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PREVIEW 2007

## Focus

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HAS DROPPED ANCHOR

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# Foreword



## Dear friends of canoeing,

It is a great pleasure to introduce this second edition of the new-look Canoeing International. Last year's inaugural edition was very warmly received, as it offered a comprehensive review of the years activities, and a preview of the coming years major events. This well-received format has been retained for this edition.

Looking back, 2006 has been a momentous year for the International Canoe Federation. The bold move to leave Madrid, the ICF's home for several years, and move to Lausanne, has been very positive. We are now close to the IOC, and share a world-class facility with a number of other like-minded international federations.

This is part of the ongoing commitment to continually improve the functioning and capacity of the International Canoe Federation, under the able administration of Secretary-General Antoine Goetschy, and his team of professionals.

Looking ahead, 2007 will be a very important year for canoeing and kayaking, and in particular for the men and women with aspirations to represent their nations at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. The qualifying criteria are now clearly understood, and the events in 2007 that will decide the allocation of boats for the Beijing Games will provide an even more thrilling spectacle than usual.

The ICF will continue to strengthen its position in the Olympic family, and to broaden its programme of activities to advance canoeing and kayaking disciplines on every continent in a future-oriented way, and in particular the important programmes that support the development of canoe classes, the participation of women, Sport for All, and Paddle ability.

The sport of canoeing has never been in a stronger position. In addition to the healthy activity and growth in the well established disciplines, the evolution of disciplines such as Freestyle, Dragonboat Racing and the worldwide growth on Ocean kayaking is very encouraging indeed. Besides, the ICF keeps on improving its relations with other international paddling federations like Va'a, Wave-Ski, Life Saving and Rafting

While we can feel proud of the professional administration that runs the daily affairs of the International Canoe Federation from our new home in Lausanne, I want to take time to pay tribute to the many thousands of volunteers who administer canoeing and kayaking in clubs, regional bodies, national federations, continental bodies, and the many committees of the International Canoe Federation. Their unselfish labour is the result of their passion for the sport we love. Without these volunteers our sport would simply not be in the healthy state that it is in at present.

We can all look forward to another exciting and vigorous year of canoeing and kayaking activity in 2007,

## Best Regards

**Ulrich Feldhoff** ICF President

**CANOEING  
INTERNATIONAL  
IS THE OFFICIAL YEARLY  
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## New website for the Panamerican Canoe Federation

■ World wide paddling friends, the Panamerican Canoe Federation now has a web page.

The aim is to inform and be informed about canoe and kayak in the Americas. The web page intends to provide information on all aspects of competitions



taking place in canoeing and kayaking. Log on to the website and discover all aspects of competitive paddling from northern Canada to southern Chile and everywhere in between!

[www.kayakpanam.com](http://www.kayakpanam.com)

## ICF Financing

◆ By Francesco Conforti, ICF Treasurer

■ The International Canoe Federation is part of the Programme of Summer Olympics Games thanks to Flatwater Racing and Slalom Racing. The number of Olympic medals - 12 for the Flatwater Racing and 4 for Slalom Racing - put canoeing in the first places of Federations awarding the greatest number of medals in the Olympic Games. The presence of Canoeing at the Olympic Games allows our sport to get funds from the International Olympic Committee every 4 years, and this allows us to coordinate the activities for all our disciplines.



The impressive number of spectators at Canoeing competitions in the last Olympic Games in Athens (remember the packed Slalom Racing Whitewater Stadium) and the spectacular television broadcasting have ensured that the IOC (that receives money from the TV networks for the sale of the television rights for Olympic Games) has given a particular attention to our sport in terms of financing.

These funds allow the ICF to safely carry out its responsibilities in general terms, but also allows the ICF to further support the development of our sport under the "ICF Development Programme" to help the newer Canoe Federations in all five Continents, aiming at making our sport as universal as possible.

The role and the responsibility of the ICF Treasurer's position are intense, and it is my purpose, thanks to my professional bank experience, to carry out these functions to help ensure that those working for the growth and betterment of our sport are well supported.



### Big Race : betting on canoeing!

■ It is now possible to bet on canoeing! The game is called Big Race. Much to our pleasure, Canoeing has been introduced this year for the first time. This initiative aims at combatting and lifting illegal gambling from the World of Sports. Several sports disciplines have been encouraged by the initiative and eventually Soccer won't be the only popular sport to monopolize the big stage.

Beautiful sports like Canoeing, with great ethical and environmental standards, will have their chance to make the scene. The Italian Canoe Kayak Federation is particularly happy to cooperate with the company Big Race, which has been pouring funds into the network world.

**How to bet:** you can bet on the winning Nation for Slalom / Flatwater Racing World Championships.

Each Nation is quoted differently. The Italian National Flatwater Racing Championships 2006 in Milan has also been part of the game.

**More info on [www.federcanoa.it](http://www.federcanoa.it). Click on Big Race!**

Sharing knowledge in sport management in an organised and structured way

## The ICF Headquarters have moved to Lausanne



The first Maison du Sport International (MSI) – or House of International Sport – opened on June 23rd 2006 in Lausanne (Switzerland) and the ICF took the opportunity to move its Headquarters into this building fully dedicated to sports on July 10th 2006, and was one of the first federations to take advantage of this opportunity.

