

Thirty First Annual Report of the BCU Board, 2010

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 2009 until 31 October 2010.

BCU Annual Review 2009/2010

2010 was perhaps the BCU's most successful year ever with incredible achievements both on and off the water. Membership continues to increase and our results in International Competition continue to excel. Five medals were secured in Olympic categories for our Sprint and Slalom athletes, demonstrating our potential for the London Olympic Games in 2012.

Overall BCU members achieved 112 medals in significant international competitions, including 3 individual world titles and 3 team titles.

World Champions:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Ed McKeever | Canoe Sprint K1 200m |
| Ben Brown | Canoe Marathon K1 |
| Jessica Oughton | Wildwater Canoeing K1 Sprint |

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Canoe Polo | GB Senior Women |
| Wildwater Canoeing | Women's K1 - Classic Team |
| Whitewater Rafting | Women's R4 - Sprint |

Coaching

The year was packed full of Home Nation Coaching Conferences including the prestigious Canoe England Coaching Conference as well as Paddlefests and Regional Coach Update programmes. These events were combined with the normal agenda of Coaching Award Courses where the BCU was able to provide some exciting bursary opportunities for Level 2 and 3 coaches.

2010 again saw a continuing increase in the uptake in Paddlesport Performance Awards. Over 7500 candidates completed 1 Star, just less than 5000 candidates completed 2 Star and over 2500 candidates completed 3 Star awards. As the BCU progressed through the year the number of candidates completing the leadership awards at 4 and 5 Star became increasingly relevant to the support of activities in clubs and centres alike.

From the management perspective, the year saw the completion of the BCU Coaching Governance Review, with recommendations to establish a new Coaching Strategy Group (CSG) to manage the strategic development of Coaching across all Home Nations. A Coaching Operations Group (COG) was also established as a means of delivering the strategy and supporting developments across all Home Nations.

These groups are challenged by the review to create a new vision for BCU Coaching along with a new structure for BCU Coaching and the development of a new Coaching strategy for 2010 to 2016 mapped against the UK Coaching Framework.

In order to support this, a detailed Paddler Development Model (PDM) is being prepared as a method for showing how participants should develop in and through canoeing. The model will be generic and high level. It will be evidence-based and related to participants' needs, goals, motivations as well as age/stage of development.

These activities will ensure that each Canoeing discipline is served effectively and efficiently by the BCU Coaching Service to enable the BCU to develop a technical skills specification for each area of activity.

Further recommendations from the BCU Coaching Governance review have tasked the CSG to review the strategic alignment of awards and carry out a full risk assessment of all activities. In addition the review asked us to improve communications and overall efficiency as well as performing a review of the BCU Awarding body status.

A full summary of the BCU Coaching Governance Report can be seen at www.bcu.org.uk/news

The training and assessment opportunities for the new BCU Certificate in Paddlesport Level 1 and Level 2 Awards continued to be offered by each of the BCU Home Nations as approved BCU Awarding Body Delivery Centres, with

the new BCU Level 3 Certificate in Paddlesport Award also now introduced. 2,500 individuals have successfully completed Level 1 Training and Assessment. 1071 individuals have been trained at Level 2 and 323 assessed.

English Development

The BCU has now completed the first year of the 2009 -13 Development Plan and are pleased to report encouraging progress in our key outcomes. Growth in adult participation (16+) measured by the Active People Survey (APS) indicates an encouraging rise in both weekly and monthly participation. From the first survey (AP1 – October 2005 – October 2006) monthly participation has increased by 43% to 143,400. The weekly figures have shown a slight decrease from last year but have still increased by 40% from our base line of 43,500 to 51,000. Even more encouraging is the increase in the numbers of women participating once a week in our sport – an increase of 74% since AP2 rising from 7,400 to 12,900.

A number of interventions and initiatives are contributing to the increases in participation. Over the last 12 months 97 “Go Paddle” days attracted over 9,000 participants, and 62 Canoe 2012 days attracted over 3,000 participants. Our Women and Girls programme has developed a number of resources to support clubs and recently launched a women’s coaching and mentoring scheme. The BCU Paddlesport Participation team continues to work locally to support clubs and organisations to enable people from across the community to have the best possible start and provide suitable pathways for progress to develop and succeed at their chosen level. The BCU is delighted that through the support of our Paddlesport Development Officers and the commitment of our clubs and volunteers, the BCU now have 91 accredited clubs, with 62 clubs working towards accreditation.

