strong performance finishing in eighth place.

We had equally tight racing in the Ladies U23 C1, with Rachel Houston only just missing out on a bronze medal. Rachel did really well, learning from the huge challenge the team had with water levels rising from 25 Cumecs to 145 Cumecs between the Friday and Monday with huge trees being washed down the course - dropping back to around 55-45 Cumecs during the event as the river gradually returned to normal!

In the team events everyone delivered creditable performances - with lots of room for thought about how to improve for next year.



## Provide Excellent Competitions

Our objective is to encourage participation in top level competition and to encourage people into the sport by offering exciting, challenging regional wild water competitions and introductory events.

All our races now have classes for just about every age and boat possible, helping us to promote the fun of the sport at all levels and helping those in more stable boats aspire to progress to wild water racing boats, so please come along and try it out.

There are WWR regional series races with opportunities to try out WWR now across most of the UK. We have continued with Matlock and series in the Midlands with great success providing excellent progression from the Barrow series as paddlers become more confident.

The Barrow, Burrs, Matlock and Southern race series continue to attract significant support from people many miles away which is excellent to see.

Next year's Wavehopper Club Championships will be at Holme Pierrepont, so please mark for your calendars now!

# Coaching Strategy Group Report

The Coaching Strategy Group is responsible for ensuring that the British Canoeing coaching system meets the needs of members.

It does so by determining and being responsible for the strategy of British Canoeing coaching activities in the UK, managing external relationships on coaching matters and reporting to the British Canoeing Board in relation to these activities and matters.

## Composition of the Coaching Strategy Group:

Chairman	David Joy
Head of Coaching and Qualifications	Lee Pooley
Canoe Association of Northern Ireland	Peter Mulhall
British Canoeing (English Coaching)	Alex Shiell
Canoe Wales	Jen Browning
Scottish Canoe Association	Doug Cooper
British Canoeing Director of Performance	Paul Ratcliffe
British Canoeing Head of Strategy and Development	Guin Batten

Both the four year coaching plan and coaching committee structure were approved by the British Canoeing Board on 24th September.

The coaching plan was circulated to home nation coaching managers as well as discipline and technical chairs for distribution. The full coaching committee structure and terms of reference can be found on the British Canoeing website.

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about/governance/coaching-strategy-group/>

## Awarding Body

New policies and procedures were produced over Autumn to ensure greater clarity in compliance processes. The Awarding Body received confirmation in September 2017 of its compliance with the regulators Ofqual, CEAA and Qualification Wales.

## English Coaching Management Committee (ECMC)

During 2017 the ECMC worked to revitalise and refocus the roles of Regional Coaching Reps (RCRs) and Area Coaching Reps (ACRs).

The coaching department started to provide improved training opportunities to ACRs and RCRs to be able to better support Coaching Matters events.

ECMC has achieved 87% satisfaction from delegates attending Coaching Matters events (target for 2017 75%).

## Personal Performance Awards

The Personal Performance Awards review began in 2017. The model and principles were presented for consultation on 8th September 2017 with the survey closed on 17th November 2017.

Analysis of the quantitative and qualitative feedback received showed support for the principles. The working group has met and formulated a plan. It will provide guidance to specific working parties.

Content will be worked on throughout 2018 with an aim to announce awards in the summer and a launch in January 2019.

## Coach Award

In 2017, over 275 Home Nation provider applications were submitted for the Coach Award. Orientation events commenced throughout the UK towards the end of the year.

Home Nation	Applications Received
British Canoeing (England)	165
SCA	54
Canoe Wales	47
CANI	10

New providers were recruited. There was also an increase in female providers applying and being able to deliver the Coach Award across the UK.

New Providers	81
Female Providers	33

## Digital and eLearning

eLearning grew in popularity and was made available via the British Canoeing website.

Free eLearning	Accessed
Hydration and Nutrition	846
Introduction to disability	2120
Paddlesport Leader	1788
Buoyage (launched 20 Nov 17)	6500

## Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP)

The coaching department formed a SUP technical panel through an open and transparent application process during the summer.

The department received over 40 applications from a diverse group of interested individuals.

The SUP technical panel will provide assistance in the development and inclusion of SUP within British Canoeing Coaching and Qualifications.

# World Class Management Group Report

The World Class Management Group is a working group that advises on matters connected with the World Class Programme.

## Members of the World Class Management Group:

Performance Director	Paul Ratcliffe
Head of Performance Operations	Andy Maddock
Chair	Albert Woods
Sprint Committee Chair	Alan Laws
Slalom Committee Chair	Dave Spencer
Paracanoe Head Coach	Scott Simon
Chief Executive	David Joy
UK Sport Performance Advisor	Andy McSweeney

Items discussed this year have been the future of the group and its purpose, the season's reflection, the season's results, the Olympic and Paralympic programme, performance wellbeing, safeguarding, Olympic and Paralympic qualification strategy and the Tokyo Delivery Plan.

The report outlines the main areas of delivery for the World Class Performance Programme for the first Year of the Tokyo cycle.

## International Success

Liam Heath, Jeanette Chippington and Emma Wiggs completed the 'Grand Slam' in 2017, winning gold in the Olympic/Paralympic Games, European Championships and World Championships in a single year. Liam also recorded a world best time in K1 200m at the European Championships in July.

In sprint, Ieuan James had a very successful season becoming both European and World Junior Champion in the K1 200m. This was Great Britain's first Junior World title for 22 years and a significant achievement for the 18 year old athlete.

Six young female athletes were invited to join the 2 year Girls4Gold programme now named 'Discover Your Power' which will focus solely on developing canoe sprint athletes to compete at the Olympics in 2024 and beyond. The successful athletes are aged 17-21 and have transitioned from various sports including power lifting, taekwondo and skiing.

Paracanoe demonstrated that they continue to be a strong force on the world stage in their build year of the Tokyo cycle and won seven medals at both the European and World Championships. The international field in paracanoe is becoming stronger as programmes start to mature and we will now be looking, as a team, to find those smaller margins to improve our training philosophies moving into year 2.

With the recent announcement of three new events for Tokyo in Va'a, we will also focus on enhancing our medal winning capability for Tokyo through the mission review with UK Sport. Paracanoe achieved its stretch target of 3 world championship medals with UK Sport for year 1 of the cycle and is on track for Tokyo.

In slalom, we continued to see strong performances across all age groups. Kimberley Woods won the first medal of the year in C1W with a gold at the Senior European Championships. Mallory Franklin then became U23 World Champion in Bratislava in the C1W whilst Kimberley also took the Bronze medal in the same event. As a collective on a very challenging white water course, we had one of the best U18 and U23 World Championships that British Canoeing has had since lottery funding was introduced in 1997.

The season for the slalom programme culminated at the World Championships in Pau, France. We were extremely proud of the way that the new team of staff have embedded into the programme for year 1 of the cycle and how well this support is now being seen by our athletes. We came away from the Championships ranked third in the world with our first ever World Champion in the Canoe Women's event- Mallory Franklin.

The C1 women also won the overall title for the best C1 women's nation and this included becoming World Champions in the team event.

In the K1 men's event, Joe Clarke demonstrated a return to form in his build year following the Olympic Games with an excellent 6th place.

### **Performance Environment**

The need for continuous improvements at both our High Performance Centres in Lee Valley and Holme Pierrepont were identified in our Tokyo Performance Plan to develop the elite training environments on and off the water with a culture for our athletes to thrive in. Substantial work has been undertaken to keep developing these centres with UK Sport and Sport England.

We have also reviewed the decision with our funding partners to be able to retain Dorney as a key southern hub for sprint and paracanoe across the pathway.

### **Staffing**

John Anderson retired from his position as Performance Director with Paul Ratcliffe appointed as his successor to lead the World Class Programme into Tokyo and beyond.

Mark Ratcliffe was appointed the new Slalom Head Coach with Fieke Reijntjes supporting him as the Slalom Logistics Manager.

The Sprint programme has undergone a significant leadership structure change so that all three of our programmes were aligned with a Head Coach and technical expert to lead our athletes and staff towards our Tokyo ambitions and beyond. Rene Olsen was appointed to the role Sprint Head Coach in September and Justine Willmott took on a role to support Rene and the team as Sprint Team manager.

We also recruited a new Paracanoe Head Coach in Scott Simon to lead the Paracanoe programme, with Steve Train supporting the Paracanoe programme as Operational Lead and Colin Radmore as Senior Coach.

Mark Hoile and Richard Ramsdale were appointed as the new Talent Pathway Managers for sprint and slalom respectively at the start of the year. As part of our England Talent Strategy we have started to work on establishing a partnership programme with our clubs in sprint and slalom that will start to be implemented in 2018.

This represents a strong change of focus towards a club centred approach to early talent development.

As we enter year 2 of the cycle, we now we have a strong, motivated team of athletes and staff to best deliver against our Tokyo objectives.

## **Culture Health Check**

The Culture Health Check is a survey conducted independently via UK Sport that went out to athletes, staff and stakeholders across the three World Class Programmes.

The purpose was to ascertain the thoughts, feelings and behaviours of staff, athletes and stakeholders within the UK Sport funded sports. The findings hope to shine a light holistically across sports but also offer individual sports detailed feedback to deliver valuable insights that can drive change, improvement as well as reward.

Our culture health check results varied across the three programmes, offering vast amounts of positive insights along with a few areas of concern that can be improved upon. The findings have been fed back to Board, Performance Wellbeing Group and all three programmes and an action plan developed.

Focus groups and feedback sessions have been conducted and are continuing to be developed to shine a light on any issues in order to develop processes to improve into a world leading culture through the next twelve months when the survey is repeated.

Extensive work across the whole of the governing body is being undertaken to re-focus on vision, values and culture. Bespoke work is taking place over the first quarter of 2018 within the World Class Programme specifically around a refocus on these, using the Culture Health Check as a springboard.

## **UK Sport Mission Review**

All programme reviews concluded with a comprehensive Mission Review with UK Sport on the 17th November 2017. The outcomes of this are now being finalised by UK Sport and we await final feedback in line with the 18 elements that we are assessed against as a World Class Programme.