### The MSI

The MSI is located on the shores of the Lake Geneva, halfway between the International Olympic Committee Headquarters and the Olympic museum, making it truly at the centre of international sport. It is composed of four buildings all interlinked and fully integrated. It will truly become the global centre of sports management and encourage the transfer of knowledge between organisations like never before. Twenty-five sports federations have moved to this new location and the ICF was one of the organisations coming from abroad.

“The basic idea of the MSI, says Patrice Iseli, Head of Lausanne Sports Department, was to gather several international federations under the same roof to allow synergy and to improve the networks between them. As the Olympic capital, the city of Lausanne has to show that it deserves its status. The city wants to prove that it is not only the IOC headquarters but also a capital of sports”.

### New opportunities

Mr Antoine Goetschy, ICF Secretary General, has been interviewed by “Olympic Capital Quarterly”, the newsletter published by the city of Lausanne and sent to all International Federations all over the world and also to all media organisations dealing with Olympic sports. This newsletter promotes Lausanne as the Olympic Capital. He says : “The services provided in Lausanne and Switzerland are very good. All the promi-

ses made by the City of Lausanne and Canton de Vaud have been respected. They set high expectations but so far they have met every promise they have made. We were due to settle in to Lausanne on July 10th, which is right in the middle of our competition schedule which would normally be a nightmare but because of the support we are receiving it allows us to make this move in an easy and efficient manner. I expect that it will allow all of the federations to manage their sports in a more efficient way. The simple fact that we will share resources already makes our lives much easier. Rather than spending time on accounting, travelling arrangements, computer problems we can now simply focus on developing added value for our members. The efficiency of the entire building will be good for everyone. I was appointed Secretary General in April of 2005, and in two months of organising the move to Lausanne I managed to solve many of the administrative problems our office has been having for years.”

The ICF has settled two levels below FISA Headquarters, and has already established a close collaboration. The Canoe Club of Lausanne is located nearby on the lake.

### Staff members and missions

Five members are currently working in the HQ:

- Mr Antoine Goetschy (FRA): Secretary General
- Mr Csaba Szanto (HUN) : Technical Director in charge of the coordination and execution of the ICF Development Programme
- Miss Ana-Marija Garcevic (CRO) : Sport Assistant in charge of Event Management (Calendar, Competitions, Officials ...)
- Miss Samantha Hutchins (AUS) : Executive Assistant in charge of Administrative Matters and Anti-Doping Administration
- Miss Ségolène Paquet (FRA) : Communication Assistant in charge of Publications (Magazine, Newsletter ...) and Website



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# Dutch Water Dreams official opening

◆ By DWD - All pictures from Dutch Water Dreams



■ Dutch Water Dreams, a unique Olympic standard whitewater sports complex, opened during the weekend of October 20th to 22nd 2006 in Zoetermeer (Netherlands) with a spectacular inaugural weekend! Events during this opening weekend included the participation of the cream of around 15 countries in the first International invitation tournament organised by DWD, The Dutch Open Canoe Slalom. This, together with the races NK Canoe Slalom, Freestyle and Sprint competitions made for an extremely successful weekend.

The building of the DWD complex means that everyone can enjoy the sensation of indoor surfing, bodyboarding and whitewater experience.

The DWD whitewater course is based on the design being built for the Olympic Games Beijing 2008. The whitewater course is 300 meters in length, 20 meters wide and drops 5 meters from the top to the bottom. There are five pumps, each of which has a pumping capacity of 4.25 m<sup>3</sup> water per second. Depending on the activity 4.25 m<sup>3</sup> (a single pump) up to 20.25 m<sup>3</sup> (five pumps) per second can be pumped through the whitewater course. This amounts to between 20 and 105 full bath tubs ... per second!

DWD's course is equipped with movable obstacles. The water's flow is determined by the quantity of water, the drop and the natural obstacles. At DWD, we imitate nature using artificial obstacles, which can be placed on the course like Lego blocks. The placement of these obstacles influences the current, thereby allowing us to alter the safety and the course's difficulty level.

The fact that the design of the whitewater course is based on the facility being built for the 2008 Beijing Olympics makes DWD very attractive to international top-class sport. Several international teams have already indicated that they are coming to train on the DWD whitewater course. The Dutch Canoe Slalom team, sponsored by Randstad and DWD, had already used the course prior to its opening in October 2006 and had found it to be extremely positive.

In addition, anyone who feels like an entirely new experience and is not afraid to get wet is welcome at DWD! Both the whitewater course and the three FlowRiders are available for recreational use. Introductory lessons and courses will be organised for recreational users. Kids' clinics will be held especially for children (children using the FlowRider® must be 8 or over and have a grade A swimming certificate, and children using the whitewater course must be 12 or

over and have A and B grade swimming certificates). Kids' parties can also be organised at DWD.

\* FlowRider® generates a permanent, artificial wave, approximately 2 metres high. Water is pumped around in the FlowRider® at an average speed of 50 km/h. The bottom layer of the FlowRider® is made of a soft material and when water flows across it, it feels like a judo mat. It doesn't hurt when you fall and that means the FlowRider® is safe for board sports. The FlowRider® was developed by Tom Lochtefeld and has already been installed in several places in the USA including San Diego and Miami.