Young People and Schools are another key intervention. The BCU are delighted that canoeing now has links in 450 School Sport Partnerships and according to the PE & School Sport Survey, canoeing is currently offered in 7,135 schools. This success is a result of excellent club programmes, the work of clubs and volunteers and the support provided through the participation coaches. The BCU is also delighted that after considerable hard work canoeing is now included on the Competition Framework for school sport. The BCU anticipates that this will transform the way canoeing is delivered in schools with a pathway from the sports hall to the water, with skills/activities that can be developed for transfer to the water and which is age and key stage appropriate. In 2010 the BCU launched the new Paddlepower Coaches resource and it is worth noting that since the new scheme started in 2007 over 137,000 young people have gained a Paddlepower Start certificate, with over 45,000 of these obtaining their Paddlepower Passport.

The BCU Club Coach programme continues to provide support to our talented young paddlers, helping to increase the number and quality of young people in our talent pool. In addition, the programme aims to support the development of volunteer coaches within the clubs involved, transferring best practice from the GB Performance programme. The BCU has over the last year supported the Paracanoe team through the Club Coach programme and as a result the BCU has been able to run a Paracanoe squad to support training and development leading to the 2010 Sprint World Championships.

Equality Safeguarding and Volunteers

In 2010 the BCU was able to celebrate the amazing contribution of our many volunteers. The Volunteer and Recognition Awards were staged as part of the annual Coach Conference.

Work is progressing towards the Intermediate Standard for Equality and the BCU continues on work to imbed the policy and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Access and Environment

2010 has provided the Access and Environment Team with many challenges. In March the reply to the Waterways for Everyone consultation was completed and well received. As a result of the BCU’s comprehensive submission the government clearly has a greater understanding of the sport and our organisation.

BCU staff and volunteers have been involved in workshops and meetings on the future development of the waterways ensuring that Canoeing and our views on the inland waterways are registered.

There has been a focus on the marine environment with inputs to further government consultations. Members of the Access and Environment team are engaged with regional projects to establish Marine Conservation Zones. In

step with these developments and to further promote the green credentials, the advice – “Canoeing on the Sea - A Guide to Good Environmental Practice” was issued as a website document and produced with the assistance of the Scottish Canoe Association.

The BCU team has continued the long term commitment to monitoring the progress of the Water Framework Directive and the associated directives to improve the overall quality of the water environment including Bathing Water.

Views have also been submitted to the Government in their preparatory work for a business plan on the future challenges to be faced by the water industry. The BCU referred to the water industry's key role and duty to make provisions for recreation.

The BCU has been approached by British Waterways and the Environment Agency to assist in developing canoe trails in various parts of the country but, in particular, on and around the Olympic Park, going up and beyond Lee Valley Regional Park. The work to develop trails has commenced and as and when ready the trails will be published and publicised widely.

Throughout this reporting period the BCU team has created new egress points, and assisted where access has been challenged. Staff and volunteers have continued to raise the profile and benefits of Canoeing with Government, and their agencies to encompass health, education and socio-economic gains that include tourism and regeneration.

Government and Public Affairs

Throughout the year there has been a significant shift in the emphasis of the work undertaken. After the General Election in May the work has become more involved with the new government's plans and in particular advising on the changes that are planned for British Waterways and potentially the Environment Agencies navigations to form a New Waterways Charity (NWC). As probably the largest group of boaters who use the waterways, it is important that canoeing opinions continue to be heard. The BCU has asked for the inclusion of young people in the NWC. This would represent more correctly the wide age range of those involved within canoeing and give the recognition to the skills that these young people have.

The Government has stated that they believe that developing policy for Inland waterways is a clear responsibility for Government Department and Ministers. In the future they will develop policy by consulting all interests directly including, making full use of evidence that can be provided by the navigation authorities and having a closer relationship with stakeholders. We are ensuring that as a stakeholder we are able to advise and assist in the future of our waterways.

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

Several Ministers and ex Ministers, as well as MPs, who came and visited the stand were aware of the access issue and mentioned it without even being provoked. Support from MPs and other organisations continue to grow and now many organisations contact us with concerns and issues they have regarding access.

Facilities

2010 has been another excellent year with impressive progress, coupled with world-leading innovation and the delivery of completed projects.

The Cardiff White Water Centre was opened early in the year and is already proving to be an exceptional facility.