All athlete and performance reviews for sprint, slalom and paracanoe were conducted through the autumn period and reported via our mission review with UK Sport. All athletes had individual review programme review meetings which included programme leads, coaches and anyone else that athletes wished to have involved in the meeting.

All athletes were given notification of programme recommendations and all those that unfortunately didn't achieve the performances needed were given a new three months' notice period for exiting the programme. As part of the exit from the programme, every athlete had continuity of support by a performance coach, full access to the HPC training environment, performance lifestyle support for up to six months and performance wellbeing support through to the end of selection 2018.

The World Class Programme achieved the UK Sport milestone targets for year 1 in canoe sprint, canoe slalom and paracanoe and as we commence year two of the Tokyo Cycle, the programme is in a strong position to continuously improve towards achieving our Tokyo objectives.



# Performance Wellbeing Group Report

The Performance Wellbeing Group is fully established and has had three meetings since August 2017.

The new performance wellbeing coach, Zofia Campbell started in September 2017. She has integrated very well into the performance team, prioritising the building of positive relationships with staff and athletes. Zofia has developed numerous areas against our wellbeing strategy that has set out with the vision of creating an environment where athletes and staff can thrive.

These areas to date include; the development of new policies and procedures, a wellbeing awareness campaign with presentations to performance staff, athletes and parents and forming an athlete representation group.

A performance wellbeing page on the British Canoeing website has been set up that links to all relevant policies and a short video with Etienne Stott (Olympic gold medallist and group member), describing the performance wellbeing philosophy.

Zofia has completed in-depth training sessions at Holme Pierrepont and Lee Valley for all coaches and these have covered a range of topics including safeguarding, risk assessments and the use of social media.

The safeguarding policy is now in place relating to a welfare point of contact for all trips. The coaches have been trained in the requirements and responsibilities of this important role. An infographic with the main information can be found on the performance wellbeing web page.

Safeguarding is also covered as part of the staff induction checklists and 'Time to Listen' courses were delivered at Holme Pierrepont and Lee Valley centres to coaches and other support staff including English Institute Sport practitioners.

Risk assessment requirements for trips that were covered in the training sessions have been followed up with a trip organisation checklist that also includes guidelines relating to non-British Canoeing staff. The athlete and parent/carer codes of conduct have been further developed.

The selection policies for sprint, slalom and paracanoe have undertaken a comprehensive review through 2017 which included full consultation amongst athletes, staff and the community. These were then published in December 2017 in preparation for the 2018 season.

More avenues for our athletes to be able to have a better voice within the programme have been created and one of these is via the British Athletes Commission representative roles. Six programme athletes have volunteered to take on the role.

## Members of the Performance Wellbeing Group:

Head of Performance Coaching	Mike Chandler
Head of Performance Operations	Andy Maddock
Performance Psychologist - Sprint	Alex Feary
Performance Psychologist - Slalom	Danielle Adams
Independent	Stuart Jolly
Ex-athlete	Etienne Stott
Head of Governance and Compliance	Urvasi Naidoo
Performance Lifestyle	Emma Groome
Performance Director	Paul Ratcliffe
Canoe Slalom Talent Pathway Manager	Richard Ramsdale
Athlete	Deborah Kerr
Athlete	Hannah Brown
Independent	Teresa Gregory
British Athlete Commission	Caitlin McClatchey
Ex-athlete	Tim Lodge
Lead Psychologist - Paracanoe	Jonathan Smith
Canoe Sprint Talent Pathway Manager	Mark Hoile
Athlete	Jon Schofield
Performance Wellbeing Coach	Zofia Campbell

# British Canoeing Safety Panel Report

In May 2017, a UK wide British Canoeing Safety Panel was established to manage safety and improve information and guidance. This approach aims to manage risk across the sport and to also work in partnership with organisations and agencies who share the sport's safety objectives.

## Incident Reporting

In January 2017, a new online incident reporting system was introduced. It is set up to receive reports across all incidents including access, other water users, environmental issues, as well as accidents and injuries.

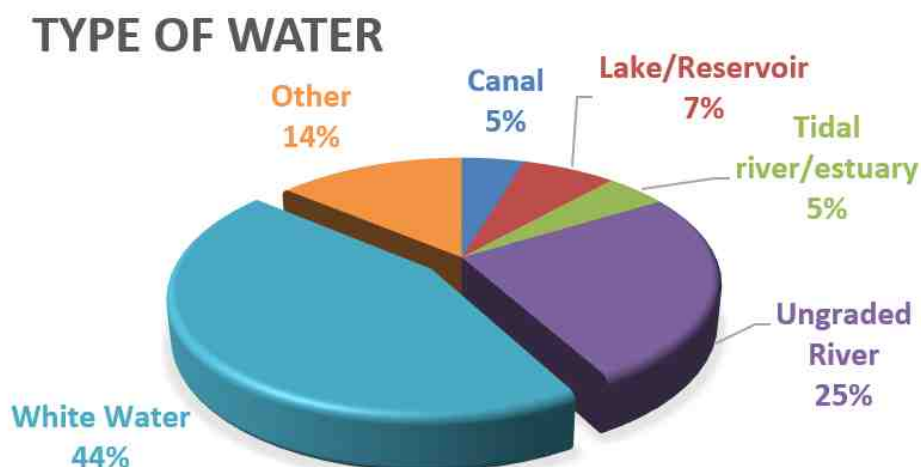
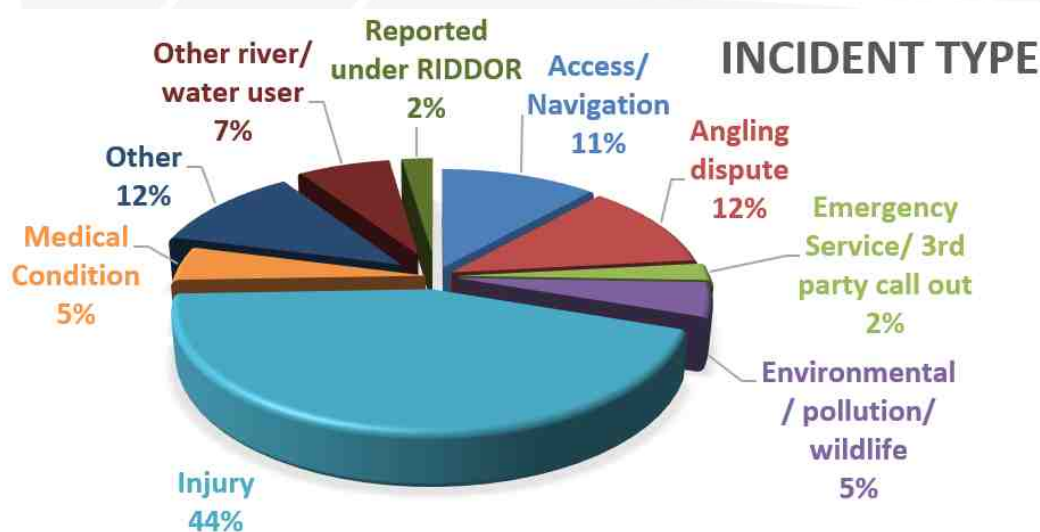
The aim is to establish better information on what is happening on the ground so British Canoeing is better placed to support and issue guidance.

Only 42 incidents have been reported in 2017. This is low when compared to other governing bodies where there is an established culture of reporting incidents.

Of these incidents, 74 were reported by clubs and the remaining 26 shared between commercial providers, armed forces and independent paddlers.

The promotion of the reporting system is ongoing to all canoeists. The incident reporting system can be found on <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/go-canoeing/incident-reporting/>

A breakdown of the reported incidents in 2017 is below.



## Insurance Claims

2017 has seen very few claims:

March	Damage to swimming pool roof. Polo game	£14,000
April	Damaged boat	£1,750

Further information on British Canoeing insurance can be found on <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/membership/benefits/insurance-towergate/>

## Event Safety Management

The event safety management system was initiated three years ago to ensure there were trained safety officers overseeing the safety arrangements for British Canoeing events. After the initial burst of training 2016, saw a fall in demand. However, by working with regional teams and clubs there has been a significant revival in training take up. Courses to date have been:

Month	Location	No. attending
June	Leeds	12
September	Stockton-on Tees	12
September	Leighton Buzzard	15
October	Calshot, Hampshire	24
	Northern Ireland	10
	Scotland. Three courses were run	22

British Canoeing is looking to build on the successful model of working with clubs, centres and regions to run more local courses. The possibility of creating an eLearning package for event safety management will be explored in 2018.

## Projects/Initiatives

A closer working relationship with the **RNLI** has been initiated, focussing on information exchange and the production of jointly branded and distributed sea kayaking information. New guidance and information is currently in final draft form and due to be launched early in 2018.

Joint working with the **Environment Agency** has been developed further. Notable actions this year have been:

- British Canoeing/Environment Agency co-training on public safety risk assessment
- Consultation with British Canoeing on new designs and modifications to weirs to enhance the canoeing value of those weirs and improve safety

A joint publication was produced with **British Rowing** called 'Share the Space' which identified best and safe practice where water is used by both sports.

There is joint working and representation on national review boards and rescue agencies. Information and data is held centrally by **RoSPA** on all UK water based incidents. This data is important in informing wider decisions and actions regarding water safety.

Working with our partners at the Construction Industry Research and Information Association, new guidance on weir safety has been produced.

# Access and Environment Advisory Group Report

In 2017 the Waterways and Environment Operations Group was replaced with a new advisory group.

The new Access and Environment Advisory Group was reformed to include a fresh approach to consultation between British Canoeing and independent and passionate volunteers who want to see more people actively using waterways in a responsible and sustainable manner.

The new Access and Environment Advisory Group has met three times throughout 2017 in Nottingham, Birmingham and Bristol.

Membership of the new group has been drawn from staff and volunteers who are involved in a range of access and environmental work, covering both England and Wales.

## Access and Environment Group membership:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Richard Atkinson (Chair) | Waterways and Environment Policy Officer, British Canoeing |
| • Ben Seal                 | Places to Paddle Manager British Canoeing                  |
| • Steve Rayner             | Access Officer, Canoe Wales                                |
| • Keith Day                | River Access For All (RAFA)                                |
| • Pam Bell                 | Waters of Wales  |
| • Douglas Caffyn           | Independent  |
| • Bruce Buckland           | Independent  |
| • Brevan Miles             | Independent  |

Regional Waterway Advisors (RWA) will also contribute to discussions within the group, providing local knowledge and expertise. Individual RWAs may change depending on the meeting agenda.

