



Twenty Third Annual Report of the BCU Board 2002

This report is presented for the information of all members of the incorporated British Canoe Union and refers to proceedings and activities from 1 November 2001 until 31 October 2002.

BCU Annual Review 2001/2002

The British Canoe Union set out in 2002 to consolidate its position and take stock particularly in the light of programme led growth over the previous periods. In particular the Union's main organisational target was to produce a new development plan, consolidate the access campaign and prepare for approval at the 2003 AGM a new federal structure. The British Canoe Union returned record membership figures in 2002 with BCU individual and club membership reaching 42,000.

The competition season was extremely busy with BCU teams attending World and European Championships. The investment in the Olympic disciplines continued to make a major difference with good results in both Sprint Racing and Canoe Slalom. Our Olympic medallists from Sydney Tim Brabants (Racing) and Paul Ratcliffe (Slalom) won their respective European Championships and overall we exceeded the targets set by the Performance Programme, although both Paul & Tim were disappointed with their results at the World Championships.

Our Men's Canoe Polo team achieved the Gold Medal at the Canoe Polo World Championships however, sadly our Women were placed outside of the top three. From an overall BCU perspective Jonathan Schofield winning the Junior Wild Water Racing Championships, hosted by the BCU in Bala North Wales, compensated for missed women's medal. Unfortunately, due to timing issues associated with the Sprint Racing World Championships the BCU was not able to send its strongest Marathon Racing team to the World Championships and whilst new competitors gained valuable international experience, failed to gain an individual medal. The Freestyle discipline achieved formal recognition by the European Canoe Association.

A Paddleability event was held as part of the European Sprint Racing Championships with BCU paddlers taking 7 Gold, 6 Silver and 6 Bronze medals. An event is being considered as part of the Paralympics programme in Athens. The BCU has for sometime been pioneering events for disabled paddlers and in September won International Canoe Federation acceptance that the ICF will move towards recognising an official World Championships as part of the Sprint Racing discipline.

The BCU continues to campaign for greater Access to Rivers for Canoeists and in 2002 achieved 72 MP's signatories on a House of Commons Early Day Motion calling for greater access. Agreement was concluded with the Environment Agency to allow every individual BCU member to paddle on the River Thames as part of the BCU Membership package. The paddlesport review undertaken by Manchester Metropolitan University continued and revealed that the number of actual canoeists in the UK is far higher than previously thought.



The BCU achieved the Race Equality standard for sport Preliminary level. The organisation will look to complete the intermediate level during 2003.

The BCU took part in the DCMS sponsored Modernisation programme. The organisations initial project concentrated on eight areas of sporting Policy and resulted in the BCU adopting new doping rules during the review year. Other policies relating to disputes, athlete agreements and selection have been completed in draft form.

Financially the BCU completed the year to plan and achieved a small surplus.

Sadly during the year the BCU lost one of its Vice Presidents. Geoff Sanders MBE died in August having given a lifetime of service to the BCU including serving as the BCU Chair for over twenty years.

BCU Structure

There are five BCU Management Committees:

The Executive Committee has overall responsibility for implementing the policies and strategies of the Union and has particular responsibility for the management of finances.

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

The Access Management Committee looks after the provision of both "soft" and "hard" access, dealing with developing access agreements, environmental issues and expanding the infrastructure of built facilities.

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

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

Overall objectives and policies of the BCU are established by the Board, which consists of directly elected independent members and the Chairs of all accountable committees.



Members of the Board 2002

Officers of the Union

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

Chairs of Management Committees

Board	Andy Cook (acting)
Executive	Andy Cook (acting)
English Development Team	Mike Twiggs
Sports Management	Sue Janes
Access Management	Colin Kempson
Coaching	Graham Lyon

National Association Representatives

Scottish Canoe Association	Brian Chapman, Duncan Winning, David Rossetter
Welsh Canoeing Association	Mark Charlton, Phil Blain
Canoe Assn of Northern Ireland	Mary Doyle

Elected Members of Board

Roger Fox, Graham Wardle, Ian Janes, Susan Janes, Andrew Rawson, Andy Cook

Nominees of Specialist and Regional Committees Accountable to EDT

Sea Touring	David Evans
Lifeguards	Steve Hobbs
Eastern	Brian Stanbridge
Northern	Vic Brown
South West	John Westlake
East Midlands	Bernard O'Connor
North West	Andy Noblett
West Midlands	John Heath
London & South East	David Waine
Southern	Kevin Dennis
Yorkshire	Mike Twiggs



Nominees of Specialist Committees Accountable to SMC

Canoe Polo	Gerry McCusker
Freestyle	Mike Birkbeck
Surf	Andrew Hawker
Marathon	David Green
Sailing	Philip Robin
Wild Water	Peter Schofield
Slalom	David Tonks
Racing	Roland Lawler

All members of the Board are Directors of the Company

Advisory Committees include:

Whitewater Rafting	Geraint Rowlands
National Disability Committee	Viv Kendrick
Expeditions	Dave Manby
Environmental Panel	Darren Male

Our supporters

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

Long term development

Set out below are the main achievements in the plans four key objectives.

