

Twenty Seventh Annual Report of the BCU Board 2006

This report is presented for the information of all members of the incorporated British Canoe Union and refers to proceedings and activities of GB Canoeing and Canoe England from 1 November 2005 until 31 October 2006.

This has been another successful year for both competition and business. In addition to our increased medal tally and record membership figures, the profile of our sport continues to improve in the media.

We have also reorganised our staffing structure which will enable us to manage the organisation in a more efficient way and allow us to respond quickly to the fast changing environment in which we operate.

Coaching has worked towards preparing for the implementation of the new Coach Education programme, which will result in many benefits for coaches and paddlers alike.

The Rivers Access Campaign successfully moved the Access issue further up the countryside agenda with unprecedented support from all sectors of the community.

We achieved the Foundation Level of the Equality Standard and are now working towards the Preliminary Level.

In competition, three World Championship medals in the Olympic disciplines demonstrated that we are on target to achieve our Performance goals in Beijing. Special mention should go to Tim Brabants returning to international competition following completion of his training as a Doctor. In addition to his World Championship medal Tim secured the European Champion title.

Special mention should also be made of the truly outstanding performances of our Marathon Women. Anna Hemmings became the most successful British Woman Canoeist of all time securing her 5th World title whilst Louisa Sawyers took both the junior individual title and with team mate Jessica Walker in the doubles event the following day.

LONDON 2012

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is moving forward with the plans for the new whitewater canoe slalom course at Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, which will serve as a host venue for the London 2012 Olympic Games. The new course will also provide a permanent legacy for the region and for whitewater sports. We feel confident that this course will help to grow the sport of Canoeing and promote the region as an Olympic host venue and destination. In addition, we hope that this will lead to a new era in canoeing and help to broaden the appeal of the sport amongst young people.

Membership Services

The popularity of the sport was reflected in another successful year with active club and individual members growing by 12.31% to 57,486. Individual membership increased to 26,291.

Income generated by Membership Services increased by 11% to £900,000.

Our ecommerce activity increased dramatically during the year with over 80% of new members joining on line and 30% renewing membership.

The membership benefits which we have negotiated have been well received and supported by members.

Literature has been updated with a common branding throughout which represents our diverse sport.

A review of our service delivery to Members has been undertaken which will result in improved customer service in the New Year.

Finance

The financial situation of the BCU continues to become more robust, largely due to the prudent management of the organisation and its success in continuing to generate funding in an innovative and pro-active manner.

The consequence of this is that the organisation's balance sheet continues to become stronger, with the result that it becomes ever more attractive to investors from the public and private sector. This will enable us to develop the facilities and services we offer to our recreational and competitive member base.

Coaching

Volunteer committees of all Home Nations and full time staff alike have been engaged in the work-up of a new Coach Education programme and a review of the BCU Star Awards.

The outcomes of this work-up are providing us with the opportunity to embrace the changes and philosophies for coaching identified in the Paddlesport Review. It will enable us to bring together both recreational and competitive paddlesport coaching under the endorsement umbrella of the United Kingdom Coaching Certificate.

The challenges of change are always difficult and as such we fully appreciate the concerns and worries that this development has raised.

As we move into 2007 and the implementation of new levels of endorsed coach education, we have a new modular structure with elements of generic 'how skills' transferability, continual personal development, supporting modules and flexibility.

A new delivery framework will produce the following opportunities:

- **Better** opportunities for paddlers
- **Better** coaching for paddlers
- **Better** education for coaches
- **Better** 'professional' opportunities for coaches and a Robust process for Accredited Prior Learning – to avoid unnecessary re-training.

This major development is about future coaches and future paddlers. Those of us who have come up through the existing Coaching scheme should not see this development as suggesting that they are some how different or that the job we currently do is not valued or not up to the mark! The Coaching Service will continue to recognise the expertise of existing coaches and they won't need to rush out and re-train or transfer into the new scheme with re-assessment.

Young People's Programme 2006

The Young People's Programme has continued to work locally to support clubs and organisations to give young people the best possible start and provide suitable pathways for progression to develop and succeed at their chosen level. Nationally, we have continued our work to develop new initiatives to support our aims whilst endeavouring to embed older initiatives into existing structures. We now have 36 accredited Top Clubs and 70+ clubs working towards accreditation. The BCU has been promoted at two National Schools Conferences attended with over 1,000 attendees and a range of regional and local events.