## Purpose of the group

- Support the four year British Canoeing strategic plan for future policies and patterns of work
- Be responsible for implementation and monitoring of policies relating to access to and along water
- Report and make recommendations to the British Canoeing Board and senior management team
- Promote and develop policies for canoeing in ways which are compatible with the protection of the natural environment
- Develop partnerships with statutory bodies and other organisations
- Address the practical needs of the canoeing community and affiliated organisations to fulfil the requirements of the Stronger Together principle
- Coordinate the activities of, and provide guidance to, the British Canoeing waterways volunteers
- Make recommendations to the Canoe Wales Board

## Aims of the group

- Ensure the objectives of the four year strategy are understood and integrated into the membership, regional development teams and other British Canoeing departments
- Provide a two-way communication mechanism between British Canoeing and external organisations to assist in delivering the four year strategy
- Assist in placing strategies and action plans to deliver access and environment policy across England and Wales
- Review, monitor and report on the effectiveness and efficiency of British Canoeing
- Raise awareness of the principles of Stronger Together

## Highlights

British Canoeing President Ivan Lawler attended the meeting in Birmingham and agreed to champion the access and environment aims and objectives.

Representation via Canoe Wales, on the Welsh Government's consultation 'Taking Forward Wales - sustainable management of natural resources.' The response was well received and led to a meeting with representatives of the Welsh Assembly - Catrin Dell (Senior Access and Outdoor Recreation Officer) and John Watkins (Head of Landscape and Outdoor Recreation) to discuss a more detailed response to the consultation.

Review and input into the new draft British Canoeing Access and Environment Charter and post Brexit document 'Unlocking Potential' – a vision for canoeing, countryside access and post-Brexit rural policy.

The group assisted discussions between paddlers and the Environment Agency on the confirmation that the River Ouse in Sussex has a Public Right of Navigation for paddlers, at and upstream of Barcombe Mills, on the Sussex Ouse. This continues to be disputed by some other users.

Members of the group were able to attend Political Party Conferences to raise the profile and campaign to highlight the lack of access to and along contested waters.

The group is now a proactive and diverse group including well-established access campaigners, academics, and political party activists from both Wales and England to assist British Canoeing full-time staff and waterways volunteers.

The group does not always agree on matters but it is important that an understanding of each members' needs and constraints are appreciated.

Involvement of external organisations will allow the group to be both selective and objective, plus help develop partnerships with both important navigation and conservation organisations such as Natural England, Environment Agency, Sport and Recreation Alliance, Wildlife and Countryside Link and Inland Waterways Association amongst several others.

Relevant information will continue to be disseminated back to the regional development teams. Volunteers will represent the various regions situated in the North, Central and South of England.



Photo: Peak UK

# Festivals, Competitions, Expeditions and Descents Report

## Name: Greg Spencer

Taking inspiration from 'The Canoe Boys' might be commonplace, but for many 2017 will be recalled as the year in which Colin Skeath and Davis Gould-Duff reset our understanding of coastal adventure in small, open craft. Their 'Canoeing Around Britain' escapades took them through a giant tide race on the Pentland Firth and on a number of huge crossings, including from Anglesey to the Isle of Man and across to Ireland.

As ever, British sea kayakers also ventured far and wide. Alongside attendance at festivals around the world, highlights of the year included the Icelandic expedition of London-based pairing Natalie Maderova and Michal Madera: 1500km with 38 days paddling days and 32 non paddling days in truly remote and challenging areas. Many others took to the oceans to compete, including on skis, by SUP and in outrigger canoes.

Away from the oceans, British enthusiasts reported open canoeing and kayaking expeditions ranging from open boating in northern Canada (e.g. on the Wawagigamau or Yesterday River) to the Philippines (e.g. British Universities Kayaking Expedition). Many expeditions were little publicised, quite private matters but the profile of kayaking was given a huge boost when a group involving British kayaker David Bain escorted Adventurer and naturalist Steve Backshall down the Baliem River in New Guinea.

Closer to home, Andrew Oughton, Noddy Crouch and Mark-Jan Dielemans completed the 'Bliss Trail' - an 862 mile inland route around England first developed by William Bliss in 1934. The route includes the whole of the Devizes to Westminster course, most of the Desmond Family Canoe Trail (Leeds Liverpool Canal), the complete Soar Tour plus sections on the Rivers Severn, Avon, Thames and Trent - 506 Locks, 13 Tunnels and three stretches on tidal waters!

The tone for the whitewater competition year was set early on when Bren Orton's 'Send' team ran their inaugural 'Unleashed' event with four extreme whitewater competitions including 'big trick' freestyle, a burly boatercross and a giant slalom. By the end of January, Sam Ward (coach to the Ugandan team) had been crowned overall male winner at the Nile River Festival, with Lowri Davies taking the Nile Special Freestyle title, Bren Orton and Yusuf Basalirwa taking second place in the endurance race and Craig Ayres taking third in the freestyle competition.

A few months later, Yorkshire's Joe Morley claimed a heroic second place in the extreme-slate Boater-X at the legendary North Fork Championships. British enthusiasts also competed strongly in events elsewhere, from the Extrem Veko event in Norway to Machu Picchu Kayak Fest in Peru and from the Ladakh River Festival in India to the 10th (and perhaps final) Adidas Sickline - where British kayaker Jennifer Chrimes claimed an impressive podium place.

On rather more remote but quieter waters, Harrogate's Esther Wheeler became the first female to complete the Yukon River Quest in a solo canoe in the 19 year history of the race. Her time for the 444 mile (four day) event brought her in just behind the new women's record holder: Britain's Joanne Hamilton-Vale, whose Yukon success led onto assorted SUP landmarks throughout the year. Closer to home, the Sella Descent again claimed a huge British entry.

As ever, festivals, competitions, expeditions and first descents across the globe have been supported by British manufacturers, or made possible by their sponsorship. British coaches have attracted enthusiasts from overseas, and have operated overseas to help enthusiasts of all nationalities get more from their canoeing and kayaking, and British guides have contributed to trip-of-a-lifetime experiences everywhere from Nepal to Canada.

# International Relations Update

British Canoeing is keen to play its role in the development of the sport worldwide and ensure representation at all levels of the sport. We are pleased to support the following persons elected to ICF and ECA Board and Committees and thank them all for their continued hard work.

• ICF Executive Board & ECA President	Albert Woods OBE
• ICF Executive Board & ICF Athlete Committee Chair	Tim Lodge
• ICF Board & ICF Polo Committee Chair	Greg Smale
• ICF Athlete Committee	Claire O'Hara
• ICF Freestyle Committee	Terry Best
• ICF Wild Water Committee	Peter Schofield
• ICF Paracanoe Committee	Julie Gray
• ICF Medical & Anti-Doping Committee	Tim Brabants MBE
• ICF Medical & Anti-Doping Committee & ECA Medical Delegate	Jane Gibson
• ICF Slalom Committee (Advisor) & ECA Slalom Committee	Colin Woodgate

In December 2017, British Canoeing hosted Thomas Konietsko, ICF Vice President, for a meeting to discuss the direction of the ICF, the Olympic programmes and how British Canoeing can work with other developed canoeing nations to support the growth of the sport.

## Anti-Doping

2017 saw the launch of the British Canoeing 'Paddle Clean' education strategy which aims to support, promote and educate the canoeing community to take a positive approach to anti-doping, and integrate anti-doping best practices into the overall development of a canoeist.

Through the delivery of face to face workshops, outreach projects at events, and the provision of information through the website, social media channels and newsletters, British Canoeing will encourage its community to protect the spirit of canoeing and sport as a whole from being undermined by doping and to establish an environment which promotes doping-free behaviour among all members.

The aim of the Paddle Clean programme is to create a generation of canoeists who have confidence in their own ability to succeed in canoeing cleanly and who see anti-doping best practices as an integral part of being a canoeist. To create a generation of support personnel who understand that the canoeists they are involved with can succeed in canoeing cleanly and who see anti-doping best practices as an integral part of being involved with canoeing.

## 2019 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup and 2020 ECA Canoe Slalom European Championships

Following the awarding of the 2019 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup and 2020 ECA Canoe Slalom European Championships, British Canoeing has welcomed partners to the Stakeholder Board which has now met four times to commence planning for the two international events in 2019 and 2020.



- David Joy British Canoeing, Chief Executive
- Dan Buck LVRPA, Head of Sport & Leisure
- James Fry British Canoeing, Board Member
- David Stubley Commercial & TV Consultant
- Iain Edmundson London & Partners, Head of Major Events
- Todd Cooper UK Sport, Major Event Consultant
- Gemma Wiggs British Canoeing, Event Director
- Susan Hicks British Canoeing, Finance Manager

The Stakeholder Board has the lead responsibility for the delivery of two world class events at Lee Valley White Water Centre, to ensure a positive experience for all the participants, volunteers, spectators and partners and to maximise the potential of a lasting legacy within the surrounding communities.

Reporting to the Stakeholder Board, the Local Organising Committee has responsibility for the detailed operational planning, management and delivery of two world class events. The LOC continues to make good progress in line with the agreed project plan.

The events not only promise to deliver on the venue legacy of the 2012 London Olympic Games and build on the success of the 2015 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships, they provide a platform for qualification for 2020 Olympic Games. They also play a key part in the wider British Canoeing Strategy 2017-21 with the establishment of a London and Lee Valley legacy programme, volunteer development and opportunity for the whole sport to engage with the events.

### **2021 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships**

Following the awarding of the 2021 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships, British Canoeing has established a Stakeholder Board with representation from all key partners:

- David Joy British Canoeing, Chief Executive
- Mark Croston Nottinghamshire County Council, Cultural Services Commissioning Manager
- John Muddeman Nottingham City Council, Sports Events Officer
- Craig Taylor Rushcliffe Borough Council, Community Development Manager
- Steve Nelson Serco, National Sports Centres Partnership Director
- James Palmer Serco, General Manager of HPP
- Matt Chadder Holme Pierrepont Leisure Trust
- Andrew Jackson British Canoeing, Event Director & Chair Freestyle Committee
- Gemma Wiggs British Canoeing, Events & International Affairs Manager
- Susan Hicks British Canoeing, Finance Manager

The Stakeholder Board has management responsibility for the delivery of the World Championships, providing a positive experience for all the participants and competing teams, spectators, media, delivery and management partners.