DWD has set special prices for members of the national canoe federations. If you are certain you want to enjoy the ultimate experience of the whitewater course more often, DWD offers various multiple ride tickets at an attractive discount! You also get ? 3,- discount if you bring your own boat and ? 3,- discount when you wear your own wetsuit. In addition DWD can also arrange economically priced overnight accommodation nearby. For more information about special rates and overnight possibilities, surf to [www.dutchwaterdreams.com](http://www.dutchwaterdreams.com) or contact the Sport department.

DWD is proud to name Randstad, ING, Teva and O'Neill as its main sponsors!



## Fair Play Awards

◆ *By Mr Csaba Szanto, ICF Technical Director*

■ The International Fair Play Committee presented three special Fair Play Awards during the Flatwater Racing World Championships Senior 2006 in Szeged (HUN).



### To Mr. Abdel Jaber Saddam Hamid, Iraqi athlete

Abdel lost his kayak partner, who was killed by insurgent's during a bombing in Baghdad just three weeks before the World Championships. Abdul didn't stop paddling after this tragedy and kept training for the Championships with another partner in that emotionally hard time and dangerous condition in Baghdad. In the World Championships, they progressed to the semi-final in both 500m and 1000m distances in K2 Men. Abdel Jaber showed the passion for the the sport, and the spirit of Fair Play, and set an example to the other athletes who participated in the World Championships and all athletes around the world.

### To Mr Feldhoff and Mr Bee

The International Fair Play Committee also gave an Award to Mr. Ulrich Feldhoff, ICF President for his great contribution to Canoe and Kayak over a long period and to Mr. Istvan Bee, head of the Hungarian Canoe and Kayak Fan Club for their fair and enthusiastic support during the entire World Championships in Szeged.

The awards were presented by Mr. Jenő Kamuti, Chairman of the International Fair Play Committee

Abdel Jaber Saddam Hamid (third from right) and Mr Bee (first from right)

## Dragonboat Racing National Championships in Iran

Following the article published in the last edition of Canoeing International, we are pleased to inform you that the first Dragonboat Racing National Championships for Men was held on August 8th, 2006 on Azadi Lake (I.R.Iran). 13 Men teams from 12 provinces of Iran with 300 athletes in total participated in this very interesting men's event.

For the first time a blind team participated and competed with other 5 Dragonboat teams (these five teams aren't blind). Everyone watching was thrilled by this achievements, and the blind team was loudly cheered throughout the race.. Their paddling was well synchronised, and they showed the ability and desire to improve even further.

The first Dragonboat Racing National Championships for Women was held on August 6th, 2006 in Azadi Lake (I.R.Iran). 11 women teams from 9 provinces of I.R.Iran with in total 250 athletes participated in this event.

The Women team



The blind Men team

# A paddler Chief Officer of the USA Olympic Committee

◆ Information from the USA Olympic Committee (USOC) and [www.daveyhearn.com](http://www.daveyhearn.com) - Pictures from the USOC



■ A three-time Olympian with more than a decade of experience in business administration, strategic planning and sport management is joining the

United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as the organization's new Chief Operating Officer. Norman Bellingham, who was a member of the 1984, 1988 and 1992 U.S. Olympic Teams in Flatwater Racing, started his new assignment with the USOC on November 1, 2006. In 1988, Bellingham teamed with Greg Barton to win the gold medal in the two-man 1,000 meter sprint kayak race.

## New Officer for the USOC

As Chief Operating Officer, Bellingham will report to Jim Scherr, another Olympian in Freestyle wrestling, and assist him in directing the day-to-day operations of the USOC. He will contribute to the continued development and implementation of the USOC's strategic plan, and have oversight of the following USOC divisions: Audit, Development, Finance, Information Technology, Paralympics, Sales and Marketing, and Security.

"As we continue to strengthen our organization and begin developing new business opportunities, bringing on board an individual with Norman's talent and expertise is critical," said Scherr. "As an athlete, Norman represented our country with honour and dignity in the Olympic Games. In business, he has earned a reputation as an innovator with the ability to effectively work across multiple business disciplines. And as a member of the Olympic family, he has selflessly volunteered his time in support of America's athletes. We are proud to once again welcome Norman to the team."

"Having been a part of the Olympic movement for over half my life, I hold its values and goals in great respect and cannot imagine a more exciting opportunity," said the 41-year-old Bellingham.

Bellingham also has considerable experience working with the United States Olympic Committee. From 1993-96, he served as the USOC's Special Assistant to the Director of Sport, where he was responsible for analyzing and improving the effectiveness of USOC programs and services that support athletes and National Governing Bodies. He created and directed the \$4.5 million Hometeam '96 Program that was designed to maximize the medal performance of the U.S. Team at the 1996 Atlanta Games. Bellingham also helped design and implement a new financial support system that created a direct link between athletic performance and financial support - a system that is still being utilized by the USOC.

For the last eight years, Bellingham was an executive at Turner Broadcasting. He ran their Corporate Strategic Planning group which was responsible for identifying and developing new businesses and platform extensions of current businesses; overseeing asset acquisition and divestiture; and working across the Turner portfolio to create new operating and organizational models to leverage the company's strengths in emerging business segments.

