

BRITISH CANOE UNION



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Poznan Senior World Championships

This year's World Championships was eagerly anticipated by the GB team. After a successful start to the season and the great results at the senior Europeans our crews were eager to take on the Challenge of the 2010 Worlds.

Qualification for the Championships was again deliberately kept to what is now the normal high standard for GB crews who all expected to reach the finals. Even with these standards we had our largest ever World Championships team (38 people plus a further 7 in the Para Canoeing team). This gave GB the third largest team at the Championships some 45 people.

Travel to Poznan was not too difficult but the direct flights times only left us with one choice for the main team which was a very early flight out from Luton and an even earlier 6am flight back from Poznan. A few lucky people were able to catch the Ryan air flights which had better travel times but these did not work for the main team.

The organisation team at Poznan are used to running major competitions. Even so there was chaos at accreditation for the few days before competition. After that apart from a few small hitches with start gates the whole affair ran very smoothly.

Most of the team stayed in the Park Hotel which is on the side of the regatta course but we did have a few support staff at another hotel in town. The Park Hotel is ideal as it's just 15 minute walk to the regatta course. The Para Canoe team stayed at the Hotel Polanez which is a short bus ride to the course. Breakfast and evening meals were at the hotels with lunch at the regatta course. Following the problems at Moscow we were cautious about the quality of midday meals at the course. This was unfounded as they were really quite good.

There has been a regatta course at Poznan for 20 years, the water is quite open and there can be a lot of chop from the banks as crews come down to the finish line. This year there was also a problem with weed on the course and some of our crews were unlucky enough to be affected with this problem. Conditions on the first day were really difficult with big waves and lots of chop making racing very difficult during the rest of the regatta the water conditions and weather were much better.

Results:

There were 75 Countries enrolled for the Championships a few had visa issues leave the final total at 72 Countries. We had entries in 18 events plus a further 5 entries in the Para Canoe. The GB team performance was simply outstanding.

Tim looked really good in the K1 1000m laying down some really good times which showed great promise for the finals. In the final in was just fantastic to watch him attack the race taking an early lead after about 50m he stretched his lead to more than a boat length which he held well into the last 200m. There was a late challenge from the other boats which included the World Champion Max Hoff who after a great struggle just managed to pip Tim on the finish line. This was a great return to racing for Tim and was followed by another great performance in the 500m. He again reached the A final where he picked up weed on his rudder which almost certainly cost him a second medal.

Rachel Cawthorn has had a brilliant season and we had high hopes that she could repeat her K1 1000m Gold medal winning performance from the Senior Europeans. Rachel made the A final and after a tough race finish just outside the medals in 4th place. The K1 500 was at least on paper going to be even tougher race but Rachel again made the final with a great time 1.48.78. In the final Rachel was lying in fourth place at the half way mark and had to really attack the second half of the race. On the finish line she snatched the Bronze medal away from last year's silver medallist Katrina Wagner. This is GB's first ever Senior World Championship medal in our ladies team and simply fantastic result for Rachel and her coach Miklos. The future looks bright as we approach Olympic qualification next year.

In the Women's K2 races we had a young crew of Jenna Hawkey and Angela Hannah both racing at their first world championships. They were entered in both the K2 1000 and 500 events where hoped they would gain some valuable experience. In the K2 1000 they had solid race in both the heat and semi final and qualified for the A final where they raced well finishing in 7th place. In the K2 500 they qualified for the B final and again finished 7th. A great first World's for the girls!

In the women's K4 500 we had a new crew (Abi, Hayleigh, Rachel and Louisa) which we hoped would be able to challenge for positions in the top half of the final. The girls finished second in both the heat and semi finals and qualified for the A final. In the final they were in the middle of the field on the first half of the race and pushed really hard for the finish. On the line in was incredibly close, the Hungarian crew took the gold and we finish in 5th place just 1/10th of a second off the medals. This puts us in a strong position with a young crew we can develop for 2012.

Sometimes results just don't look as good on paper as they really are. The Men's K4 crew had good races in the heats and the semi finals finishing 4th in each. They were never more than 2 seconds off the winning boat and easily broke the 3 minute barrier in both races in difficult choppy conditions. They needed a 3rd place or better to reach the (A) final and so had to race out the (B) final with some other very capable crews including last year's medal winning SVK K4. They finished 3rd in their final again just 2 seconds off the winning boat. A solid performance with potential for much more.

Jon Boyton and Ed Rutherford had a great World championships. In the K2 1000m they were 3rd in their Semi final but just missed the fastest time that would put them in the a final. They went on to finish 3rd in the (B) final giving them a world ranking 12th. In the K2 500m they again just missed the (A) and then went on to win their B final. A great weekends work!

In the Canoe Class we had two boats at the World Championships. Matt Lawrence and James Train raced in the C2 1000m while Richard Jeffries raced his first world championships in the C1 200m.

Matt and James finished 4th in the heats and 5th in the semi finals with a best time of 3.45 seconds. This was enough to put them in the B final where they finished 6th. This was a disappointing result for Matt & James as it just equalled their 2005 world's championships C2 1000 time.

In the C1 200 Richard was putting in times in the .43 second area (probably 2 seconds off his best) which was quite good for the bumpy water conditions. He struggled to control his boat in the semi finals but still qualified for the C final. In the final he was leading the field when he capsized. Poznan is a difficult course at the best of times but Richard was really up for the race and I'm sure gained some valuable experience.