The White Water Course upgrade at Holme Pierrepont was designed in Britain using French “in course” obstacles. The BCU has learnt a lot from this experience and the full season of operation since completion in 2009 has proved our design extremely successful with user and management feedback being very positive.

Out of this experience came an idea for a new, modern, flexible British designed and manufactured “in course” obstacle system, now commercially called “Rapid Blocks”. These were extensively tested in the Teesside course early in the year and have now been specified in our 2012 Olympic White Water Site in the Lee Valley. The contractors at Lee Valley have worked hard to build the course throughout the 2010 year and the course was due to be handed over by the contractors to the Lee Valley Authority in December 2010.

Innovative trials have taken place on the Environment Agency-owned Mapledurham Weir on the Thames to produce a flexible white water play wave. This too has been successful and the BCU are hopeful that similar white water features will be rolled out on more weirs as they come up for refurbishment.

Elsewhere, both our Washburn and Symonds Yat sites that were upgraded last year have seen substantial increases in user numbers and satisfaction.

In February the BCU bought a small parcel of land and fishing rights on the River Ure at Ripon, North Yorkshire. This strategic purchase enables paddlers to access the river for training and touring, with off road parking and occasional camping available for all members.

The BCU has continued through our Capital Grants programme to invest in our club infrastructure. The largest investment this year has been at Manvers Lake in South Yorkshire. The building was handed over on September 1st and is due to open fully in May 2011. The building is heated using heat pumps and the onsite club has reached 500 members in just 18 months. The BCU has based a Paddlesport Development Officer and a Racing Coach at the facility.

Other clubs with substantial investment this year are Cambridge and, Stafford and Stone. The former is a club house extension in 50% partnership with Cambridge Council and the latter, a completely new club house in partnership with a well respected club that was in receipt of a large legacy.

The Environment Agency is helping with additional combined fish passes and canoe shoots on the rivers Medway and Thames. British Waterways have opened a canoe trail on the river Weaver in Cheshire and are planning several combined fish passes and canoe shoots to their own weirs.

Hydro power applications and their effect on weirs is becoming much more of a concern. There are several thousand potential Hydro sites in the country and a substantial minority of these are of interest to canoeists. Hydro applicants, in general, do not take water-based recreation into account yet there can be substantial alterations to the river flow in, over and around the site. The BCU is pressing applicants to include portage paths, landings and combined canoe and fish passes into their schemes.

Membership

Membership has continued to grow steadily. Individual membership increased by 3.8% to 30,956 with membership retention increasing to 72.5%..

Club affiliation increased from 409 to 429 with 33,326 members making a total of 64,282. The income generated from membership fees is now in excess of £1 million.

Finance

The BCU finances remain in a strong position. This has been reflected in the maintenance of core funding levels from Sport England following the Government Funding Review. The BCU feels that this is a direct result of the continuing achievement of both GB Canoeing and Canoe England towards their respective targets.

BCU Structure

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

GB Canoeing (including UK Coaching)

GB Canoeing is responsible for the selection, training and administration of GB Teams (Olympic and Non Olympic), International liaison with the ICF, ECA and their member federations. Together with the development of the UK Canoeing Coaching Framework which covers all aspects of the BCU Coaching Service

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 Coaching Strategy Group (CSG) 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:

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|------------------|---------------------|
| President: | Albert Woods |
| Vice President: | David Gent |
| Vice President: | Alan Laws |
| Vice President: | David Green |
| Vice President: | Dr Tim Brabants MBE |
| Vice President: | Duncan Winning |
| Vice President: | Malcolm Kerry |
| Vice President: | Roger Fox |
| Chairman: | Brian Chapman |
| Chief Executive: | Paul Owen |
| Treasurer: | David Belbin |

Chairs of Management Committees:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Board of Directors: | Brian Chapman |
| English Council: | David Gent |
| World Class Management: | Albert Woods |
| Coaching Strategy | David Gent (Acting) |

Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alan Baker | Canoe Wales |
| David Belbin | Canoe England |
| Phil Blain | Canoe Wales |
| Brian Chapman | Scottish Canoe Association |
| Keith Fitzsimmons | Canoe Association of Northern Ireland |
| David Gent | Canoe England |
| Graham Lyon | Canoe England |
| Eddie Palmer | Scottish Canoe Association |
| Greg Smale | Canoe England |
| Albert Woods | Canoe England |