Bellingham earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in economics from Harvard University in 1993 and an MBA from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration in 1998. He spent most of his early youth living in Asia, specifically: Hong Kong, New Delhi, Kathmandu and Singapore.

## Flatwater Racing Champion

Bellingham started out as a K-1 slalom paddler. He began his career under the tutelage of Tom McEwan at the Valley Mill Camp, in Germantown, Maryland, at the age of 12. In 1979, McEwan introduced Bellingham to Bill

Endicott, coach of the U.S. Whitewater Team, who had trained many world champion medalists. Bellingham spent the next four years training with the U.S. slalom team, becoming the U.S. Junior Champion and finally representing the U.S. national senior team in the Europa Cup in 1982. Inspired by reading Endicott's history of the whitewater world championships, The River Masters, his dream in those days was to become world champion in slalom racing. By the fall of 1983, he realized that he would have to train full-time if he were to become a world champion. He knew he could not afford to do that in slalom, which was a non-Olympic event and received no U.S. federation financial support. That is when he elected to try sprint racing. Since it was an Olympic event, he would be eligible for United States Olympic Committee financial support. So Bellingham got a sprint boat and started training. In the early spring of 1984 — an Olympic year — Bellingham returned to ask his old slalom coach,



Endicott, to train him in Flatwater Sprint for the Olympics. Norman won a spot on the Olympic team and ultimately stroked the U.S. K-4 in the Los Angeles Olympics, but was eliminated in the repechage.

After the 1984 Games, Bellingham chose to train full-time for the next four years. Encouraged by his coach Endicott to train in the boat as much as possible year round, he went to New Zealand where he spent several winters training with Olympic Champions Ian Ferguson, Paul McDonald, Alan Thompson and Grant Bramwell. Ultimately, it was the K2 team of Ferguson and



MacDonald that he and Barton had to beat to win the gold medal in 1,000 meter event at the Seoul Games of 1988. In 1991, in preparation for the next Olympic Games, Bellingham trained with Finnish brothers Mikko and Olli Kolehmainen with whom he became close friends. In the Barcelona Games of 1992, Bellingham finished in fourth place in the K2 1000 meter event (again with Barton) and also placed fourth in the K1 500 meter event, an event won by his good friend and training partner, Mikko Kolehmainen.

## The International Whitewater Hall of Fame and Museum



■ The International Whitewater Hall of Fame and Museum was founded in 2003 to recognize and honour those individuals who have made significant accomplishments in and contributions to whitewater sports. The International Whitewater Hall of Fame and Museum is located at the Adventure Sports Center International, a premier artificial whitewater boating venue in McHenry, Maryland in the U.S.A. The state-of-the-art whitewater course is adjacent to the Wisp ski resort and near some of the best hiking, biking and climbing areas found in the eastern United States.

The IWHOF organises every year an Induction Ceremony according to nominations sent beforehand to the organising committee. Nominations for consideration for selection to the Whitewater Hall of Fame are accepted for individuals and teams, living or deceased, having participated in or, otherwise, contributed to human-powered whitewater sports pertaining to canoeing, kayaking, and rafting in the following categories :

### PIONEER

Having made a significant contribution to any area of whitewater activity.  
Inductee in 2006 : **Jim Snyder**

### EXPLORER

Having engaged in any area of whitewater exploration.  
Inductee in 2006 : **Herbert Rittlinger**

### CHAMPION

Having engaged in any competitive whitewater discipline.  
Inductees in 2006 : **Gisela Grothaus-Steigerwald and Scott Shipley**

### ADVOCATE

Having contributed to the advancement of whitewater.  
Inductees in 2006 : **Tom Johnson and Martin Litton**

Once voting is completed and the results approved by the Board of Governors, the inductees will be invited to participate in the Induction Ceremony.

The six Honorees inducted into the Hall of Fame this year were selected from among many well qualified individuals through a rigorous process of nomination, evaluation and election by peer groups throughout the nation and world spanning a period of ten months. Nominations submitted by IWHOF Affiliate, whitewater related, organizations were reviewed and evaluated by a diverse, knowledgeable and experienced Screening Committee that identified Candidates for election by a world-wide Electorate body of whitewater practitioners. The Honorees and the categories for which they were presented an award during the evening's proceedings were as follows:

### More info :

<http://www.adventuresportscenter.com/IWHOF/hofame.htm>  
and results on

<http://www.adventuresportscenter.com/IWHOF/2006winners.htm>



## World Record Channel Crossing

◆ Pictures from Barry Frost

■ The 30 year old record for crossing in the English Channel in a single handed kayak was well and truly broken by Ian Tordoff on Wednesday 18th May 2005.

Ian, a resident of Huntingdon in Chester, managed to shave an incredible 11 minutes from this the old record of 3 hours and 33 minutes, which had stood since 1976. The new record time is 3 hours 21 minutes and 54 seconds from Folkestone Beach to Wisant Beach in France.

A delighted Ian was naturally thrilled with his marathon feat, "To beat the old record has been an ambition of mine for many years. Having competed at World level at Wild Water, Marathon and Sprint kayaking since the age of 16 years there are not many challenges left for me in the kayak world."