At Youthfest over 300 participated at the 2012 Regatta site Dorney – supported by sponsors for the event – PGL Adventure Holidays. PGL sponsorship has been Sportsmatched to provide ongoing Paddlesport activity at Dorney.

A new Youth Freestyle event was introduced – over 400 young people participated in over 5 events. In addition, we have continued to manage, support and develop the Lightning Sprint series with over 25 clubs involved in the 2006 series. The Perception Wavehopper Challenge has been fully integrated into WWR with the WWR committee now taking the leading role. The 2006 series attracted 37 Clubs from all regions.

New initiatives have been developed including; XStream Challenge, Centre XT, Junior K4 and the new revised Paddlepower scheme.

The Young People's Programme has continued to support the team of 15 BCU Community Sports Coaches and have also continued to forge greater links with the County Sport Partnerships across England to ensure that Paddlesport is included in the strategic discussion making process at both County and regional level.

In terms of support, 5 more tutors have been trained to deliver Coaching Young Paddler workshops across the UK and a new PESSCL Development Officer has been recruited to work on school club links and Step into Sport. New resources produced include 'Paddlesport' and 'Education and Making Effective School Club Links'.

Access

Key items for Access in the reporting period have revolved around the work of the Environment Agency, DEFRA and the Rivers Access Campaign.

Environment Agency

Access pilot studies - Rivers Waveney, Mersey, Teme and Wear.

The studies have been tracked with visits to the locations and meetings with BCU regions, the Agency, the University of Brighton consultants and riparian owners at Ludlow for the River Teme. The findings were announced in October by the minister responsible for inland waterways, Barry Gardiner MP at Bungay, Suffolk at the opening of the River Waveney scheme. The River Mersey scheme was also opened in October. The BCU response to the findings and reaction by members and non-members alike, has been highly critical.

The arrangements for the pilots on the Rivers Teme and Wear have not been announced and in their present form are unacceptable. It is possible that the River Wear study has stalled with disagreement between riparian owners (largely attributed to the negotiation style of the Brighton consultants and not the BCU).

The pilots will require monitoring and further attention over the coming months.

Access Agreements for Agency Controlled Waterways

Three agreements have been reached, all in the Thames region of the Agency – River Lee flood channel, River Mole flood channel and Duke of Northumberland's River. Overall they are far less liberal than the conditions set for the Rivers Mersey and Waveney.

Transport and Works Order

The BCU and other stakeholders have been in discussion with the Agency since 2002 and finally reached agreement in December 2006 with a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The Order provides the Agency to introduce changes to the legal framework it works under, without seeking new Parliamentary Acts. The MoU sets out those changes and the need for consultation and agreement for further changes. Stakeholders and the Agency meet as the Harmonisation Group and are discussing Agency strategy and charging.

DEFRA

Water Framework Directive

This directive is concerned with ecological water issues on the use and impacts on the water environment, to create a programme of measures to improve quality. The National Stakeholders Group is attended along with the RYA and BMF. Policy and procedures is still in the making and feeds into the Environment Agency WFD Regional Liaison Panels to agree on measures for each of the River Basin Districts. Recreational representation is poor on the Liaison Panels and to improve this, BCU regions are being encouraged to contribute to an Agency consultation.

Marine Bill

The BCU has contributed to a pre consultation exercise. The Bill and any resulting act will have to interface with the Water Framework Directive and it is unclear how this will be framed. Both have an ecological basis.

Other legislation and consultations

- The Broads Authority private bill
- Defra – England's trees, woods and forests. The potential for access to water was highlighted
- Select Committee for the Environment Agency – comments on the Agency's performance and policies

Rivers Access Campaign

John Grogan's EDM 957, supporting the Rivers Access Campaign was picked up by the media and gained lots of interest. It received significant support, mainly as a result of members writing to their MPs to persuade them to support the cause.

The campaign's profile was augmented by unprecedented media interest, including an article in the national and international media.

Communication with MPs has been instrumental - letters were sent out to all MPs to remind them why and what we are campaigning for. As part of the "Get your MP afloat" initiative Natascha Engle MP in Chesterfield met with Rev'd Matt Barnes. Time was spent time at the Labour Party Conference on the Boating Alliance Stand, which was a good opportunity to meet with many MPs including Caroline Flint and David Milliband.