Andrew Jackson has been appointed Event Director and will work closely with Gemma Wiggs, Events & International Affairs Manager, to deliver the World Championships. Next steps are to establish a Local Organising Committee and confirm the scope for the 2020 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup in preparation for the World Championships.

# International Medals

## Canoe Sprint

### ICF World Championships

Racice, Czech Republic

23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Liam Heath	Men's K1 – 200m
<b>Bronze</b>	Rachel Cawthorn	Women's K1 – 1000m
<b>Bronze</b>	Angela Hannah/ Hannah Brown	Women's K2 – 200m
<b>Bronze</b>	Lani Belcher	Women's K1 – 5000m

### ECA European Championships

Plovdiv, Bulgaria

13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Liam Heath	Men's K1 – 200m
<b>Bronze</b>	Rachel Cawthorn	Women's K1 – 1000m

### ICF Junior & Under 23 World Championships

Pitesti, Romania

27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Ieuan James	Men's K1 – 200m – Junior
<b>Bronze</b>	Rebeka Simon	Women's K1 – 500m – U23

### ECA Junior & Under 23 European Championships

Belgrade, Serbia

21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Ieuan James	Men's K1 – 200m – Junior
<b>Gold</b>	Rebeka Simon	Women's K1 – 1000m – U23

## Canoe Slalom

### ICF World Championships

Pau, France

27<sup>th</sup> September - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Mallory Franklin	Women's C1
<b>Gold</b>	Kimberley Woods, Mallory Franklin, Eilidh Gibson	Women's C1 – Team
<b>Silver</b>	David Florence, Ryan Westley, Adam Burgess	Men's C1 – Team



### ECA European Championships

Tacen, Slovenia

1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Kimberley Woods	Women's C1
<b>Gold</b>	Kimberley Woods, Mallory Franklin, Eilidh Gibson	Women's C1 – Team

### ICF Junior & Under 23 World Championships

Bratislava, Slovakia

18<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Mallory Franklin	Women's C1 – U23
<b>Gold</b>	Kimberley Woods, Mallory Franklin, Eilidh Gibson	Women's C1 – U23 Team
<b>Silver</b>	Mallory Franklin, Kimberley Woods, Gabi Ridge	Women's K1 – U23 Team
<b>Silver</b>	Sam Ibbotson, Tom Abbott, Will Smith	Men's C1 – U23 Team
<b>Bronze</b>	Kimberley Woods	Women's C1 – U23

## Paracanoe

### ICF World Championships

Racice, Czech Republic

23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Emma Wiggs	Women's KL2 – 200m
<b>Gold</b>	Jeanette Chippington	Women's KL1 – 200m
<b>Gold</b>	Jonathan Young	Men's VL3 – 200m
<b>Silver</b>	Nicola Paterson	Women's KL2 – 200m
<b>Bronze</b>	Jonathan Young	Men's KL3 – 200m
<b>Bronze</b>	Martin Tweedie	Men's VL3 – 200m
<b>Bronze</b>	Lindsay Thorpe	Women's VL3 – 200m

### ECA European Championships

Plovdiv, Bulgaria

13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Jeanette Chippington	Women's KL1 – 200m
<b>Gold</b>	Emma Wiggs	Women's KL2 – 200m
<b>Gold</b>	Jonathan Young	Men's VL3 – 200m
<b>Silver</b>	Charlotte Henshaw	Women's KL2 – 200m
<b>Silver</b>	Ian Marsden	Men's KL1 – 200m
<b>Silver</b>	Robert Oliver	Men's KL3 – 200m
<b>Bronze</b>	Nicholas Beighton	Men's KL2 – 200m

## Canoe Marathon

### World Championships

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Lani Belcher	Women's K1
<b>Silver</b>	Charles Smith	Men's K1 – Junior
<b>Bronze</b>	Lani Belcher/Hayleigh Mason	Women's K2
<b>Bronze</b>	Alexandra Lane	Women's K1 – U23
<b>Bronze</b>	Freya Peters/Emma Russell	Women's K2 - Junior

## Canoe Freestyle

### ICF World Championships

San Juan, Argentina

27<sup>th</sup> November - 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017

<b>Silver</b>	Alex Edwards GBR	Squirt Men
<b>Bronze</b>	David Rogers GBR	Squirt Men
<b>Gold</b>	Claire O'Hara GBR	Squirt Women
<b>Gold</b>	Ottillie Robinson-Shaw GBR	K1 Junior Women
<b>Silver</b>	Alex Walters GBR	K1 Junior Men
<b>Bronze</b>	Harry Price GBR	K1 Junior Men
<b>Gold</b>	Claire O'Hara GBR	K1 Women

## Canoe Polo

### ECA European Championships

Saint Omer, France

23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Men's K1 – Under 21
-------------	---------------------

## Whitewater Rafting

### IRF World Championships

Miyosji City, Japan

2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October 2017

<b>Gold</b>	Women's - Slalom
<b>Gold</b>	Women's U23- Head to Head
<b>Silver</b>	Men's U19 - Overall
<b>Silver</b>	Men's U19 – Slalom
<b>Bronze</b>	Women's - Overall
<b>Bronze</b>	Women's - Sprint
<b>Bronze</b>	Men's – Head to Head
<b>Bronze</b>	Women's U23 - Overall
<b>Bronze</b>	Women's U23 - Downriver
<b>Bronze</b>	Women's U19- Head to Head
<b>Bronze</b>	Men's U19 – Sprint
<b>Bronze</b>	Men's U19- Head to Head
<b>Bronze</b>	Men's U19 – Downriver

## ECA European Championships

Ponte de Lima, Portugal

29<sup>th</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017

<b>Silver</b>	Lani Belcher	Women's K1
<b>Silver</b>	Charles Smith	Men's K1 – Junior
<b>Bronze</b>	Alex Lane	Women's K1 – U23
<b>Bronze</b>	Emma Russell/Freya Peters	Women's K2 – Junior
<b>Bronze</b>	Zygy Chmiel	Men's K1 – U23



## Wild Water Canoeing

### ICF World Championships

Pau, France

27<sup>th</sup> September - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017

<b>Bronze</b>	Hannah Brown	Women's K1
---------------	--------------	------------

### IRF R6 Euro Rafting Champs 2017

Borjomi, Georgia

22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017

<b>Gold</b>	GB1 Open Women	Women's - Slalom
<b>Silver</b>	GB1 Open Women	Women's - Overall
<b>Silver</b>	GB1 Open Women	Women's - Sprint
<b>Silver</b>	GB1 Open Women	Women's – Head to Head
<b>Silver</b>	GB1 Open Women	Women's - Downriver
<b>Silver</b>	GB1 Open Men	Men's – Head to Head
<b>Bronze</b>	GB1 Open Men	Men's - Sprint





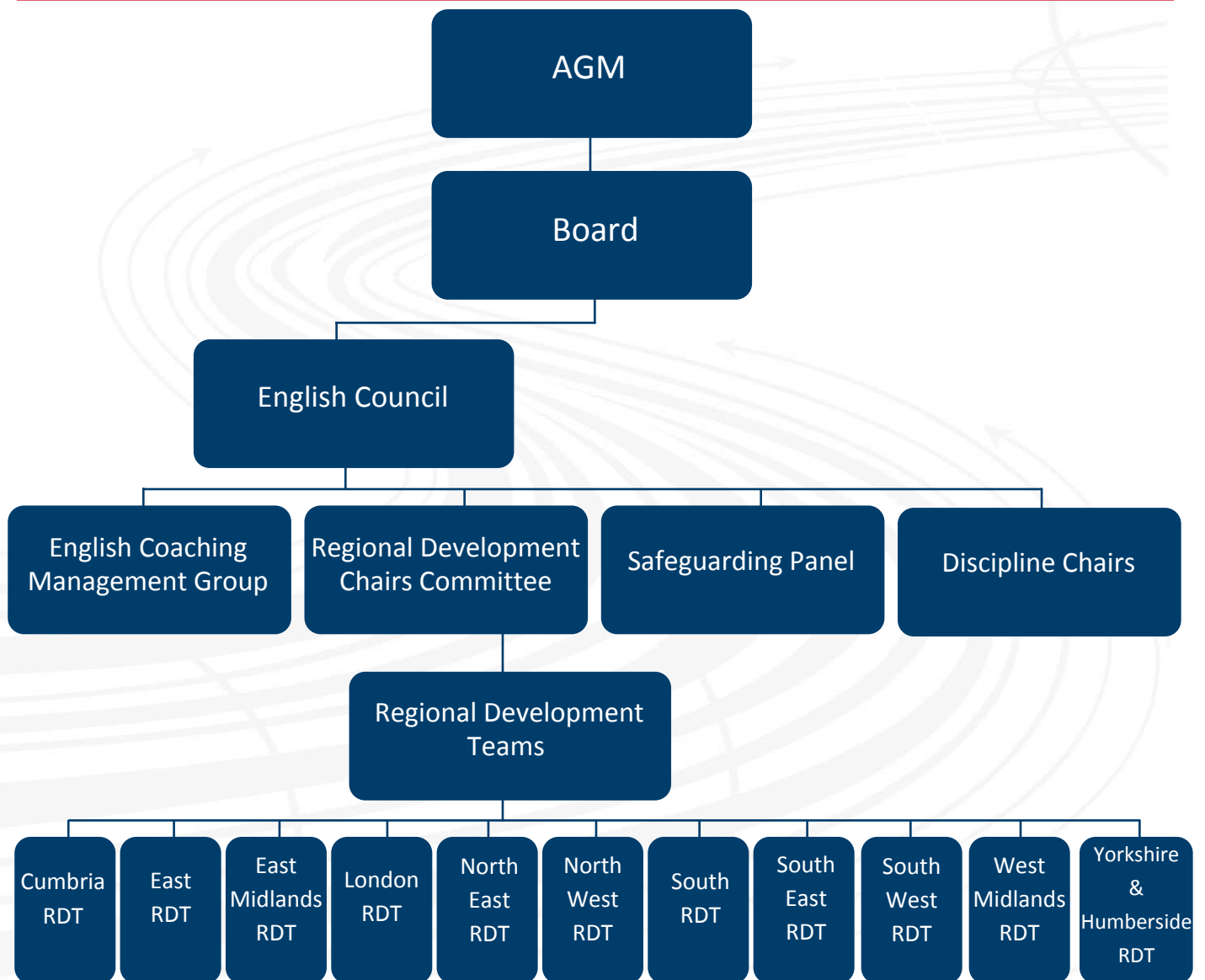
Photo: Sean Quinn



Photo: Greg Spencer



# Report on the English Activities of British Canoeing



# The English Council Report

---

The English Council meets to help coordinate the delivery of British Canoeing's activities within England.