"I felt good from the start at 05:56 hours at Folkestone; it was not till the last hour that fatigue really made it start to hurt. The weather was good with just a force 2 blowing and we tried to time the attempt around the high tide. What did surprise me was the strength of current which meant despite steering a straight course we ended up covering over 40 kilometres for the 35 kilometre route."

Ian's attempt was made possible by the kind generosity of his sponsors – Chester City Council (for whom Ian works as their Sports Development Officer), HBOS, Shell UK and Valley Sea Kayaks - with whom Ian had helped develop the new sea kayak he used in the crossing. The small team who assisted Ian and made sure all the rules for this Guinness World Record attempt were adhered to included Andy King (Cross Channel Boat Pilot) and Barry



Finally the end!

Frost ( Umpire from the British Triathlon Association).

As well as wanting to break the record Ian also saw this as an ideal opportunity to raise monies for the British Heart

Foundation and is now busy collecting all the pledges in for the charity.

**More info on ICF website in the News Archive.**

## What is an ICF Official Supplier?

◆ By Csaba Szanto, ICF Technical Director - Pictures by Nelo and Plastex

It is obvious that all kind of canoeing activities require sport equipment and accessories. Boats and paddles are the basic equipment for all but each specific discipline requires different equipment, such as helmets, life jackets, spray decks, buoyancy material, escort boats, catamaran for course umpires, buoys, life-saving kits, pontoons and automatic starting machines for high level competition.

The closer co-operation between the ICF as the governing body of canoeing and the manufacturers is a demanding interest from the Organizing Committees of major events including the Olympic Games, National Federations and athletes.

The boats have to comply with the ICF rules of boat limitations and some accessories must fulfill the requirements of the National or Continental Laws governing Safety for sport equipment.

The ICF has a responsibility to ensure that all the athletes use proper equipment and safety accessories of required quality and specification in Olympic and Continental Games and ICF Competitions (World Championships and World Cups).

It is under discussion that athletes may participate in those ICF events only in equipment which is produced by ICF's licensed manufacturers, which may be phased in gradually over a period of time. The producer must comply with the limitations and required standard established by the ICF and financially sup-

port the ICF for the licensed position. These incomes would be use for Canoe / Kayak development worldwide.

Another co-operation between the ICF and equipment producers is based on the common interest for the development of canoeing worldwide on an ongoing basis. Development of canoeing means more countries, clubs and people will become involved in canoeing in the various disciplines and levels and will mean more and new markets for the producers. For example the number of affiliated federations to the ICF has more than double folded in the last 15 years. There were 53 affiliated countries in 1998 comparing with the recent 140 federations.

The ICF would like to receive a return on investment from the major manufacturers to increase the interest in canoeing, by receiving equipment support. This equipment could be used for further development of canoeing, donating equipments to developing National Federations, rent boats to participants in ICF Events and equip International Training Centers. In return the ICF offers for example the title of: "ICF Official Supplier", which will have the right to use the ICF logo with the text "ICF Official Supplier", the logo of the company will appear in ICF publications, the supplier will receive priority and advantage for its display stand at ICF Disciplines World



Championships and World Cups. The negotiations began with several boat producers in 2005 and continued this year. Even if an agreement has not yet been finalized, all the representatives of the Companies were very positive and offered their support to the ICF Development Programme.

Regarding Flatwater Racing, Plastex Composite is the first producer who offered equipment supports to the ICF. Plastex will donate boats, service and support for transportation. They provided these boats at the FWR World Championship in Szeged to the developing National Federations through the ICF. Nelo also offered boat donations to the ICF, which could be use in an International Training Center. With the collaboration of the Portugal Canoe Federation they are

offering training camp for all the Portuguese speaking countries free of charge and for low charge for the other developing athletes/federations, giving priority to African continent National Federations.

Bako-Sport offered boats and paddles to the ICF Development Programme.

Braca has already donated paddles to the ICF every year since 2003.

In Slalom Racing, the ICF has established good cooperation with Double Dutch and Vajda. Double Dutch donated boats to the ICF and provided service; while Vajda was active in terms of special prices and cooperation for production, transportation arrangement and in administration. Further negotiations are going on with both manufacturers for a concrete agreement.



## ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN CANOEING FOR THE YEAR 2006

◆ *By Tim Cornish, President*

At the end of 2005, a very successful coach course was held in Sudan conducted by a Tunisian coach. The attendees of the course are pictured on the right.

In February 2006, CAC President Tim Cornish and ICF Technical Director Csaba Szanto made a technical visit to Kenya to inspect the planned venues for the 2007 African Championships and African Olympic Qualification events for Flatwater and Slalom. They visited two sites for Flatwater and two for Slalom. The best sites were at Masinga Dam where it will be possible to have both events at the same venue just about 1 km apart. The events have been fixed for November 2007. A CAC Board of Directors meeting was also held in Nairobi at the same time as the technical visit.

A practice Flatwater event and training camp is to take place in November 2006 for East African countries. At the time of writing this report it is expected that participants will take part from Kenya, Seychelles, Uganda and the potential new countries of Zambia and Nigeria.