The campaign continued to work with the Local Access Forum. Cumbria, West Midlands and Yorkshire regions each have new Regional Access Officers in place. East Midlands and the Wessex area of South West regions have RAO positions vacant. Access has provided extra support to regions and to Local River Advisors where RAO's are not in post or are dormant.

The Environment Agency released their report "Putting Pilot Voluntary Canoe Access Agreements in Place" on 3rd October. The BCU expressed their grave concerns about the summary report and the implications for canoeing. The BCU's press release resulted in a large amount of media interest and coverage. The BCU continues to press the case for new legislation akin to the Scottish Land Reform Act

BCU Structure

The BCU is managed through its Board of Directors who are representative of canoeing across the UK. The Board of Directors are ultimately responsible to the membership.

The Directors delegate certain functions to Management Committees:

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

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

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

Officers of the Union:

President	Albert Woods
Vice President	David Gent
Vice President	David Wain
Vice President	Alan Laws
Chairman	Brian Chapman
Chief Executive	Paul Owen
Treasurer	David Belbin

Chairs of management Committees:

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

Directors

English Council	David Belbin Graham Lyon Mike Twiggs Albert Woods Tim Joiner
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Canoe Assoc of N Ireland	Stephen Craig
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Scottish Canoe Assoc	Brian Chapman Dave Rossetter
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Welsh Canoe Assoc	Phil Blain Alan Baker
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All members of the Board are Directors of the Company

English Council	David Gent (Chair) David Belbin (Treasurer) Curly Barker Ann Collins Andy Cook Alan Laws Graham Lyon Mike Twiggs Mike Twitchen Albert Woods Tim Joiner
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Nominees of Specialist and Regional Committees accountable to English Council

Access Tim Joiner
English Coaching Graham Lyon

BCU Staff

The BCU Board wishes to express its sincere thanks to the staff for their continued support and loyalty.

Our Supporters

The achievements in this 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.

Appendix

Medal Winners

During 2006 Great Britain's athletes gained 85 (72) medals at Major World and European International Competitions comprising of:

- 34 (21) Gold Medals
- 32 (19) Silver Medals
- 19 (32) Bronze Medals

National Canoeing Development Plan – 2005-2009 – Key Performance Indicator - Medal Delivery at Olympic, World and European Championships

World Championship Medals – 2006			European Championship Medals – 2006				Medal Delivery Target – 2006		Actual Medal Delivery – 2006	
Total	Senior	Junior	Total	Senior	U 23	Junior	Total	21	Total	21 ¹ (27 ²)
9 (18)	5 (13 ²)	4 (5)	12 ¹ (9)	7 (4)	3 ¹ (3)	2 (2)	Senior	12	Senior	12 (17 ²)
							U 23	9	U 23	3 ¹ (3)
							Junior		Junior	6 (7)

Major Championship Winners

World Champions	Anna Hemmings	Marathon	Women's K1
Junior World Champions	Louisa Sawers	Marathon	Women' K1
	Louisa Sawers & Jessica Walker	Marathon	Women's K2
European Champions	David Bainbridge	Freestyle	Men's C1
	Tim Brabants	Sprint Racing	Men's K1
	Lowri Davies	Freestyle	Women's K1
	Greg Nicks	Freestyle	Squirt – K1
World University Champions	David Florence	Canoe Slalom	Men's C1
	Jonnie Schofield	Wild Water Racing	Men's K1
Overall World Cup Champions	Jonnie Schofield	Wild Water Racing	Men's K1

Canoe Sailing

Canoe Sailing – Europa Cup – Travemunde, Germany – July 2006

Gold Medal	Colin Newman	International Canoe
Gold Medal	Robin Wood	Asymmetric Canoe
Silver Medal	Steve Bowen	Asymmetric Canoe
Bronze Medal	Colin Brown	Asymmetric Canoe

Canoe Slalom

Canoe Slalom – World Cup 2 – Augsburg, Germany – 2-4 June 2006

Gold Medal	David Florence	Men's C1
Bronze Medal	Stuart Bowman, Nick Smith	Men's C2

