

Thirtieth Annual Report of the BCU Board 2009

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 2008 until 31 October 2009.

BCU Annual Review 2008/2009

2009 was a fantastically successful year for the BCU with major successes both on and off the water. With new funding agreements in place until March 2013, together with a much stronger delivery structure, 2009 has been a year of transition. Despite the economic climate the review year saw a further increase in BCU membership and Canoeing's Participation recording significant growth in the Sports Council's "Active People Survey".

In competition, our paddlers achieved 178 medals at major World and European International Competitions including 8 individual World titles and Team titles in Both Women's Canoe Slalom and Men and Women's rafting. Our women's Canoe Polo team completed the quadruple adding the World Games, European and World Cup titles to the World Championship title won in 2008. The hosting of the European Slalom Championships at Holme Pierrepont in May was a further highlight.

The BCU became one of the few National Governing Bodies of Sport to achieve the "Advanced Standard" in Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport. The Minister for Rural Affairs appointed our Government and Public Affairs Manager to the Inland Waterways Advisory Committee dramatically increasing the political profile of our activities. Our Chief Executive was elected to the Chair of the Central Council for Physical Recreation's Water Recreation Division.

As part of its ongoing Governance Review the BCU launched a Review of its Coaching Governance and Management with a view to ensuring that the organisation has the best possible structure to take coaching forward in the 21st century.

The BCU AGM in March increased the number of Vice Presidents to seven, recognizing the outstanding service to the sport of long term Volunteers David Green, Duncan Winning, Malcolm Kerry and Roger Fox together with the outstanding achievement of our first ever Olympic Champion Dr Tim Brabants.

Coaching

2009 provided us with our most successful season of Coaching conferences, Paddlefest events and Regional Coaching Forums. Coaching activity continues to increase, along with selected Coaching Bursary funding to support new Level 1 and 2 coaches and a strengthening of the regional coaching network and the support available to it.

2009 saw an uptake in the Paddlesport Performance Awards with some 7500 candidates completing 1 Star, 5000 completing 2 Star and 2000 completing 3 Star Awards. As we progress into 2010 we should now begin to see the number of candidates completing the leadership awards at 4 and 5 Star increase and becoming increasingly relevant to the support of activities in clubs and centres alike.

Towards the end of 2009, BCU Awarding, the BCU's awarding arm for the new Certificate in Paddlesport Coaching Qualifications, was audited successfully by its external audit agency OFQUAL. It also completed a full year review of the new Level 2 Award.

Following on from a successful 2009, we look forward to an equally eventful and busy 2010. Starting the year off with an exciting and prestigious Canoe England Coaching Conference, we will have a full Home Nation conference and regional Coach Update programme along with a wide selection of Coaching Award Courses with some exciting bursary opportunities available for Level 2 and 3 coaches.

Training and Assessment opportunities for the new BCU Certificate in Paddlesport Level 1 and Level 2 Awards are now offered by each of the BCU Home Nations as approved BCU Awarding Body Delivery Centres, and we hope to see the new Level 3 Award introduced during 2010.

4374 individuals have successfully completed Level 1 Training and Assessment. Level 2 was introduced during the year and 717 candidates have already completed the training element of the award and to date 131 of these candidates have completed the full award.

The BCU "old style" coaching awards remain valid and indeed are the only qualifications available at level 4 and 5 with level 5 remaining available for training and assessment.

English Development

Following the successful submission and award of funding for the 2009-13 Development Plan we have now commenced work on the six key areas identified in our plan – Participation, Places to Paddle, Paddler Pathways and Competition, Coaching, Volunteers and Support Services. We are now totally focused on delivering the interventions to achieve our objectives.

The Paddlesport Participation Programme continues to work locally to support clubs and organisations, giving people from across the community the best possible start, and providing suitable pathways for progression to develop and succeed at their chosen level. We are delighted to have again increased our Paddlesport Development Officer strength with an officer now based in every region. This support, focused at grass roots level, has helped us to support 68 clubs to achieve Clubmark and Top Club accreditation with a further 62 clubs working towards accreditation. In the last year we were also able to recognise the first clubs to achieve the new Top Club Gold Award and launch our Top Centre Accreditation scheme.

The revised Paddlepower Scheme has grown into a huge success with over 100,000 Paddlepower Start certificates sent out since the revised scheme was launched in May 2007 and 42,300 certificates issued in the last 12 months. Over 12,000 young people engaged in Paddlepower Passport and 12,000 with Paddlepower Discover in the last year.