More people

- BCU membership reached record levels.
- Reached agreement to position the International Canoe Exhibition alongside the Outdoors Show
- Over 300 young people attended National YouthFest incorporating the Bellboat National Championships.
- Several regional Paddlefest events including Paddle Quest North West at Salford Quays,
- North East Active Talent Camp run at Stockton with 55 young people experiencing top coaching in slalom, racing, WWR, freestyle and polo.
- New national Wavehopper series introduced with regional events and national final held at Junior World Championships – 161 participants



- New national Lightning Cup Series introduced. 69 competitors at Sprint finals in September.
- BCU included in Sport England partnership sports and access to Active Sports programme regionally.
- Top Club re-launched and linked to Sport England Clubmark.
- BCU Placid Water Junior Development Project, Phase 2 completed and submitted to Sport England for lottery funding.
- Paddlesport Development Officer support provided in all BCU regions.
- BCU achieve Preliminary Standard for Race Equality
- Major Water Feature at Southampton Boat Show supported

More access

- 72 MPs sign Early Day Motion calling for greater Access
- Agreement reached with the Environment Agency to allow individual BCU members to paddle on the River Thames
- BCU launch major campaign “Action on Access”
- BCU Lobby results in meeting with Minister of State for Rural Affairs and Urban Quality of Life
- Government instructed Countryside Agency to undertake demonstration projects for Access to Inland Water
- Action on Access campaign gained widespread support from several agencies and organisations
- BCU proposals to Federalise prepared for AGM

More coaching

- New kayak and Canoe Handbook produced
- Completion of Phase One of Paddlesport Review
- Reports on Phase One produced and with BCU Board for consideration
- Paddlesport review Phase Two forums and consultations commenced
- Review of Child Protection policy
- Consolidation of child protection and vulnerable adults policy, and harassment policy
- Club resource in respect of above produced and circulated
- CRB registration completed and CRB application via BCU in place
- Child Protection reporting procedures consolidated and key staff training completed
- Second round of coach update forums completed
- Consultation with Sports coach UK /DCMS on National Occupational standards level three/four framework for coaching and Coaching Task force
- Coaching office refurbishment
- Coaching office IT upgrades to improve certification process
- BCU Website review/upgrade commissioned
- BCU approved White Water Safety Course update and deliver re-training completed
- BCU/ Fire Service WW safety training project with Leicester Fire Service completed
- Assessor trainer review completed/ 3 star Standards video produced



More medals

- Tim Brabants – European Champion K1 1000m
- Paul Ratcliffe - European Champion K1 Slalom
- Laura Blakeman, Heather Corrie, Helen Reeves – Team Bronze Medal at the World Championships
- The Ladies Canoe Slalom Team secured the Nations Cup
- Anthony Brown – Bronze Medal in Slalom K1 at World Cup Final in Brazil
- Men’s Senior Team won the Gold Medal at the Canoe Polo World Championships
- Jonathan Schofield won the Gold Medal at the Junior Wild Water Racing World Championships in July
- Successful Junior Wild Water Racing World Championships held in Bala, N. Wales
- Freestyle recognised by European Canoe Association
- ICF approve BCU motion to establishing Paddleability as a World Championship event
- New BCU Doping Rules and Procedures agreed

British Canoe Union – Medal Winners 2002

In 2002 Great Britain’s paddlers gained 31 medals in major international competitions. 10 Gold 6 Silver 15 Bronze plus 19 Medals at the Paddleability European Sprint Championships comprising 7 Gold, 6 Silver and 6 Bronze.

Men’s World Canoe Polo Champions

1 Junior World Champion

Jonathan Schofield – Wild Water Racing

3 x European Champions

Tim Brabants – K1M 1000m Sprint Racing

Paul Ratcliffe – K1M Slalom

Emily Wall – Freestyle K1 Juniors

Slalom

Slavia Cup – Bratislava, Slovakia 18-19 May 2002

Gold Medal	Paul Ratcliffe	Men’s K1
Bronze Medal	Neil Buckley	Men’s K1

Merano Class ‘C’ International – Merano, Italy 1-2 June 2002

Gold Medal	Anthony Brown	Men’s K1
Gold Medal	Stuart MacIntosh	C1
Bronze Medal	Laura Blakeman	Women’s K1