Canoe Slalom – Junior World Championships – Solkan, Slovenia – 6-9 July 2006

Bronze Medal	Peter Hall, Greg Pitt, Mark Proctor	Men's C1 - Team
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Canoe Slalom – World Championships – Prague, Czech Republic – 3-6 August 2006

Silver Medal	Fiona Pennie	Women's K1
Bronze Medal	David Florence, Daniel Goddard, Stu McIntosh	Men's C1 – Team
Bronze Medal	Campbell Walsh	Men's K1

Canoe Slalom – Under 23 & Junior European Championships – Nottingham, Great Britain – 24-27 August 2006

Silver Medal	Louise Donington, Claire Harrower Lizzie Neave	Women's K1 – Team
Bronze Medal	Mark Proctor	Junior Men's C1

Canoe Slalom – World University Championships – Krakow, Poland – 7-10 September 2006

Gold Medal	David Florence	Men's C1
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Canoe Slalom – Danube Cup – Bratislava, Slovakia – 9-10 September 2006

Silver Medal	Campbell Walsh	Men's K1
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Freestyle

Freestyle – European Championships – Nottingham, Great Britain – 29 June- 2 July 2006

Gold Medal	David Bainbridge	Men's C1
Gold Medal	Lowri Davies	Women's K1
Gold Medal	Greg Nicks	Men's K1 – Squirt
Silver Medal	Ollie Castle	Men's C1
Silver Medal	Lindsey Evans	Women's K1
Silver Medal	James Reeves	Men's K1 – Squirt

Freestyle – International – Nottingham, Great Britain – 29 June- 2 July 2006

Silver Medal	David Bainbridge	Men's C1 - Open
Silver Medal	Flic Mears	Junior Women's K1
Bronze Medal	James Reeves	Men's C1 – Open
Bronze Medal	Hannah Brand	Junior Women's K1

Marathon Racing

Marathon Racing – World Cup 1 – Zamora, Spain – 10-11 June 2006

Gold Medal	Andrew Daniels, Stuart Hastings	Junior Men's K2
Gold Medal	Louisa Sawers	Junior Women's K1
Silver Medal	Edward Rutherford	Junior Men's K1

Marathon Racing – World Cup 2 – Trencin, Slovakia – 8-9 July 2006

Silver Medal	Claire Spencer	Junior Women's K1
Bronze Medal	Edward Rutherford	Junior Men's K1

Marathon Racing – Continued

Marathon Racing – World Championships – Tremolat, France – 20-24 September 2006

Gold Medal	Anna Hemmings	Women's K1
Gold Medal	Louisa Sawers	Junior Women's K1
Gold Medal	Louisa Sawers, Jessica Walker	Junior Women's K2
Silver Medal	Andrew Daniels, Stuart Hastings	Junior Men's K2

Marathon Racing – Masters World Cup – Tremolat, France – 20-24 September 2006

Gold Medal	Andrew Morton	Men's K1 – 60/64
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Gold Medal	Stephen Train	Men's C1 – 40/44
Silver Medal	Roger Bell, Brian Greenham	Men's K2 – 55/59
Silver Medal	Sharon Colley	Women's K1 – 35/39
Silver Medal	Tracy Dresch, Isebel Meikle	Women's K2 – 40/44
Silver Medal	Sue Gray	Women's K1 – 40/44
Silver Medal	Brian Greenham	Men's K1 – 55/59
Silver Medal	Oliver Harding	Men's K1 – 50/54
Silver Medal	David Howie, Tony Nolan	Men's K2 – 60/64
Silver Medal	Andrew Kelly, Melvin Swallow	Men's K2 – 45/49
Bronze Medal	Gail Battison, Tamsin Phipps	Women's K2 – 40/44
Bronze Medal	Andrew Kelly	Men's K1 – 45/49
Bronze Medal	James Parker, Chris Skellern	Men's K2 – 55/59
Bronze Medal	Ali Pendle	Women's K1 – 45/49
Bronze Medal	Melvin Swallow	Men's K1 – 50/54