In April, slalom coaching courses were held in Kenya with French coach Marie Vincent and in South Africa with the French Coach Jean Jerome Perrin. The South African course

was attended by paddlers from Swaziland a country whose ICF affiliation has lapsed but is to be re-established. A Ugandan team also visited Kenya for coaching in flatwater kayaking.

A large part of the work required in Africa involves assisting new countries with the sustainable development of canoeing activity and identifying new countries interested in developing canoeing as a new sport. The CAC President Tim Cornish has visited Uganda and the potential new country Lesotho. Seif Patwa the CAC Secretary General has visited the potential new country of Tanzania.

In June an ICF dragon boat official's course was held in South Africa attended by delegates from Kenya, Namibia and South Africa.

It was very pleasing to note the improved attendance from African nations at the Slalom Racing and Flatwater Racing World Championships in 2006. In Flatwater Racing Championships, competitors took part from Angola, Kenya, Seychelles, South Africa and Tunisia and in Slalom from Kenya, Togo, Tunisia and South Africa. At the Marathon Racing World Championships, Africa was only represented by South Africa but they were rewarded with a gold medal in the Men's K1 and a silver in the men's K2.



# How does the olympic qualification system work ?

## Summary of the Official Document approved by the IOC for Flatwater Racing

### Events (12):

#### Men (9)

K-1 500m  
K-1 1000m  
K-2 500m  
K-2 1000m  
K-4 1000m  
C-1 500m  
C-1 1000m  
C-2 500m  
C-2 1000m

#### Women (3)

K-1 500m  
K-2 500m  
K-4 500m

### Athlete Quota:

Men 172

Women 74

**Total : 246**

**Tripartite Commission Invitations 2  
Total Canoeing Quota 330 (246 for FWR and 82 for SLR)**

An NOC may qualify 1 boat per event  
A maximum number of Athlete Quota Places will be allocated to NOC and not to the competitor(s) achieving the qualification result(s).

### QUALIFICATION SYSTEM PRINCIPLES

Event	Qualification	Total
<b>2007 World Championships</b>	Between 162 and 144 athlete quota places will be attributed at the 2007 World Championships to the top placed 6 to 14 NOCs in each event, including the host nation if not otherwise qualified.	Men: 112 / 100 quotas Women: 50 / 44 quotas
<b>Continental Qualification Competitions</b>	Continental Qualification Competitions will be held to attribute the following athlete quota places: <b>Europe:</b> From 20 to 32 men and from 8 to 14 women athlete quota places will qualify <b>Africa:</b> 4 men and 1 women athlete quota places will qualify <b>Oceania:</b> 4 men and 1 women athlete quota places will qualify <b>Asia:</b> 16 men and 7 women athlete quota places will qualify <b>America:</b> 16 men and 7 women athlete quota places will qualify	Men: 72 / 60 quotas Women: 30 / 24 quotas
<b>Continental representation</b>	Unused athlete quota places will be reallocated to continents	(-)
<b>Host nation</b>	If the host NOC participates in the Global Qualification Competition, but is not able to qualify in a Category either at the Global Qualification Competition or at the Continental Qualification Competition, then the host NOC will be allocated one Athlete Quota Place for each Category the NOC participated in at the Global Qualification Competition. If required, the host nation places will be awarded in the following Events within each Category: K1M 500m, K1W 500m and C1M 500m. The required Athlete Quota Place(s) will be taken from the Global Qualification's number of Athlete Quota places	

# Help to understand the Flatwater Racing Olympic Qualification System for the Beijing Olympics

◆ *By Istvan Vaskuti, Chairman of ICF Flatwater Racing Committee*

## IMPORTANT!

The explanation is merely intended to give assistance to the better understanding of the Qualification System, nevertheless it will in no way replace it and will not modify the sense thereof!

Thus the exclusive aim of the explanation is to help in getting oriented in the system, and to draw the attention to some important aspects.

## 1. TWO QUALIFICATION RACES

- Global (World Championships in Duisburg 2007)
- Continental (separately for all continents in 2008)

3.1.3. (g) NOCs must participate in a Discipline at the Global Qualification Competitions to be eligible for Allocation of Boat and Athlete Quota Places for this Discipline by the achievement of results at the Global or the Continental Qualification Competitions.

**Note:** The NOC must enter minimum one Olympic event at the World Championships in Duisburg, as the NOC can attend the continental qualification competition only in this case!

Even if entering only in one single Olympic event at the World Championships in Duisburg, the NOC can enter any of the events at the FWR continental qualification race to take place on his continent.

## 2. 1 COMPETITOR CAN GET ONLY 1 ATHLETE QUOTA

3.1.3 (h) Competitors who have qualified Athlete Quota Places in one Qualification Competition may participate in the other Qualification Competition, but each named Competitor may only achieve one Athlete Quota Place for their NOC.

(i) Competitor(s) qualifying Boat Quota Place(s) for their NOC in the Global Qualification Competitions can qualify additional Boat Quota Place(s) in the Continental Qualification Competitions and vice-versa but can not increase the number of Athlete Quota Places of their NOC.

**Note:** One competitor can get only one Athlete quota for his/her NOC. Even if he/she has successfully obtained Boat quota in several races.