In the 200m events we had a really strong team racing in 6 events.

In the women's K1 Jess Walker was racing in the K1 200m for the first time. Jess had a good heat and semi final with solid times in the 41 second area. Jess just missed the (A) and then went on to win the (B) final. I'm sure with more race practice Jess will be able to challenge for medals next year. We also had a women's 200m relay team which won their heat putting them straight in the Final. Unfortunately the team just never got going in the final and finished a disappointing 6th.

In the Men's Kayaks 200m we had Ed Mckeever in the K1 and Jon and Liam in the K2. Both boats had won Gold at the Europeans and we hoped for more medals at the Worlds, we were not disappointed.

Ed Mckeever won his heat and semi getting faster with each run. In the final he took the lead after 20m and simply motored away winning by a massive .30 of a second (nearly a third of a boat length) the time a staggering .34.80 seconds (faster than many K2's)

Jon and Liam also had great races in the heats and semi finals. Again they went out and won both the early rounds against some very stiff opposition. In the final their time was .31.58 which gave them the Bronze medal just 3/100th of a second off Gold. These guys were then joined by Ed Cox and raced the men's relay. Two more great races saw them walking away with the Silver medal in the team event.

We had two boats in the 5k races. Tim had a good start but got caught up with other boats on the first round which left him chasing the lead group eventually finishing in 5th place. Lani Belcher also had a good race and was away with a lead group of three boats. On the last turn the BLR paddler hit Lani's boat breaking the rudder. This was unfortunate as Lani was looking very strong and would certainly have taken one of the medals.

We also had a small GBR Para Canoe Team at the Championships. I have included their results below and I'm sure that Trevor Wetherall will provide a short report on their experience.

I'm sure people will agree that this young team has enormous potential to qualify boats for the Olympic Games. They won 5 medals (4 in Olympic events) and have several other boats in contention for finals and medals.

A full breakdown of the results is available on the competition web site: www.kayak2010.com

Poznan Senior World Championships 2010

<i>Name</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Heat</i>	<i>Semi Final</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>
Tim Brabants	K11000	3 rd 3.32.75	2 nd 3.32.81	A 2nd 3.30.04	GER	3.29.54	2
R Cawthorn	LK1000	3 rd 4.01.00	2 nd 4.02.92	A 4th 4.02.38	GER	3.57.54	5
	C1 1000				UBZ	3.51.72	
J Boyton / E Rutherford	K2 1000	3 rd 3.19.78	3 rd 3.18.54	B 3rd 3.19.58	GER	3.13.02	12
	WK2 1000	4 th 3.47.06	3 rd 3.49.20	A 7th 3.47.70	HUN	3.34.30	7
M Lawrence / J Train	C2 1000	5 th 3.45.18	7 th 3.46.42	B 6th 3.48.33	ROU	3.37.31	15
E Farrell / P Wycherley S Hastings / A Daniels	K4 1000	4 th 2.58.93	4 th 2.57.51	B 3rd 3.00.95	FRA	2.54.10	12
	C4 1000				BLR	3.18.72	
Tim Brabants	K1 500	2 nd 1.40.85	2 nd 1.38.53	A 4th 1.39.78	SWE	1.38.45	4
R Cawthorn	LK1 500	2 nd 1.53.86	2 nd 1.48.78	A 3rd 1.50.92	UKR	1.50.46	3
	C1 500				BLR	1.47.70	
J Boyton/E Rutherford	K2 500	5 th 1.33.59	4 th 1.32.66	B 1st 1.32.25	BLR	1.29.23	10
A Hannah J Hawkey	WK2 500	7 th 1.49.35	6 th 1.49.00	B 7th 1.49.01	HUN	1.40.06	16
	C2 500				ROM	1.40.78	
A Edmonds/H Mason R Cawthorn L Sawers	WK4 500	2 nd 1.35.12	2 nd 1.33.36	A 5th 1.33.97	HUN	1.31.60	5
J Walker	WK1 200	2 nd .41.85	4 th .41.66	B 1st .41.31	HUN	.40.18	10
	WK2 200				HUN	.36.88	
E Mckeever	MK1 200	1 st .35.95	1 st .35.19	A 1st .34.80	GBR	.34.80	1
L Heath J Schofield	MK2 200	1 st .32.94	1 st .32.00	A 3rd .31.58	FRA	.31.53	3
	WC1 200m				CAN	.51.95	
R Jeffries	C1 200	5 th .43.06	6 th .43.32	C Capsized	RUS	.39.16	?
T Brabants	K1 5k			5th 20.14.48	AUS	20.01.33	5
L Belcher	WK1 5k			7th Broken rudder	HUN	22.44.92	1-3 ?
	C1 5k				GER	23.24.34	
Women's Relay	4 x 200m	1 st 2.54.74		6th 2.58.04	GER	2.50.31	6
Men's Kayak Relay	4 x 200m	2 nd 2.30.24		2nd 2.27.87	ESP	2.27.40	2
James Oldham	MK1 LTA	3 rd .47.12			ROU	.44.17	
Jono Broome	MK1 A			3rd 1.07.17	BRA	56.15	
Lucy Gardner	WK1 LTA			4th 1.09.04	CAN	53.19	
Maggie Taylor	WK1 TA			5th 1.09.95	BRA	1.02.94	
Patrick Mahoney	MV1 LTA	2 nd 1.01.13		4th 1.00.83	TAH	.54.91	

Women's

C2 500

winning time Canada

2.03.62

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