**Chairman:** Kevin Dennis

**Vice Chairman:** Dave Spencer

**English Council Nominations on the British Canoeing Board:** Clare Dallaway, Dee Paterson & Greg Smale.

2017 Elections: Greg Smale was elected as an English Council nomination to the Board. This nomination will be subject to AGM approval on 24 March 2018.

A meeting of the English Council took place at Nottingham on 21st October. The meeting received reports from the executive office and on England matters arising from the Board. The Chair also highlighted the vast amount of work and international success that had taken place since the last meeting and thanked the paddlers, coaches, staff and committees who had contributed to this.

David Joy, Chief Executive of British Canoeing, updated the Council on the work of the Home Nation's working group and the UK Agreement. The Council agreed that it was a good time to review the future structure and operations of the English committees.

The Chair requested that Council take 2018 to develop a new terms of reference, that take into account the positive differing roles of the regional development teams and discipline chairs group meetings.

In light of the proposed creation of a canoeing museum, the Council were asked to add their expertise and network to support the project.

The Council received an update on the outcome of the 2017 membership review and welcomed the new digital plans for 2018. The 2018 regional consultations will focus on the club associate membership and take feedback from members on access and the environment.

## 2017 Chair's Group meetings

The regional development chairs group met on 26th April and 21st September. The regional development teams (RDTs) made progress in reviewing their governance structure and terms of reference. Clarity and consensus on the future role of the RDT was discussed and agreed.

The chairs received updates from British Canoeing senior management team and key function leads. The group also had active input into the development of the British Canoeing digital strategy and Paddle-Ablity plans for 2018.

The discipline committee's chairs group met on 19th April and 6th September. The discipline committees aligned and established new eligibility and international selection criteria. In addition, a common approach to representative team uniforms was agreed, paving the way for all GB teams to wear the same kit whatever their disciplines.

Each of the Great Britain committees also agreed to undertake a comprehensive review of their terms of reference and the majority of the disciplines consulted on and agreed their annual plans for 2018.

**Name: Mike Sunderland**

**Position: RDT Chair**

We are one of British Canoeing's smallest regions, with a small population and low density, but we have one of the most active, motivated and aligned groups of RDT volunteers.

Together we are driving the development of paddlesport across our region through RDT sponsored and organised events, and by working closely with our canoe clubs and other voluntary organisations.

Effective teamwork, sharing of best practices and personal commitment are the hallmarks of our development approach.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **An expanding portfolio of events and participants across a range of disciplines**
- **Coaching Events: 2 Coaching Matters events (105 participants) and 2 Coaching for Coaches Events**
- **Sea Kayak Events: 11 coaching events (36 participants) and 23 events (193 participants)**
- **Open Canoe Events: 10 events (44 participants)**
- **Youth River Running Project: 10 events (60 participants)**
- **Women and Girls Events: 5 events (56 participants)**
- **A new regional website and event booking system.**
- **A sound financial model: surpluses from events allow us to invest in development of people and equipment (Income of £19k, Investment in equipment £7.3k, Grants made £2.5k)**

As RDT Chair it is my privilege to work with such a talented and motivated group of volunteers who are delivering an ever-expanding programme of coaching, trips and events.





Cumbria is unusual in that it only has eight British Canoeing affiliated canoe clubs, catering to a small local population, but a much larger number of commercial centres and providers catering to extensive numbers of visitors who want to enjoy the fantastic outdoor environment here. This provides a unique mix of organisations and challenges for the RDT's development work.

As an RDT we have embraced the new British Canoeing strategic framework, and are particularly excited to develop and provide opportunities for individuals to enjoy and share our passion for exploration, adventure and challenge across diverse paddlesports.

It has been a very busy year for our Cumbria coaching and discipline teams, and for our waterways and environment advisor. We have recruited many more new volunteer organisers, leaders and coaches, and have attracted greatly increased numbers of paddlers to a wide range of activities.



We have grant-aided a record number of volunteer leaders and coaches, many of whom, having gained new qualifications, are now contributing back to our events and development efforts. We have also supported Clubs and Centres with their paddlesport and coaching development.

This gives us a quiet degree of confidence and optimism that 2018 will again be a record breaking year for our region!



**Name: David Walton**

**Position: RDT Chair**

A rebuilding year for the team responding to the changes with the new Stronger Together strategic plan, new regional plan and full coaching team going forwards for 2018.

We have had a bit of a rebuilding year in the East with a change in philosophy of the RDT under the new Stronger Together strategy taking us in a different direction to where we were before and subsequently a lot of planning going on behind the scenes.



Quite a bit of this was with the new regional development plan which was presented for adoption at this year's ACM at Silverbirch Canoes, thank you again for hosting us, so we can now start implementing some more of the plan.

Hopefully those who have clubs in the region will have heard from your regional reps with regards to reforming some sort of county level groups, this has been reflective of the good work from the Essex and Suffolk Canoe Associations and hopefully we can take their lead and share the best practice through the region.

We have also had a number of successes from the region, thank you to those that replied to my request for them, with events such as the inter-clubs hosted at the Cardington white water course, hosted slalom and marathon races and success for the regions clubs and paddlers in marathon racing, freestyle worlds, white water rafting worlds and competing at the Addidas Sickline.

Lastly, on the coaching team front for the first time in a number of years all of the region's coaching officer positions are filled, with a mostly new coaching team for 2018.

We have also had two very well received Coaching Matters events in Norfolk and Essex this year, with thanks to those who helped run and deliver the events, with dates for 2018 to be published soon.

**Name: Colin Broadway**

**Position: RDT Chair**

British Canoeing's four year strategic plan matches our regional development.

## Highlights of 2017:

- Establishment of a regional development plan
- First regional, Annual Clubs Day
- Paddlers complete the Bliss Tour
- Winter Race Series

We kicked off 2017 with our first regional Clubs Day, which was an event that pulled in clubs from across our region, during which we ran a programme of useful workshops and introduced and ratified our regional development plan.

During the winter of 2016/17 we continued to run and underwrite our Winter Race Series with the assistance of Soar Valley Canoe Club, whom I am pleased to say have now taken on the running of the self-funding six race series.

Run under white water racing rules, anyone can enter in any boat, and we do get entries from both international paddlers and first time

racers, based from the Boat House Pub, who provide both breakfasts before the event and hot drinks and bacon cobs after – this has turned into a great social event.



We were thrilled to see British Canoeing's four-year strategic plan and to learn of the 'Stronger Together' vision, and to see that our regional plan matched all the action plans outlined.

On increasing participation, we took a view that this is not just about putting more bums in boats, but should also be about broadening the horizons of existing paddlers and offer them something different to try in our very diverse sport, retaining and expanding their interests.

We have been involved with discussions with the new membership categories which we fully support and will be working with clubs to adopt the new club membership packages, which also sees us aiding club development and good governance – some of the club workshops on offer will aid clubs to comply with the new data protection rules.

On competition and events, we are capitalising on our successful Winter Race Series which introduces paddlers to wild water racing and are proposing to put on a series of inter-club competitions at different venues around the region, marathon, sprint and slalom, with the aim of encouraging members to ‘have a go at’.

Run under discipline race rules, with the difference that you can turn up in any boat, with classes for all – elite paddlers to first time competitors – with the emphases on fun and expanding paddler's knowledge to the different disciplines.

On touring – we have been active in promoting the Bliss Trail, of which a considerable length runs through our region, and we intend to see local tours cover the route during each year, run by clubs, but open to all, again with the emphasis on fun and social paddling and will be promoting British Canoeing’s Touring Awards where you receive certificates for distances covered.



As a region we have always supported paddlers through their coaching pathway, running regional courses at all levels of the coaching scheme.

With the changes to the Coach Award we face a new challenge on how we manage this - but our coaching panel led by our RCR Andy Oughton already has a programme of courses and workshops covering information to the new system through foundation modules, coaching and leadership packages and promoting Sport Coach UK and County Sports Partnership events.

On communications, we will be creating a new site with British Canoeing, and will continue to use current Facebook and email communications to inform paddlers of all that is happening.

**Name: Linda Pooley**

**Position: RDT Chair**

The North East regional development team has worked successfully during the year to promote opportunities for training, discussions around issues in the region and clubs have shown us how they are successful in organising events for paddlers in the region.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **Club Events**
- **Inter club teamwork promoting and successfully running paddling days for people with disabilities**
- **Regional support**

### Club Events

The clubs in the North East region have many volunteers who spend their valuable time arranging and running weekly sessions for all abilities of paddlers. They inspire people to continue with their training to become competent paddlers, some going on to compete in World Class competitions.

Some examples of successes in our clubs are as follows:

Many clubs have been successful running their pool sessions during the winter, giving opportunities to learn skills in a warm, safe environment. They are mostly cost effective, suitable for younger paddlers who find it difficult to stay warm on a winter paddling trip.

Most clubs organise river trips during the winter, paddling many of the rivers in Northumberland and surrounding areas. Lots of trips to Scotland to paddle more challenging waters happen quite routinely in a lot of clubs also.

Hexham Canoe Club organise their annual event at the beginning of the winter season on the River Tyne system. The riverside at Tyne Green is transformed into a camping site with a large marquee and stalls selling paddling equipment, usually at a reduced cost. They are supported by other clubs in managing the car parks and other volunteer duties. This marks the beginning of the winter paddling season on the Tyne, paddlers from all over the country descend on Hexham to enjoy this weekend.