European Championships Senior & U23 – Slovakia 11-14 July 2002

Gold Medal	Paul Ratcliffe	Men's K1
Silver Medal U23	Laura Blakeman	Women's K1

World Championships – Bourg St Maurice – France 20-25 August 2002

Bronze Medal Team	Helen Reeves/Heather Corrie/ Laura Blakeman	Women's K1 Team
Nations Cup	GB Kayak Women's Team	

World Cup 5 (Final) - Tibagi, Brazil – 13-15 September 2002

Bronze Medal	Anthony Brown	Men's K1
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SPRINT

Piestany Junior & U23 International – Piestany, Slovakia – 17-19 May 2002

Bronze Medal	Ed McKeever	Men's K1 500m
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Duisburg International – Duisburg, Germany – 21-23 June 2002

Bronze Medal	Anna Hemmings/Rachel Train	Women's K2 200m
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European Championships – Szeged, Hungary – 20-21 July 2002

Gold Medal	Tim Brabants	Men's K1 1000m
Bronze Medal	Rachel Train	Women's K1 200m

Marathon

World Cup 2 – Maribo, Denmark – 13-14 July 2002

Gold Medal	Hayleigh Mason/Harriett Farish	Junior Women's K2
Silver Medal	Tom Daniels	Junior Men's K1
Bronze Medal	Zara Dale	Junior Women's K1

Canoe Polo

World Championships – Essen, Germany – 9-15 September 2002

Gold Medal	Great Britain	Senior Men's Team
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Wild Water Racing

Junior World Championships – Bala, Wales. 20-21 July 2002

Gold Medal	Jonathan Schofield	JK1 Men Classic Event
Gold Medal	Jonathan Schofield	JK1 Men Sprint Event

Freestyle

Pre-World Championships – Graz, Austria – 29 May-2 June 2002

Silver Medal	James Weir	OC1 Unisex
Bronze Medal	Eleanor Rutter	K1W Junior
Bronze Medal	Robert Dixon	OC1 Unisex
Bronze Medal	Paula Floyd	K1W Squirt



European Championships – Thun, Switzerland – 29 August-1 September 2002

Gold Medal	Emily Wall	K1W Juniors
Silver Medal	Deb Pinniger	K1W Senior
Silver Medal	Carl Leahy	K1M Juniors
Silver Medal	Mark Birkbeck	OC Mixed
Bronze Medal	Jamie Birkbeck	OC Mixed
Bronze Medal	Fiona Jarvie	K1W Senior
Bronze Medal	James Barnes	K1M Juniors
Bronze Medal	Lowri Davies	K1W Junior
Bronze Medal	Ollie Castle	C1 mixed

PADDLE-ABILITY

Paddle-Ability European Sprint Championships - Milan, Italy – 13 -14 July 2002

Gold Medal	Margaret Taylor Adam Savage Kevin Yost Stuart Carter Anthony Sloan A Bull/M Taylor A Bull/M Taylor	Women's K1 500m Men's K1 500m timeband B Men's K1 500m timeband C Men's K1 1000m timeband B Men's K1 1000m timeband C Women's K2 500m Women's K2 1000m
Silver Medal	Alison Bull Anthony Sloan S Whipp/ K Yost Alison Bull Kevin Yost S Whipp/ K Yost	Women's K1 500m Men's K1 500m timeband C Men's K2 500m Women's K1 1000m Men's K1 1000m timeband C Men's K2 1000m
Bronze Medal	William Brown Jason Young W Brown/A Savage William Brown Jason Young W Brown/A Savage	Men's K1 500m timeband B Men's K1 500m timeband C Men's K2 500m Men's K1 1000m timeband B Men's K1 1000m timeband C Men's K2 1000m

BCU OFFICE STAFF

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



OPERATIONAL PLAN November 2002 to October 2003.

During the next twelve months it is anticipated that the BCU will move into a new National Canoeing Development Centre at Holme Pierrepont. The move, which will house all BCU Nottingham, based staff in one place combined with the new BCU Development plan and the introduction of a more federal structure provides the BCU with an opportunity to introduce some significant changes to both its staff and volunteer structures and respective responsibilities.

The BCU is mindful of current developments in the canoeing world. In particular, as the Sport of Canoe Polo continues to expand, the BCU's investment in this discipline is not keeping pace with the other major competing nations. In addition the recognition of Freestyle Canoeing by the European Canoe Association will pave the way for full ICF Recognition. It is anticipated that at that time Freestyle overnight will become the ICF's second largest discipline in terms of competing nations. Whilst the BCU has been pre-eminent in both of these disciplines the indication is that this will not be maintained without an increase in investment.

VISION

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

The BCU vision is to:

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

MISSION

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



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

➤ **Paddler focus**

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

➤ **International success**

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

➤ **Raising the profile of paddlesport**

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