Our School Club Links Scheme (PESSCL) continues to grow with over 5,000 11-15 year olds paddling at our accredited clubs. This is a result of excellent club programmes, support to clubs through the Community Sports Coach scheme and the hard work of volunteers. The ability to combine programmes such as the Community Sports Coach scheme and the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) has resulted in substantial increases in club membership and participation at those clubs. This summer we launched the Canoe England Capital Grants scheme which will replace the CCDP scheme.

In the last 12 months our Club Coach programme has been restructured to provide targeted support to help increase the number and quality of young people in our talent pool and we have introduced our Canoe 2012 days to drive an increase in individuals competing in competition and multi disciplines leading up to 2012.

Equity, Safeguarding and Volunteers

We again successfully celebrated the tireless work of our many volunteers through the Canoe England Volunteer Awards which was staged as part of the annual Coach Conference at the National Watersports Centre with Olympic Champion Tim Brabants presenting the prizes. In March we achieved the Advanced Standard for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport and in June launched our own Paddlesafe on-line Child Protection Awareness course.

Access and Environment

Throughout 2009 the Access and Environment Team has continued to be involved with various consultations and workshops, the Water Framework Directive, the Environment Agency's Strategic Water Recreation workshops, and DEFRA's Marine Conservation Zone projects as well as our submission to the Welsh Assembly Government's inquiry into Access to Inland Water.

We have been very successful at getting Canoe England representation on six of the seven Environment Agency "Regional Fisheries Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committees." These committees have a strategic role within the English regions and we are now well positioned to ensure that canoeing interests are not overlooked when decisions are being made about water recreation.

The Access and Environment Team has been spending more time during 2009 becoming involved with environmental issues; this is partly as a result of external pressure, and partly through a desire to enhance our environmental credentials. To help us with this process we have recently revised our environmental publication, "You, Your Canoe and the Environment." We have carried this work out in conjunction with partner organisations that have provided their endorsement to this publication. The revised "You, Your Canoe and the Environment" will be available in the early part of 2010.

During 2009 we have also been involved in defending rights of access on rivers where our rights have been challenged. While we may not have converted our antagonists, we have managed to reassure local paddlers that

their interests were being represented, and we have raised Natural England's and the Environment Agency's awareness of the extent of the problem. These are the Government's agencies with responsibility for access, recreation and inland water.

Government and Public Affairs

During 2009 the Rivers Access Campaign was never far from the news. In July 09 Griff Rhys Jones's television documentary "Rivers" was aired on BBC1 and the four programmes lead to a lot of debate on air and in print. The Campaign had been instrumental in providing the producers with facts about the access issue in England and Wales.

The headlines it caused including, the quote from Griff Rhys Jones about the lack of access to our rivers is a "*major national scandal!*" He also asserted that "*It's time to reclaim our rivers, from secret bends to urban meanders; our waterways are a national treasure. They need to be opened up for everyone ... But after a year spent canoeing, swimming and surfing along our waterways for my new television series about Britain's rivers, I have discovered that, in England and Wales at least, they no longer belong to the people. They belong to stockbrokers, to anglers and to farmers.*"

The Campaign was afforded the opportunity to present their case against the Angling Trust on 'You and Yours' BBC Radio 4 in July 09. The piece was well received and efforts by the anglers and somewhat mischievous journalists to depict the debate as being about canoeing versus fishing have back-fired leading to greater public support.

Several press releases were issued on behalf of the Campaign during the summer months, some to highlight the Access issue and others to refute the myths put out from the angling fraternity.

Further meetings have been held with the Minister Huw Irraccana Davies where the BCU were supported by John Grogan MP and Peter Bottomley MP.

During 2009 the work of the campaign was assisted by John Grogan MP and Peter Bottomley MP. They not only facilitated meetings with the Minister but regularly spoke on our behalf. John Grogan MP also put up:

EDM 1577 - INCREASED ACCESS TO WATERWAYS IN ENGLAND AND WALES - 02.06.2009

The BCU has been very involved in cross party working groups, stakeholder meetings and Government initiatives including the rewriting of the policy document 'Waterways for Tomorrow' now called "Waterways for Everyone" due out for consultation in November 2009 and then consolidation and final publication in Spring 2010.

The BCU attended both the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences as part of the Boating Alliance.

Support from MPs and other organisations continue to grow and now many organizations contact us with concerns and issues they have regarding access.