Tynemouth Canoe Club enjoys a weekend at High Borrans every November, 2017 was the 10th and was the best attended with 32 paddlers taking part. Paddlers have a choice of rivers to paddle to improve their skills in a different environment to their usual home waters.

They are in the process of planning a trip to Spain, sea kayaking for a week in May 2018, this is a new venture for them and have 11 people signed up for the trip, this too could be an annual trip if it is successful.

One of their paddlers took part in the British Rafting Open Women's independent team competition in September, the team she was in was the winning one!

Coquet Canoe Club arranges the Coquet Round the Island Race annually attracting paddlers from all corners of the country, they can also enjoy trips around Holy Island and the Farnes while they are in the area, all wonderful paddles showing our Northumberland coast at its best.

They also hold an annual family event in the summer at Berwick courtesy of Berwick Sailing Club, where there are different training opportunities on a variety of waters, in addition to the usual weekly sessions all year round.

Kayak Northumbria a club set up recently, and with the help of Sport England funding and support from the NE RDT, set up polo goals in the lake at Exhibition Park, Newcastle. The site is used for practice and teams are now competing in Division 2 and 3, doing very well.

Stockton and Thornaby in 2017 have been successful in training seven level 1 coaches, four level 4 river leaders, numerous weekend paddling trips and a week-long trip to the French Alps. They make good use of Tees Barrage near to their boat store training paddlers to a 3\* standard ready for the white water trips during the year. They log their miles with British Canoeing coming second place for the most miles paddled and third for the number of places paddled. Sea Kayaking is also on the agenda as an additional interest for club members.

Cullercoats Paddlesport Club is a relatively new club, specialising in surf, sit on tops and stand up paddleboards. They arrange an annual surf competition in conjunction with other local club volunteers.

**Inter club teamwork** works well in the North East, six clubs have worked together over the last few years arranging paddling days at a variety of venues in Northumberland and Durham for people with disabilities. Beginning with one event a year, we have increased to running six days last year and another six for next year are in the planning stage.

Numbers of participants have increased over the years, with many taking part in most of the events during the year. Training for volunteers is provided using equipment gathered from local clubs and funding that has been obtained from local charities. Volunteers from the clubs involved support the events in many ways, making the days enjoyable for the participants and their families.

**Regional support** in the shape of a coaching bursary scheme continues to support members. It has helped many people during the year and will continue to operate in the future while there are funds available.

Funding is available for suitable projects undertaken by clubs to improve their club provision. Discussions at meetings regarding the training needs of local paddlers result in courses being delivered to suit them. We have a number of course providers who run courses at an affordable cost; sometimes they make a little income for the RDT.

British Canoeing consultation days have been useful for members to voice their opinions and feel they have been heard, with another one being planned for Spring to discuss waterways, access and membership. Our members were keen to invite David Joy back to our region in the summer to discuss regional events, successes and supporting British Canoeing with their 'Stronger Together' vision.

The past year has been successful in many ways, we continue to review and evaluate what we do to improve our performance in future years.

**Name: Joe Parkin**

**Position: RDT Chair**

The region has over 100 rivers and canals as well as accessing the Irish Sea, allowing the region's paddlers easy access for all paddling disciplines.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **Go Kayaking North West Regional Demo Day at Halton Rapids**
- **Opening of the Foulridge Tunnel to paddlers on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal**
- **Development of the Desmond Family Canoe Trail**
- **Coaching Matters Event**
- **The regional winners for various categories of Volunteer and Recognition Awards: Maya Ray-Cross, Christopher Proffitt and Ian Bell**

2017 has been a challenging year for the North West regional development team with the appointment of a new Chair, Secretary and Regional Coaching Representative during the period, along with a 75% turnover of Area Coaching Representatives.



My thanks go to the outgoing volunteers for their dedicated support and commitment in bringing paddlesports to a region that covers over 2800 square miles. Thanks also go to the new volunteers for stepping forward to bring their enthusiasm and ideas to a brand new leadership team.

Lastly, but definitely not least, a huge thank you to those volunteers that have continued to bring their invaluable knowledge of the area, the North West RDT and British Canoeing. Volunteers provide the backbone of the new leadership team and we cannot exist without their support.

The regional team changes have come during a year when British Canoeing launched the Stronger Together Strategic Plan 2017-2021 which amongst a set of 11 ambitions seeks to better harness the skills, enthusiasm and commitment of all of those individuals and organisations who want to play their part in building an even brighter future for the sport in England and throughout the UK.

I have therefore concentrated this year on stabilising the North West RDT so that I can drive a brighter future for canoeing whilst beginning the journey of delivering the ambitions in future years. This year can be described as one of stabilisation with an eye on future year's growth.



One area that the team has endeavoured to concentrate upon is engagement and communication. Without these we cannot be the regional link between British Canoeing and clubs, their members and paddlers. 2017 has seen the launch of a new regional Facebook page achieving 92 followers and we have seen a 37% increase in newsletter readership.

The region has seen the publication of the first British Canoeing trail map, written by local paddlers, delivering a great way for people with some paddling experience to find new and exciting places to paddle in the North West.



This, coupled with the ongoing Desmond Family Canoe Trail initiative to create the country's first ever coast to coast canoe trail connecting Liverpool in the North West to Goole in the North East with a stretch of 162 paddling miles, means an exciting time for the region now and in the future.



I and other members of the North West RDT continue to work in partnership with British Canoeing personnel to continue to bring new paddling initiatives to the region and there are ongoing discussions which will hopefully lead to enhanced paddling for a wider community of paddlers and non-paddlers. On this, more news to come in 2018.

**Name: Richard Bowyer**

**Position: RDT Chair**

In the South, the region hosts a good mix of paddlesport. We have a lot of interesting inland rivers and canals along with an interesting coast at our Southern most extremity including the Isle of Wight.

This enables the regional team to support marathon, sprint and white water racing along with touring and exploring the varied inland and coastal waters. The team comprises coaches, marathon participants, white water enthusiasts and explorer/tourers both inland and sea.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **Two Coaching Matters events during the year with over 50 attendees at each**
- **Supported the Junior K4s at the National Championships**

With such a wide range of paddling interests, the Southern team isn't short of things to do. One of the key areas we promote is support for clubs, coaches and paddlers during this time of change.

At our Coaching Matters events we made sure that there was something for all. Whether it was first time performing rescues in the sea with our foundation safety and rescue training (FSRT) refreshers or introducing new coaching opportunities using stand up paddle boards, we were able to run various development opportunities including a coastal navigation course.

Like most coach updates this was a great time to network whilst on the water, during coffee breaks or even in the classroom. It has been really interesting this year with the changes being introduced to coaching and touring qualifications. Being able to explain these changes by putting them in context was well received.





Building on our success in Coaching Matters we ran a Marathon Matters event which focused very much on the networking aspect of working 'Stronger Together' with our British Canoeing Area Development Officer and experienced marathon paddlers. This was also well received and we have used this to springboard the idea to run a Club Matters event along similar lines in early 2018.

The regional aim is to support the coaches, clubs and paddlers in the region, where our small team can make the best effect. We generate funds from our regional events to support bursaries for prospective and experienced coaches and leaders.

To maximise our budget, 2017 saw the team run our own in-house Level 1 and Level 2 courses which we plan to expand in 2018 with both instructor and coach courses. We also used the bursary scheme to support clubs in running first aid updates and awards for their coaches.



Other areas the regional team help, advise and mentor is clubs through the process of achieving Quality Mark status. In a similar way we support clubs who are having difficulty with sites and planning consent.



We have bought marathon number boards that are shared across the region, making our races look more professional whilst being cost effective and efficient. We have our own regional medals that we provide for regional, sponsored, locally run, organised cross club events for young and old.

**Name: Noel Humphrey**

**Position: RDT Chair**

The South East region consists of the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The RDT has met four times during the year and has produced a development plan in line with the four year strategy to develop and promote canoeing.

## Highlights of 2017:

- Access on the River Ouse (Sussex)
- World Rivers Day 2017
- Club Matters

Both coaching and waterways and environment teams are very active, with a large number of coach courses delivered along with coaching matters events. The RDT is supporting the development of the regional site at Yalding with the long term aim of reintroducing entry level slalom events.

In May 2017, British Canoeing received notification from the Environment Agency that it was suspending permission to launch canoes at Barcombe Mills on the non-tidal river due to a legal challenge from a local angling club supported by Fish Legal.

Regional Waterway Advisor Noel Humphrey, together with the Local Waterway Advisor for the Ouse, Clive Edwards, were able to produce supporting evidence to the British Canoeing case that there is a right of navigation on the river.



There is a public right of navigation on the river which is still on statue. The outcome of this challenge would be an important milestone as there are many disputed waterways that still have public right of navigations on them but have no active navigation authority.

A lot of time was put into this case and we were delighted when the Environment Agency rejected, in full, the challenge from the anglers and reinstated permission from the land at Barcombe Mills which the Environment Agency own. This effort was a great example of local, region and governing body working together.



World Rivers Day is a global event that takes place on the last Sunday in September. The regional waterways team took part in an event organised by Mole Valley District Council on the banks of the River Mole in Leatherhead, Surrey. The British Canoeing stand provided information on non-native invasive species and on the environmental work that canoeists participate in.

Members from a local club, Purley, had an ergo machine for those who wanted some dry paddling and the club also had two open canoes providing some short paddling trips

around the islands in Leatherhead. These proved to be very popular and were over-subscribed.

In November, as part of our regional annual consultative meeting we hosted a Clubs Matters event. This was a first in the region for a number of years and was led by our area development officer Russ Smith.

The subject was building a sustainable club and it provoked a good discussion amongst those present. The consensus at the end of the workshop was that it had been thoroughly worthwhile and those present would recommend it to those clubs who were not present. The region plan to hold another event in 2018.