## 3. TABLES (3.2.1)

3.2.2 (c) In addition to the six best NOCs qualified above, which may include an NOC from Africa or Oceania, the best ranked NOC from Oceania or Africa in a listed Event will qualify to the Olympic Games in the Global Qualification Competition if that NOC finishes in 7th - 14th place.

(d) If no NOC from Africa or Oceania qualifies in 7th to 14th place at the Global Qualification Competition, the Athlete and Boat Quota Places will be given to the European Continental Qualification Competition.

**Note:** At the European continental qualification competition, only 1 place can be obtained in the events, in which the team from Africa or Oceania got the place 7-14 at the qualification competition in Duisburg. This is also the case, if there is already a team from Africa or Oceania among the top six placed of the event at the Duisburg qualification competition.

## 4. TO OBTAIN NEW ATHLETE QUOTA PLACES AT THE CONTINENTAL QUALIFICATION COMPETITION IN THE EVENT, IN WHICH THERE IS ALREADY AN OBTAINED BOAT QUOTA

3.2.3 (a) NOCs, which have already qualified an Athlete Quota Place and more than one Boat Quota Place within one Category in the Global Qualification Competition may qualify another Athlete Quota Place in this Category in the Continental Qualification Competition if a different individual Competitor obtains the qualifying result.

(b) NOCs, which have already qualified two Boat Quota Places in the same Class (i.e. C2 500m and C2 1000m) in the Global Qualification Competition can qualify additional Athlete Quota Place(s) in this Class in the Continental Qualification Competitions if another individual Competitor or crew obtain the qualifying result.

**Note :** The same competitor can obtain Boat qualification in more events, but this way he/she will obviously get less Athlete quota for the given NOC than it would be possible.

At the continental qualification competition, a new athlete quota can be obtained by another athlete also in the already qualified event, but only up to the maximum limit determined in the table.

## 5. SECOND ALLOCATION OF REMAINING ATHLETE QUOTA PLACES

As one athlete can obtain a Boat quota in several events, therefore Athlete quotas not used can remain. Obviously there can be Athlete Quotas not used as well.

(a) The Allocation of the Remaining Athlete Quota Places must allow ICF to preserve the minimum number of Boat Quota Places per Event.

(b) The Allocation of the Remaining Athlete Quota Places must allow ICF to obtain the maximum number of Athletes Quota Places per Event.



(c) If one Athlete qualifies in two different distances in the same Class (i.e K1 500 and 1000m or C2 500 and 1000m) or if one Athlete qualifies in a single boat and is a crewmember in another qualified boat (i.e K1 500 and K4 1000m or C1 500 and C2 1000m), the Remaining Athlete Quota Place(s) will be allocated as follows.

(d) The Allocation of any Remaining Athletes Quota Places will be made after the Qualification Competitions according to the result of the next best ranked unqualified NOC in the same Class in the Continental Qualification Competitions by using the following system:

(i) The table 'Maximum Athlete Quota Places FWR' determines the Athlete Quota places available in each Class.

(ii) The Remaining Athlete Quota Places will be allocated taking the difference between the Maximum Athlete Quota Places and the qualified Athlete Quota Place numbers. The above Remaining Athlete Quota Places will be allocated separately for each Class.

(iv) The Allocation of Remaining Athlete Quota Places is based on the rankings of the particular Event where remaining Quotas are available from the Continental Qualification Competitions in which the NF of the repeating Athlete(s) competes.

(v) When the repetition occurs in the same Class but over different distances the Remaining Athlete Quota Places shall be distributed in that same Class. If the available Athlete Quota Places is an odd number, the remaining Athlete Quota Places from the single Event will be used.

(vi) Considering the same Class but different distances the ranking of the 500m Events shall have preference over the ranking of the 1000m Events. This means that the first remaining Quota will be given to the Athlete(s) of the next boat in line on the 500m ranking and the second Quota will go to the Athlete(s) of the next boat in line on the 1000m ranking. Additional Remaining Quotas will be distributed following this alternating pattern as a guiding principle.

(vii) When the repetition occurs in different Classes the Remaining Athlete Quota Places shall be given to the class that includes fewer Athletes. This means that K1s will have preference over K2s and K4s; C1s over C2s and K2s will be favoured against K4s.

(viii) If a Remaining Athlete Quota Place cannot be allocated to the next unqualified NOC because there is no other available NOC who may receive a Quota to the Olympic Games the Quota(s) will be re-allocated as an Unused Athlete Quota Place.

**Note :** The less Athlete quota than determined in the table is used on the given continent than the possible maximum, than these quotas will be allocated to the next boat in ranking within the boat class in the order defined in the system.



## Summary of the Official Document approved by the IOC for Slalom Racing

### Events (4)

Men (3)                      Women (1)  
 K-1 kayak single            K-1 kayak single  
 C-1 canoe single  
 C-2 canoe double

### Athlete Quota

Men 61                      Women 21

**Total : 82**

**Tripartite Commission Invitations 2  
 Total Canoeing Quota 330 (82 for SLR and 246 for FWR)**

An NOC may qualify 1 boat per event  
 A maximum number of Athlete Quota Places will be allocated to NOC and not to the competitor(s) achieving the qualification result(s).