It is important to keep the profile of canoeing in Parliament as it helps MPs to realise that the access to inland waters is a real issue. The lack of access prevents so many people getting active on the waterways which are part of the Government's health targets to make us a healthier and more active nation.

"A river is, for all of us, a great spiritual resource. We are healed by rivers: they are wondrous natural corridors through the countryside or the town. That is their value, and if we allow ourselves to be pushed off them, we lose access to a great natural British marvel." Griff Rhys Jones July 2009

Facilities

2009 has been the busiest year to date whereby plans laid over preceding years are starting to be delivered on the ground.

Canoe England staff were involved with partners in the design and commencement on site to build the 2012 White Water Olympic Canoe Slalom Site at Broxbourne. We completed a £750k upgrade to the White Water Course at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, a £230k improvement to our Washburn site in North Yorkshire plus a £160k restoration project to the Rapids at Symonds Yat on the river Wye in Herefordshire. We, with British Waterways, Tees Active and the Stockton-Middlesbrough Initiative, finalised the design for a £4.5m upgrade and additional short course at the Teesside Barrage White Water course.

The highly successful Community Club Development Programme (a joint DCMS/SE initiative) came to an end after 8 years in April. To be replaced by the Canoe England Capital Grants (CECG) programme. This has enabled us in 2009 to grant aid £430k to 3 clubs, and 2 canoe trail features plus we have spent £30,000 on the purchase of canoes and equipment for club and coaching use.

We continue to have close relationships with the various river and canal navigation authorities, particularly the Environment Agency, British Waterways, and the various waterways trusts. Over 46 canoe landings have been erected on the Rivers Nene and Great Ouse. On the Medway Navigation in Kent we are particularly pleased with the design and installation of a new design of fish pass that also incorporates a canoe shoot, double decker style. This design has been so successful that the Environment Agency have not only approved the design in record time but have authorised a second combined fish pass and canoe shoot further up the Medway. This is a huge step forwards.

Our experts have also been advising partners on weir design and improvements. At Bishops Mill Sluice on the Cam in Cambridge City Centre, a pilot design of flippers has been installed. The flippers fold down to the river bed when not in use but are cranked into a raised position so as to funnel water from the sluice into white water waves for paddlers to enjoy.

In 2010 we look forward to continuing to work to help deliver Broxbourne for 2012 and its legacy applications, to the reopening of Teesside, to the installation of more ingress egress platforms on canoe trails, to helping 7 more clubs improve their buildings through the CECG programme all of which bode well for the expansion of canoeing, both as a sport and recreation.

Membership

Membership has again reached record levels with 65,793 declared members and volunteers. This includes 29,782 individual members; an increase of 8.5% on the previous year. We have 409 clubs and 3 affiliate members.

Vision Express has been added to the list of suppliers offering significant discounts to our individual members. By taking advantage of these offers we have received in excess of £40,000 in commissions.

The Canoe Foundation

The Canoe Foundation, the charity arm of the BCU, has had an exceptionally busy year with many grants being given over the course of the last 12 months.

Finance

Our finances continue to be in a strong position due to the prudent management by the Board and Senior Management Team. This has been reflected in significant increases in funding to the British Canoe Union from both UK Sport and Sport England for the funding period ending 2012. These increases are a direct result of the continued success of both GB Canoeing and Canoe England in their respective arenas.

BCU Structure

The British Canoe Union is broken down into two distinct operating divisions:

GB Canoeing (including UK Coaching)

- The selection, training and administration of GB Teams (Olympic and Non Olympic)
- International liaison with the ICF, ECA and their member federations
- Development of UK Coaching Framework

Canoe England (membership body in England)

Canoe England is the membership body for paddlers, clubs, centres and associates in England. It also provides contracted-in services to GB Canoeing to avoid duplication in areas such as Finance and Human Resources.

Governance

Both divisions of the BCU are responsible to the 10 person BCU Board comprising directors from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, together with 5 directors appointed by England.

The English Council is accountable for the activities of Canoe England.

The BCU Board appoints a Chief Executive who chairs the Senior Management Team comprising of key members of staff from the organisation's operational areas.