**Name: Paul Carroll**

**Position: RDT Chair**

This report will detail the activity of the South West's regional team in supporting British Canoeing's overall mission in the seven counties of Bristol, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **The regional team awarded bursaries to five clubs in 2017 allowing 12 paddlers to work for their Moderate Water award and then use the award to help with club activities**
- **Continued improvements to the British Canoeing owned land adjacent to the River Dart at Holne Bridge including a new gate and fencing**
- **Five South West clubs qualified for the marathon Hasler Finals held in September at Richmond**
- **More opportunities for slalom competition through a newly formed South West slalom group, with clubs organising events at Dulverton, Symonds Yat and Frome**
- **A full and well attended series of Coaching Matters days delivered by the regional coaching team of area and regional representatives**

It will cover only some of the total canoeing activity in the region because most paddling activity is undertaken by individuals paddling in teams, with their peers, in volunteer-run club groups or at centres.

The South West has a wide range of all canoeing and kayaking activity which is undertaken within our fantastic venues of over 650 miles of coastline on the peninsular, inland lakes, estuaries, rivers including three of the best inland rivers in the country; the Dart, Wye and East Lyn and inland waterways and canals.

With it are opportunities for touring and recreational paddling, competitions in surf, ocean ski racing, marathon, sprint, slalom and canoe polo.

The interest in stand up paddleboarding has led to many informal groups throughout the region with courses being provided for those who wish to start SUPing, gain experience and/or qualifications.

Open canoeing still has a strong following in the region with the Open Canoe Association running their own events open to paddlers of all abilities including a River Dart weekend in January and then holding the part one of CanoeFest on the River Wye in early May.

Canoe Polo is successful with the Bristol Canoe Polo pitch at Cumberland Basin being well used and with South West club teams participating in Divisions 2, 3 and 4 of the national league and also running 3 South West leagues.

The new South West slalom group has made its mark and with keen volunteers the events at Dulverton, Frome and Symonds Yat have become part of the regular competition calendar.

In marathon racing, the region held a varied programme of competitions but unfortunately some were cancelled due to the bad weather. Despite this in 2017 we had five strong clubs, not the usual four top clubs, representing the region in the Hasler Finals. Because we are the largest region, several clubs made considerable effort to attend all the races in the region, travelling long distances to compete.

In terms of long distance, the Devizes to Westminster 125 mile Canoe Race was well supported by schools, clubs and independent paddlers from throughout the region and it would not happen at all without volunteer effort for the organisation and it was great to see the Mayor of Devizes at Westminster presenting the medals.

As a run on from this major event, the South West Schools Kayak Championship was held in Exeter organised and run in May by the racing clubs of the South West, supported by the DW Canoe Race and kindly sponsored by Kirton Kayaks.

Behind the scenes there has been considerable effort within the region by the volunteer waterways advisors liaising with National Park Authorities, the National Trust and anglers to advance our position on access and use of rivers and waterways.



Sometimes the work has been advantageous and, at times, frustrating to take positive forward steps and then to be thwarted by fixed opinions and uninformed comment. However, our volunteers will continue to press for improved access to rivers and the support of British Canoeing head office has helped with the management and stewardship of our Dart land.

On the coaching front, the providers throughout the region have delivered a wide variety of courses and modules and the Coaching Matters days have been well attended. In addition, the future programme out to 2019 is making good use of the excellent facilities offered by centres such as Haven Banks, Exeter and Kingston Maurward College, Dorset.

One of the last events run by the region was an informal club forum at the newly improved Bath Canoe Club facilities.

This brought five clubs together and gave the opportunity to talk about their canoeing activities but also to describe what they could offer each other and what help they wanted. An event that was well worthwhile and by opening up communications and talking with each other we are becoming Stronger Together.

**Name: Clare Dallaway**

**Position: RDT Chair**

West Midlands RDT has successfully worked with regional paddlers to create an inclusive selection of paddling tours, to support leadership and coaching needs and promote our sport at every opportunity.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **Launch of Stoke Heritage Trail and Dudley Tunnels paddling tour and sustained success of Paddle to the Heart and Dave Perry Memorial regional tours**
- **Launch of Birmingham and Black Country Canoe trail guide**
- **Appointment of competition coach as one of our Area Coaching Representatives**
- **Supporting successful delivery of a women/girl 'introduction to paddlesport' programme for regional club**

In 2016/17, the West Midlands gladly welcomed the British Canoeing Strategic Plan for 2017-2021 'Stronger Together', which has provided us with direction to align our work to the 11 ambitions within the strategic plan.

With a particular focus on ambition one and three, increasing participation and creating and promoting more opportunities for exploration, adventure and challenge, one of our main objectives has been to establish four key paddling tours, inclusive to all paddlers of any ability and interest.

These four tours have been hugely successful this year and each has their own unique experience attached to them.

The Heritage Trail in Stoke took place in May and was a huge success with over 60 paddlers and was attended by our very own CEO and Chair.

Paddle to the Heart was held in Birmingham in June and attracted many paddlers to each of the five routes.



The Dave Perry Memorial Paddle from Bridgnorth to Arley was run for the second year in October, which saw lots of paddlers from the region come together to enjoy a leisurely paddle on the River Severn.

We hosted a highly successful Dudley Tunnels Tour where we welcomed the maximum of 25 paddlers on the trip to experience paddling through miles of tunnels, a nationally unique experience.

With the attendance of over 60 paddlers, we also supported the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the 1957 canoe trip on Stratford upon Avon, which saw the canal restored to give us the network we know today and made an appearance on our local TV news programme Midlands Today.

The RDT committee meetings have continued to work towards our development plan objectives.

One of our 2016/17 aims focused on ambition five and how we create more places to paddle has been centred on how we can raise awareness of the access on our local rivers and waterways and forge closer relationships with other waterways partners. Members of our committee have actively been involved in working on the Historic Right of Way project and have helped to develop our own regional Birmingham and Black Country canoe trail guide.

Led by our Regional Coaching Representative Ian Dallaway, for the third year running we have a full complement of Area Coaching Representatives, although within that time we said goodbye and a huge thank you to Clive Pearson, who as our Worcestershire representative decided to step down this year, but welcome Nerijus Budrikis who brings Sprint and Marathon coaching to the regional team. We recognise this is a great opportunity to bring our recreational and discipline paddlers closer together.

As a coaching team they have delivered a brand new style Coaching Matters Event in Ironbridge, focussing on the 'coach's journey' and have supported and organised numerous courses specific to the needs of our volunteers, coaches and leaders within the region.

As part of our club grant programme we successfully supported a women/girls 'introduction to paddlesport' programme identifying coaching resource and financial support to run the three consecutive programmes, which brought more female paddlers into the sport.



As a committee we have continually strived to promote and publicise our sport with the aid of our development plan and to help shape the future of paddlesport within our region.

We continue to use social media and our ever-growing networks within the West Midlands RDT, which has proved really helpful in publicising our events and plans. We look forward to the new digital platform to be launched in April 2018 where we can increase our reach out to fellow and potential paddlers within our region.

There will be lots of exciting work to do in 2017/18 in order to grow and publicise our sport, whilst offering the right regional support to our current paddlers.

We can do very little without the will and time of everyone who volunteers. So it is with thanks to all of the volunteers for their dedication to help maintain and improve our paddlesport within the region, making it a great privilege and pleasure to be part of the West Midlands regional development team. As a region we look forward to more great achievements in 2018.

**Name: Greg Spencer**

**Position: RDT Chair**

Representing the grass roots in interesting times has meant communicating what matters at those grass roots - and this year, our pioneers and enthusiasts have provided a bit of everything.

## Highlights of 2017:

- **Vibrant 'adventure' traditions alive and well**
- **Youngsters nurtured within strong boating communities**
- **Leading volunteer receives British Empire Medal**
- **Scout centre saved and new facility taking shape**

Leeds Canoe Club was once known as one of the most virile in Britain and the mantra was once "we like them at their roughest." Seventy years on from the founding of the club, in the year in which former club-member Claire O'Hara extended her domination of international freestyle and squirt boating, those values and sentiments thrive both within the club and across the region!

Some fifty miles to the North of Leeds, Swaledale Outdoor Club marked its fiftieth anniversary by publishing a history celebrating roots amid outdoor enthusiasts and by placing canoeing where it rightfully belongs: alongside caving, climbing, cycling, fell running, mountain biking, orienteering, skiing, walking and windsurfing. The most recent SOC newsletter shows that traditions of 'adventurous trips' (on white water and on the sea) remain strong.

To the East, Esther Mathews received her British Empire Medal - a fitting tribute to a Yorkshire legend who has done more than anyone to nurture youngsters within networks characterised by strong values and an incredible sense of community. Typically, one of Esther's highlights of the year was the strong whole-family showing at a local slalom event: testimony to the way her influence has helped Yorkshire Slalom to be so much more than a mere pathway for ambitious youngsters - though the latter have thrived!

As ever, Yorkshire Slalom gets the key plaudits within the region for providing opportunities for fun and games, and volunteer support continues to great effect within clubs like Halifax and Lower Wharfe and at events throughout the North. Likewise, volunteers within our regional canoe polo clubs have sustained fine tournaments and enthusiasts continue to be involved in national squads (based at Doncaster) and in the Academy (Liverpool).





The past year also saw Kool Kayakers shine for the region (and nationally) within freestyle kayaking and Glanford and Scunthorpe Canoe Club succeeded massively in Hasler Racing. This racing helped Neil Marley become 'Sports Achiever of the Year' and his club become 'Community Sports Team of the Year' at the North Lincolnshire Community Champion Awards. As a region, we devoted considerable effort throughout the year to celebrating activity outside of clubs. This has ranged from spate runs on the upland rivers through to surfing and sea kayak escapades.

We've highlighted everyday adventures and those of leading enthusiasts like Sam Ellis and Darren Clarkson-King. For context we've worked with Vice-Chairman Chris Hawkesworth to make Oliver Cock's entire classic film archive available online.

Of course, a few individual efforts have grabbed headlines over the year, not least with Halifax's Colin Skeath raising the bar in coastal canoeing through his circumnavigation of mainland Britain.



Our leading white water legend, Joe Morley, had a tough year with a broken back - but still bagged a stunning second place in this year's epic North Fork Championship Boater-X. We also highlighted Harrogate's Esther Wheeler's pioneering efforts on the Yukon: the first female solo canoeist to ever complete the challenge.