Discipline Committee Chairs

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Canoe Polo | Samantha Hosken |
| Canoe Sailing | Gareth Caldwell |
| Canoe Slalom | Anne Hounslow |

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|---------------------|-----------------|
| Canoe Freestyle | Tim Ward |
| Canoe Marathon | Brian Gandy |
| Canoe Sprint | Peter Moule |
| Surf | Richard Uren |
| Wildwater Canoeing | Peter Schofield |
| Lifeguarding | Martin Suzan |
| White Water Rafting | Deb Cook |
| Access | Vic Brown |
| English Coaching | Steve Scorer |

Chairs of English Regional Committees:

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|---------------|----------------|
| Cumbria | Matt Ellis |
| East Midlands | Ian Richards |
| Eastern | Rob Bates |
| London | Beth Ettinger |
| South East | Jim Rossiter |
| North | Len Smith |
| North West | Helen Sharples |
| Southern | Kevin Dennis |
| South West | Graham Cooper |
| West Midlands | Clare Morgan |
| Yorkshire | Robert Wright |

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 in particular UK Sport and Sport England who have continued to provide financial and advisory support.

British Canoe Union – Medal Winners – 2010

During 2010 Great Britain's athletes gained 112 medals at Major World and European International Competitions comprising of:

**36 Gold Medals
34 Silver Medals
42 Bronze Medals**

Medal Delivery at World and European Championships

| World Championship Medals – 2010 | | | | European Championship Medals – 2010 | | | | Medal Delivery – 2010 | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|----|
| Total | Senior | U23/21 | Junior | Total | Senior | U23/21 | Junior | Total | 42 |
| 23 | 19 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 13 | 0 | 6 | Senior | 32 |
| | | | | | | | | U23/21 | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | Junior | 8 |

Major Championship Winners

| | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| World Champions | | |
| Ed McKeever | Canoe Sprint | Men's K1 – 200m |
| Jessica Oughton | Wildwater Canoeing | Women's K1 – Sprint |
| Ben Brown | Canoe Marathon | Men's K1 |
| Zoe Anthony, Pru Blyth, Ellie Bridgestock, Ginny Coyles, Kathryn Grieves, Claire Mitchell, Aimee Robson | Canoe Polo | Women's Team |
| Hannah Brown, Sandra Hyslop, Jessica Oughton | Wildwater Canoeing | Women's K1 – Team – Classic |
| | Whitewater Rafting | Women's R4 – Sprint |
| European Champions | | |
| Rachel Cawthorn | Canoe Sprint | Women's K1 – 1,000m |
| Ed McKeever | Canoe Sprint | Men's K1 – 200m |
| Liam Heath, Jonathan Schofield | Canoe Sprint | Men's K2 – 200m |
| Lani Belcher | Canoe Sprint | Women's K1 – 5,000m |
| | Whitewater Rafting | Women's R4 – H2H |
| Junior World Champions | | |
| Adam Burgess, George Tatchell, Ryan Westley | Canoe Slalom | Men's C1 Team |
| Bethan Latham, Natalie Wilson, Emily Woodcock | Canoe Slalom | Women's K1 Team |
| World Rankings | | |
| Ben Brown | Canoe Marathon | Men's K1 |
| World Cup Series Champions | | |
| Jessica Oughton | Wildwater Canoeing | Women's K1 |

Canoe Sprint

Canoe Sprint – ICF World Championships – Poznan, Poland – 19th-22nd August 2010

| | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------------|
| Gold Medal | Ed McKeever | Men's K1 – 200m |
| Silver Medal | Tim Brabants | Men's K1 – 1,000m |
| Silver Medal | Ed Cox, Liam Heath, Ed McKeever, Jonathan Schofield | Men's KR – 4 x 200m Relay |
| Bronze Medal | Rachel Cawthorn | Women's K1 – 500m |
| Bronze Medal | Liam Heath, Jonathan Schofield | Men's K2 – 200m |

Canoe Sprint – ECA European Championships – Trasona, Spain – 2nd-4th July 2010

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| Gold Medal | Rachel Cawthorn | Women's K1 – 1,000m |
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|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Gold Medal | Ed McKeever | Men's K1 – 200m |
| Gold Medal | Liam Heath, Jonathan Schofield | Men's K2 – 200m |
| Gold Medal | Lani Belcher | Women's K1 – 5,000m |
| Bronze Medal | Rachel Cawthorn | Women's K1 – 500m |