The sport of canoeing provides recreational opportunities across a diverse range of activities from leisure paddling on rivers, lakes and sea, to competitive opportunities in eight sporting disciplines ranging from structured participation to elite competition. The Directors delegate certain functions to Management Committees:

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

The World Class Management Group (WCMG) 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:	Alan Laws
Vice President:	David Green
Vice President:	Tim Brabants
Vice President:	Duncan Winning
Vice President:	Malcolm Kerry
Vice President:	Roger Fox
Chairman:	Brian Chapman
Chief Executive:	Paul Owen
Treasurer:	David Belbin
Chairman of BCU Awarding:	Graham Lyon

Chairs of Management Committees:

Board of Directors:	Brian Chapman
English Council:	David Gent
World Class Management:	Albert Woods
UK Coaching:	David Rossetter

Board of Directors

David Belbin	Canoe England
Graham Lyon	Canoe England
Greg Smale	Canoe England
Mike Twiggs	Canoe England
Albert Woods	Canoe England
Brian Chapman	Scottish Canoe Association
David Rossetter	Scottish Canoe Association
Phil Blain	Canoe Wales
Alan Barker	Canoe Wales
Keith Fitzsimmons	Canoe Association of Northern Ireland

Competition Committee Chairs

Canoe Polo	Samantha Hosken
Canoe Sailing	Gareth Caldwell
Canoe Slalom	Anne Hounslow
Freestyle	Tim Ward
Marathon	Brian Gandy
Sprint Racing	Peter Moule
Surf	Richard Uren
Wild Water Racing	Peter Schofield

Nominees of Specialist and Regional Committees accountable to English Council:

Access	Vic Brown
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English Coaching Steve Scorer

Chairs of English Regional Committees:

Cumbria	Roger Ward
East Midlands	Craig Keegan
Eastern	Vacant
London and South East	David Waine
North East	Vacant
North West	Helen Sharples
Southern	Kevin Dennis
South West	Geoff Goulden
West Midlands	John Heath
Yorkshire	Dick Constable

BCU OFFICE 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.

British Canoe Union – Medal Winners – 2009

During 2009 Great Britain's athletes gained 178 medals at Major World and European International Competitions comprising of:

65 Gold Medals
53 Silver Medals
60 Bronze Medals

Medal Delivery at World and European Championships

World Championship Medals – 2009				European Championship Medals – 2009				Actual Medal Delivery – 2009	
Total	Senior	U 23	Junior	Total	Senior	U 23	Junior	Total	40
22	14	2	6	18	13	1	4	Senior	27
								U 23	3
								Junior	10

(2008 Medal Figures)

Major Championship Winners

World Champions

Laura Blakeman, Louise Donington, Lizzie Neave	Canoe Slalom	Women's Team
David Bainbridge	Freestyle	Men's C1
Claire O'Hara	Freestyle	Women's K1 Squirt
James Reeves	Freestyle	Men's K1 Squirt

Adam Harvey (Jersey)	Surf	Junior HP
Naomi James (Wales)	Surf	Women HP
Corin King (Northern Ireland)	Surf	Junior IC
David Speller (Jersey)	Surf	Men HP
England	Surf	Team Event
Jen Chrimes, Sarah Cloke, Deb Cook, Rosie Cripps, Naomi James, Briony Devoy, Georgina Preston	White Water Rafting	Women's – R6 H2H
Pas Blackwell, Matt Blue, James Glover, Lawrence Harris Lawrence Harris, Adam Norfolk, Zach Pillinger, James Stapleton	White Water Rafting	Men's – R6 H2H

World Games Champions

Zoe Anthony, Pru Blythe, Ellie Bridgestock, Ginny Coyles, Pip Grayson, Kathryn Grieves, Kirsty Sutcliffe	Canoe Polo	Women's Team
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European Champions

Laura Blakeman, Louise Donington, Lizzie Neave	Canoe Slalom	Women's Team
Richard Hounslow, Huw Swetnam, Campbell Walsh	Canoe Slalom	Men's Team
Zoe Anthony, Pru Blythe, Ellie Bridgestock, Ginny Coyles, Pip Grayson, Kathryn Grieves, Sarah Kirwin, Claire Mitchell	Canoe Polo	Women's Team
Hannah Brown, Sandra Hyslop, Jessica Oughton	Wild Water Racing	Women's K1 Team – Sprint

World Cup Series Champions

Jessica Oughton	Wild Water Racing	Women's K1
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Youth Olympic Champions

Ed Rutherford	Sprint Racing	Men's K1 – 500m
Matthew Lister, Rhys Davies	Canoe Slalom	Men's C2

Sprint Racing

Sprint Racing – European Championships – Brandenburg, Germany – 25th-28th June 2009