Our heroes of the year have been the Aldwark crew (Central Yorkshire Scouts) - who have secured the future of the region's legendary water activities centre. This is now established as one of the six British Canoeing provider centres. Our most exciting project of the year has been sorting sustainable future management for the small white water play spot British Canoeing has been developing at Linton-on-Ouse.

Last but not least, as ever, the Washburn Committee has managed another fine year at England's premier dam release facility under stalwart Norman Taylor. We held yet more slaloms and cruises and another Boaterfest - and invite all who can make it to join us in 2018!

# Safeguarding Update

In April 2009, British Canoeing achieved the Advanced Standard for Child Protection in Sport. Since meeting those initial standards the organisation has committed to working on the follow up process, called the Safeguarding Framework.

The framework process, which includes an annual review and report to Sport England and UK Sport, was put in place to ensure organisations that have achieved the standards, maintain those base line standards and help provide a framework for developing and embedding safeguarding across the whole organisation; ultimately ensuring those involved in our sport at every level are kept safe from harm.

Since 2009, British Canoeing has been audited every year and has received a green RAG rating. The Board and senior management are committed to driving a safeguarding culture from the top all the way through the staff team to clubs, participants and volunteers.

## Case Management Group

Safeguarding case work is processed through an independent Case Management Group. The current members of the group are:

- Gill Camina (Chair since February 2017)
- Deirdre Litting
- Sue Hornby
- Urvasi Naidoo (Secretary – non decision making)

Served during the year and now retired:

- Mike Devlin
- Denise Richards

The Case Management Group meets on a bi-monthly basis to consider safeguarding cases and carry out risk assessments. On average, the Group is handling approximately 30 open cases per month.

During 2017, the Case Management Group has met six times with attendance at 90%.

## Safeguarding Steering Group

The Safeguarding Steering Group is a forum where lead officers, along with a representative from clubs, centres, competition and coaching meet twice a year to develop, monitor and review their approach and plans for safeguarding children, young people and adults in their respective jurisdictions and to liaise and share best practice. During 2017, the Group has met twice.

Commitment to safeguarding is an ongoing process. The governance team continue to work to improve case work, policies, processes, training, support and information. In particular, during the forthcoming year work will commence on building an improved online training facility and on updating the Disclosure and Barring Policy.

# Governance Update

---

British Canoeing recognises that having good governance is a fundamental part of being an effective organisation. The Code for Sports Governance was launched in September 2016 and all sports governing bodies who were in receipt of public funding were set a target to ensure compliance by the end of October 2017.

In December 2017, British Canoeing received formal confirmation from UK Sport/Sport England that it had achieved all the agreed actions listed in its governance action plan and were satisfied that British Canoeing was in compliance with the Code.

The Code is structured into five principles:

- Structure
- People
- Communication
- Standards and Conduct
- Policies and Processes

Upon assessment against all the criteria of the Code, a large proportion of this was already in place in British Canoeing. The organisation was set an action plan requiring advancement in some areas.

A large area of work under the principle – People - is in relation to gender parity and diversity targets on the Board of British Canoeing.

There is an agreed Board diversity action plan which is available on our website and gives a strong and public commitment from the Board in relation to achieving the Board diversity targets set by the Code. In particular, the target of achieving at least 30% of each gender on the Board (currently 25% female), along with a target to increase diversity on the Board.

Compliance with the Code is an ongoing requirement and further progress to policies and processes will be made in the forthcoming year.

In accordance with the requirements of the Code, an annual governance statement will be produced along a report on progress against the actions within the Board diversity action plan. Both of these reports will be published in 2018.

# Membership Update

**2017 was a strong year for membership. A 9% growth saw the number of individual members reach 35,187 by the end of October 2017.**

A review of membership was also conducted this year, engaging with members, clubs, centres, retailers and regional development teams through a series of focus groups, roadshows and surveys.

3,300 members engaged with the membership review, that was agreed and ratified by the Board in September. In April 2018 there will be four new membership categories available:

- On the Water
- On the Bank
- Club Associate
- Digital Sign Up

The first annual membership satisfaction survey was conducted with an average satisfaction score of 6 of 10.

Through the satisfaction survey and membership review, members stated that the benefits of membership needed to be more obvious, but that they did value the core benefits of insurance, the waterways licence, and access to coaching and competition.

Members also provided feedback on Canoe Focus. In December British Canoeing announced a partnership with the Paddler magazine which will see the launch of a new print magazine for 2018.

## Membership key stats:

### Individual members:

There were 35,187 individual members of British Canoeing as of 31 October 2017.

### Gender:

28% female - 72% male

### Age:

0-10	3%
11-20	12%
21-30	13%
31-40	13%
41-50	22%
51-60	24%
61-70	11%
71-80	3%

### Percentage of members per category:

Adult	54%
Family	36%
Life	1%
Young Person	6%
Youth	3%

**Affiliated Clubs - 385**

# British Canoeing Executive Team

In 2017 there were some significant changes to the executive team working within British Canoeing. During the year there were 39 leavers and 18 new starters.

- The number of staff employed by British Canoeing in January 2017 was 120
- The number of staff employed by British Canoeing in December 2017 was 99

## Senior Management Team

### Leavers

John Anderson	Performance Director	31st July 2017
Sue Hornby	Director of Development	31st July 2017

### Internal Promotion

Paul Ratcliffe	Performance Director	8th May 2018
----------------	----------------------	--------------

### New Starters

Guin Batten	Head of Strategy and Development	18th September 2017
Barry Wade	Head of Digital	6th November 2017

## Coaching Team

### Leavers

Kellie Gilbert	Customer Service Advisor	28th April 2017
Fiona Fuller	Awarding Body Manager	31st March 2017
Mike Devlin	Delivery Centre Manager	21st July 2017

### New Starters

Ricky Snodgrass	Project & Development Officer	18th April 2017
Darryll Shaw	English Coaching Manager	24th July 2017

## Development Team

### Leavers

Gordon Walling	Canoeing Development Officer (London and South East)	3rd March 2017
David Clare	Canoeing Development Officer (South West)	10th March 2017
Michael Sims	Canoeing Development Officer (Wessex)	17th March 2017
Rachel Hudspith	Canoeing Development Officer (North East)	31st March 2017
Anna Coulson	Canoeing Development Officer (North West)	31st March 2017
Jeff Toser	Canoeing Development Officer (East)	31st March 2017
Debbie Jackson	U Canoe Development Officer	31st March 2017

John Hatton	Development Network Support Manager	31st March 2017
Kevin East	Waterways & Environment Officer	31st March 2017
Chris Page	Waterways and Environment Officer	13th October 2017

### **Performance Team - Sprint programme**

#### **Leavers**

Alex Nikonorov	Lead Technical Coach	6th January 2017
Alan Williams	International Team Manager	31st March 2017
Heather Williams	Performance Manager	15th September 2017
Katherine Ready	Physiotherapist	29th September 2017
Ian Wynne	Lead ODP Coach & Technical Coach	6th October 2017

#### **New Starters**

Réne Olsen	Head Coach (Sprint)	1st September 2017
------------	---------------------	--------------------

### **Performance Team - Slalom programme**

#### Leavers

Marc Domenjo	Podium Potential Technical Coach	18th April 2017
Mark Delaney	Podium Senior Coach	29th December 2017

#### **Internal Promotion**

Mark Ratcliffe	Head Coach - Slalom	8th May 2017
----------------	---------------------	--------------

#### **New Starters**

Richard Hounslow	Podium Technical Coach	2nd May 2017
Fieke Reijntjes	Slalom Logistics & HPC Manager	2nd May 2017.
Mark Proctor	Technical Coach	23rd October 2017

### **Performance Team- Paracanoe programme**

#### **Leavers**

Steve Harris	Head Coach – Paracanoe	31st August 2017
--------------	------------------------	------------------

#### **Internal Promotion**

Scott Simon	Head Coach - Paracanoe	1st November 2017
-------------	------------------------	-------------------

#### **New Starters**

Roger Weir	Paracanoe TID Coach	18th April 2017
------------	---------------------	-----------------

### **Performance Team -Talent Programme**

#### **Leavers**

Debbie Quittenton	Club Competition Coach	31st March 2017
Nicole Williams	Club Competition Coach	30th June 2017
Brian Greenham	Club Competition Coach	30th June 2017
Marcus Gohar	Club Competition Coach	30th June 2107
Sarah Akerman	Club Competition Coach	30th June 2017
Trevor Wetherall	Club Competition Coach	30th June 2017
Attila Herbent	Club Competition Coach	30th June 2017
Sean Hudson	Club Competition Coach	30th June 2017
Tim Scott	Club Competition Coach	21st July 2017

Dyson Pendle	Regional Talent Coach – Sprint	25th April 2017
Gabor Szeltner	Regional Talent Coach - Sprint	25th April 2017
Trevor Hunter	England Regional Pathway Coach	31st May 2017
Shaun Pearce	Regional Pathway Coach Slalom	31st May 2017

### **New Starters**

Scott Simon	Talent Coach Development Officer	1st April 2017
Daniel Thompson	Talent Programme Administration Officer	13th June 2017

### **Performance Team - Core Staff**

#### **Leavers**

Tom Hignett	Physiotherapist	1st April 2017
Katie Orman	Performance Co-ordinator	13th October 2017

#### **New Starters**

Chris Calvert	Operations and Maintenance Support	3rd April 2017
Verity Miles	Performance Administrator	2nd May 2017.
Laura Duffin	Executive Assistant	18th September 2017

### **Support Teams - Core Staff**

#### **Leavers**

Finance		
Gurpreet Landa	Finance Assistant	30th November 2017

#### **New Starters**

Membership		
Stephanie Roberts	Membership advisor	1st February 2017

#### **Communications**

Jack Carnell	Content & Media Officer	15th May 2017
--------------	-------------------------	---------------

#### **Governance**

Zofia Campbell	Performance and Wellbeing Coach	18th September 2017
James Unsworth	Compliance Case Officer/Paralegal	27th November 2017



0300 0119 500

[info@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:info@britishcanoeing.org.uk)

National Water Sports Centre

Adbolton Lane  
Holme Pierrepont  
Nottingham  
NG12 2LU



pyranha