Canoe Slalom

Canoe Slalom – ICF World Championships – Tacen, Slovenia – 9th-12th September 2010

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|--------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Bronze Medal | David Florence, Richard Hounslow | Men's C2 |
|--------------|----------------------------------|----------|

Canoe Slalom – ECA European Championships – Bratislava, Slovakia – 13th-15th August 2010

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|--------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Bronze Medal | David Florence, Richard Hounslow | Men's C2 |
|--------------|----------------------------------|----------|

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| Bronze Medal | Tim Baillie & Etienne Stott, David Florence & Richard Hounslow, Daniel Goddard, Colin Radmore | Men's C2 Team |
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Canoe Slalom – ICF Junior World Championships – Foix, France – 15th-18th July 2010

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|------------|---|---------------|
| Gold Medal | Adam Burgess, George Tatchell, Ryan Westley | Men's C1 Team |
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| Gold Medal | Bethan Latham, Natalie Wilson, Emily Woodcock | Women's K1 Team |
|------------|---|-----------------|

Canoe Slalom – ECA Under 23 and Junior European Championships – Markkleeberg, Germany – 5th-8th August 2010

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|--------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Silver Medal | Mallory Franklin | Women's C1 – Junior |
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| Silver Medal | Liam Allwood & Jonathan Shaw, Matthew Evans & Matthew Holiday, George Tatchell & Ryan Westley | Men's C2 – Junior Team |
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| Silver Medal | David Bain, Joseph Clarke, Ciaran Lee Edwards | Men's K1 – Junior Team |
|--------------|---|------------------------|

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| Silver Medal | Bethan Latham, Natalie Wilson, Emily Woodcock | Women's K1 – Junior Team |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|

Paracanoeing

Paracanoeing – Canoe Sprint – ICF World Championships – Poznan, Poland – 19th-22nd August 2010

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|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Bronze Medal | Jono Broome | Men's K1 – A Category |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|

Canoe Polo

Canoe Polo – ICF World Championships – Milan, Italy – 1st-5th September 2010

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|------------|---|--------------|
| Gold Medal | Zoe Anthony, Pru Blyth, Ellie Bridgestock, Ginny Coyles, Kathryn Grieves, Claire Mitchell, Aimee Robson | Women's Team |
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| Bronze Medal | Beth Barrett, Samantha Barry, Nichole Brain, Grace Galvin, Liz Ponting, Emily Martin, Emma Whitwham | Women's Under 21 Team |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|

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| Bronze Medal | Will Borratt, Matt Fletcher, Pete Hollis, Gallin Montgomery, Ross Montgomery, Dan Robson, Jack Robson, Jamie Thomson, Olly Thomson, Jamie Thomson, Olly Thomson, Katie Davies, Grace Galvin, Kate Mathers, Liz Ponting | Men's Under 21 Team |
|--------------|--|---------------------|

Wildwater Canoeing

Wildwater Canoeing – ICF World Championships – Sort, Spain – 8th-13th June 2010

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|------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Gold Medal | Jessica Oughton | Women's K1 – Sprint |
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| Gold Medal | Hannah Brown, Sandra Hyslop, Jessica Oughton | Women's K1 – Team – Classic |
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| Silver Medal | Hannah Brown | Women's K1 – Classic |
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|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Silver Medal | Hannah Brown | Women's K1 – Sprint |
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|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Bronze Medal | Jessica Oughton | Women's K1 – Classic |
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| Bronze Medal | Hannah Brown, Sandra Hyslop, Jessica Oughton | Women's K1 – Team – Sprint |
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Canoe Marathon

Canoe Marathon – ICF World Championships – Banyoles-Girona, Spain – 24th-26th September 2010

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| Gold Medal | Ben Brown | Men's K1 |
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Canoe Freestyle

Canoe Freestyle – ECA European Championships – Lienz, Austria – 14th-19th June 2010

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|--------------|------------------|----------|
| Silver Medal | James Bebbington | Men's K1 |
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| Silver Medal | James Benns | Junior Men's K1 |
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| Silver Medal | Claire O'Hara | Women's K1 |
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| Bronze Medal | Fiona Jarvie | Women's K1 |
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| Bronze Medal | Brendon Orton | Junior Men's K1 |
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Full medal details are published on - <http://www.gbcanoeing.org.uk>