Bronze Medal	Rachel Cawthorn	Women's K1 – 500m
Bronze Medal	Rachel Cawthorn, Hayleigh Mason, Louisa Sawers, Jessica Walker	Women's K4 – 200m

Canoe Slalom

Canoe Slalom – World Championships – Seu D'Urgell, Spain – 10th-13th September 2009

Gold Medal	Laura Blakeman, Louise Donington, Lizzie Neave	Women's K1 Team
Silver Medal	Richard Hounslow, Huw Swetnam, Campbell Walsh	Men's K1 Team
Bronze Medal	Lizzie Neave	Women's K1
Bronze Medal	Tim Baillie & Etienne Stott, David Florence & Richard Hounslow, Dan Goddard & Colin Radmore	Men's C2 Team

Canoe Slalom – European Championships – Nottingham, Great Britain – 28th-31th May 2009

Gold Medal	Laura Blakeman, Louise Donington, Lizzie Neave	Women's K1 Team
Gold Medal	Richard Hounslow, Huw Swetnam, Campbell Walsh	Men's K1 Team
Silver Medal	Tim Baillie & Etienne Stott, David Florence & Richard Hounslow, Dan Goddard & Colin Radmore	Men's C2 Team
Bronze Medal	Tim Baillie & Etienne Stott	Men's C2

Canoe Slalom – Under 23 & Junior European Championships – Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia – 24th-26th July 2009

Silver Medal	Thomas Brady, Joseph Clarke, Joseph Coombs	Men's Junior K1 Team
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Silver Medal	Claire Kimberley, Bethan Latham, Natalie Wilson	Women's Junior K1 Team
Bronze Medal	Rhys Davies, Matthew Lister	Men's Junior C2

Canoe Polo

Canoe Polo – World Games – Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei – 17th-18th July 2009

Gold Medal	Zoe Anthony, Pru Blythe, Ellie Bridgestock, Ginny Coyles, Pip Grayson, Kathryn Grieves, Kirsty Sutcliffe	Women's Team
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Canoe Polo – European Championships – Essen, Germany – 19th-23rd August 2009

Gold Medal	Zoe Anthony, Pru Blythe, Ellie Bridgestock, Ginny Coyles, Pip Grayson, Kathryn Grieves, Sarah Kirwin, Claire Mitchell	Women's Team
Silver Medal	Beth Barratt, Sam Barry, Grace Galvin, Charlotte Lister, Emily Martin, Aimee Robson, Liz Ponting, Emma Whitwham	Women's Under 21 Team
Bronze Medal	Nick Archer, Tom Baston, James Bowers, Danny Bowles, Ed Feltham, George Murfin, Alan Vessey, Martyn Williamson	Men's Team

Wild Water Racing

Wild Water Racing – European Championships – Valtellia, Italy – 21st-27th June 2009

Gold Medal	Hannah Brown, Sandra Hyslop, Jessica Oughton	Women's K1 Team – Sprint
Silver Medal	Sandra Hyslop	Women's K1 – Sprint
Bronze Medal	Jessica Oughton	Women's K1 – Sprint
Bronze Medal	Colin Cartwright & Dave Bradburn, Jamie Christie & Simon Wright, Simon Goulding & Matthew Harrison	Men's C2 Team – Classic
Bronze Medal	Colin Cartwright & Dave Bradburn, Jamie Christie & Simon Wright, Simon Goulding & Matthew Harrison	Men's C2 Team – Sprint

Marathon Racing

Marathon Racing – World Championships – Crestuma, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal – 16th-20th September 2009

Silver Medal	Ben Brown	Men's K1
Silver Medal	Louisa Sawers	Women's Under 23 K1
Bronze Medal	Lani Belcher	Women's K1
Bronze Medal	Thomas Daniels	Men's Under 23 K1
Bronze Medal	Dean Terry	Men's Junior K1

Marathon Racing – European Championships – Ostroda, Poland – 23rd-26th July 2009

Bronze Medal	Jonny Tye, James Webster	Men's Junior K2
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Freestyle

Freestyle – World Championships – Thun, Switzerland – 30th August-6th September 2009

Gold Medal	David Bainbridge	Men's C1
Gold Medal	Claire O'Hara	Women's K1 Squirt
Gold Medal	James Reeves	Men's K1 Squirt
Silver Medal	Emma Runciman	Women's K1 Squirt

Full medal details are published on - <http://www.bcu.org.uk/our-sport/>