Sprint Racing

Sprint Racing – International – Boulogne, France – 22-23 April 2006

Gold Medal	Abi Coulson	Women's K1 – 500m
Gold Medal	Abi Coulson	Women's K1 – 1,000m
Gold Medal	Ben Haynes, Ashley Owen, Kristian Reeves, Neil Williams	Junior Men's K4 – 1,000m
Gold Medal	Anna Hemmings, Lucy Wainwright	Women's K2 – 1,000m
Gold Medal	Louisa Sawers	Junior Women's K1 - 500m
Gold Medal	Louisa Sawers, Jessica Walker	Junior Women's K2 -1,000m
Silver Medal	Robert Beer, Nathan Ede, Thomas Hide, Edward Rutherford	Junior Men's K4 – 1,000m
Silver Medal	Rachel Cawthorn, Elenor Hilderley	Junior Women's K2 – 500m
Silver Medal	Thomas Hide, Edward Rutherford	Junior Men's K2 – 1,000m
Silver Medal	Amoret King, Claire Spencer	Junior Women's K2 -1,000m
Silver Medal	Jessica Walker	Junior Women's K1 – 500m
Silver Medal	Ian Wynne	Men's K1 – 1,000m
Bronze Medal	Armoret King	Junior Women's K1 – 500m

Sprint Racing – Under 23 and Junior International – Piestany, Slovakia – 26-27 May 2006

Gold Medal	Ben Brown	Men's K1 – 1,000m
Silver Medal	Andy Daniels	Junior Men's K1 – 3KM

Sprint Racing – Junior and Under 16 International – Bochum, Germany – 16-18 June 2006

Gold Medal	Louisa Sawers	Women's K1 – 1,000m
Gold Medal	Louisa Sawers	Women's K1 – 500m
Gold Medal	Rachel Cawthorn, Jenny Walker	Women's K2 – 500m
Silver Medal	Andy Daniels, Stuart Hastings	Men's K2 – 1,000m
Silver Medal	Andy Daniels, Stuart Hastings	Men's K2 – 500m
Silver Medal	Nathan Ede, Edward Rutherford	Under 16 Men's K2 – 500m

Sprint Racing – Junior and Under 16 International – Bochum, Germany – 16-18 June 2006

Silver Medal	Nathan Ede, Thomas Hide, Ben Parfitt, Edward Rutherford	Under 16 Men's K4 – 500m
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Sprint Racing – International – Bydgoszcz, Poland – 24-25 June 2006

Gold Medal	Ed Cox, Ed McKeever	Men's K2 – 500m
Bronze Medal	Ed Cox, Ed McKeever	Men's K2 – 200m

Sprint Racing – European Championships – Racice, Czech Republic – 6-9 July 2006

Gold Medal	Tim Brabants	Men's K1 – 1,000m
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Sprint Racing – World Championships – Szegeb, Hungary – 17-20 August 2006

Silver Medal	Tim Brabants	Men's K1 – 1,000m
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Wild Water Racing

Wild Water Racing – International – Enza, Italy – 8-9 April 2006

Gold Medal	Jonnie Schofield	Men's K1 – Sprint
Bronze Medal	Jonnie Schofield	Men's K1 – Classic

Wild Water Racing – Masters International – Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic – 16 June 2006

Gold Medal	Brian MacNulty, Colin Smith	Men's C2 – 45/54
Gold Medal	Tina Parsons	Women's K1 – 35/44

Bronze Medal	John Willacy	Men's C1 – 35/44
Wild Water Racing – World Cup 2 – Mezzana, Italy – 25 June 2006		
Gold Medal	Jonnie Schofield	Men's K1 – Sprint
Wild Water Racing – World Cup 3 – Lofer, Austria – 30 June 2006		
Gold Medal	Jonnie Schofield	Men's K1 – Sprint
Wild Water Racing – World Cup 5 – Lofer, Austria – 1 July 2006		
Gold Medal	Jonnie Schofield	Men's K1 – Sprint
Wild Water Racing – World Cup Series – 24 June-2 July 2006		
Gold Medal	Jonnie Schofield	Men's K1
Wild Water Racing – Junior European Championships – Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina – 20-23 July 2006		
Bronze Medal	Jessica Oughton	Women's K1 – Classic
Wild Water Racing – World University Championships – Krakow, Poland – 7-10 September 2006		
Gold Medal	Jonnie Schofield	Men's K1

Key

(2005 medals figures) ¹ Includes 2 World University Medals ² Includes 2 IWGA medals