### QUALIFICATION SYSTEM PRINCIPLES

Event	Qualification	Total
<b>2007 World Championships</b>	52 athlete quota places will be attributed at the 2007 World Championships, including the host nation if not otherwise qualified.	Men: 37 quotas Women: 15 quotas
<b>Continental Qualification Competitions</b>	Continental Qualification Competitions will be held to attribute the following athlete quota places: <b>Europe:</b> 8 men and 2 women athlete quota places will qualify <b>Africa:</b> 4 men and 1 women athlete quota places will qualify <b>Oceania:</b> 4 men and 1 women athlete quota places will qualify <b>Asia:</b> 4 men and 1 women athlete quota places will qualify <b>America:</b> 4 men and 1 women athlete quota places will qualify	Men: 24 quotas Women: 6 quotas
<b>Continental representation</b>	Unused athlete quota places will be reallocated to continents	(-)
<b>Host nation</b>	If the host NOC participates in one or more of the four events (K1 Men, K1 Women, C1 Men and C2 Men) in the Global Qualification Competition, but is not able to qualify in an event at any of the Qualification Competitions, then they will be allocated Athlete Quota Places for each event (K1 Men, K1 Women, C1 Men and C2 Men) they participated in at the Global Qualification Competition but did not qualify. The required Athlete Quota Place(s) will be taken from the Global Qualification's number of Athlete Quota places.	

# Comments on the Slalom Racing Olympic Qualification System for the Beijing Olympics

◆ *By Jean-Michel Prono, Chairman of ICF Slalom Racing Committee*

The ICF Slalom Racing committee believes that being an Olympic Discipline must be a very efficient arm lever for a better development of Slalom Racing if all NOC involved have a hope to qualify once.

On the other hand, the bottom line of the 2008 Flatwater Racing and Slalom Racing Olympic Games qualification system evolution has been the 2004 IOC Evaluation Questionnaire of the sports in the Olympic programme contents. These have underlined the directions our sport must improve in the coming years.

With 70 boat's quota places for 4 SLR events, the strategy to guarantee both Sport Universality and the best athlete's level of paddling is really hard to work out.

For previous 2004 Olympic Games Qualification system, ICF Board and Slalom Racing Committee had already studied the possibility to reduce to one boat's quota place per event the participation for the NOC. It was finally postponed because of a late decision regarding the time line of official communication of the 2004 Olympic Qualification system final draft to NOC's.

Then, for 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, an evolution to the principle "An NOC may qualify 1 boat per event maximum", was the only opportunity to increase the number of NOC participating to the Olympic Qualification events and further to the Olympic Games. We have augmented the number of Boat's Quota places to be earned by not having a second boat quota for the best NOC. We can then, offer 14 Boat's Quota places more for the 4 SLR events together which means new opportunities to up to 14 NOC.

This qualification rule has been possible

to introduce, once the ICF SLR competition rules has been modified in its article 6.1.1, allowing participation to more than one single individual event.

**The others important information's to notice are:**

- A NOC may enter Athlete(s) for a qualified Event(s) in other non-qualified Event(s) within its total number of Athlete Quota Places if the NOC has participated in that particular event at the Global Qualification Competition.
- Mixed boats from different gender: male and female will not be allowed.
- Mixed boats from different male Category: KM and CM will be allowed.
- Canoe Class is only for male participation

**Example: Great Britain has qualified 2 Boats Quotas Places in SLR for: K1 Men and C1 Men with 2 Athlete's Quotas Places. They haven't qualified a C2 Boat Quotas Places but participate in the Global Qualification Competitions (2007 SLR World Championships). Great Britain may participate in SLR C2 Men with the 2 athlete's quotas Places coming from the SLR K1 Men and C1 Men.**

Sport's Universality is one key point regarding IOC evaluation. The Continental organization and participation is really spotted in the questionnaire and could be subject of improvement for ICF.

For the 2008 Olympic Qualification system, the ICF Slalom Racing Committee has introduced Qualification event at the Continental level for the first time. The Continental level qualification is proposed to increase the participation of NOC's at this stage and by the way to increase the development of

Continental Confederation activity in the discipline. This is especially effective by:

- Organizing and promoting a consistent qualification event in the area
- Making more accessible the participation of all affiliated NF of the considered Confederation

In the future, if we want this Continental qualification even more attractive, it must offer a greater possibility of qualification for the best "developing" NOC's in this area by increasing the number of Boats Quotas places to be earned at this particular event.

It must not be forgotten that if a NOC wants to qualify for the Olympic games, athletes must participate in the World Championships in the Olympic Disciplines in 2007. There is a second chance to qualify also at the continental qualification.

The SLR Olympic Qualification system format is made with a strong will to increase the participation to Olympic qualification stage; this is a very important motivation for both NOC's and National Federations. The Continental qualification combined with a fair number of Boat's Quotas places will help the Continents to get more involved in the Olympic disciplines.

The Olympic qualification system is one of the most important "arm lever" we can set to improve the global participation at the different stages of the discipline development. ■

# Portfolio



Drifting on the emerald waters of the Vecchio River  
→ Corsica, France

Photo: Jens Klatt





Lake touring  
→ Walchsee, Germany

Photo: Manu Arnu



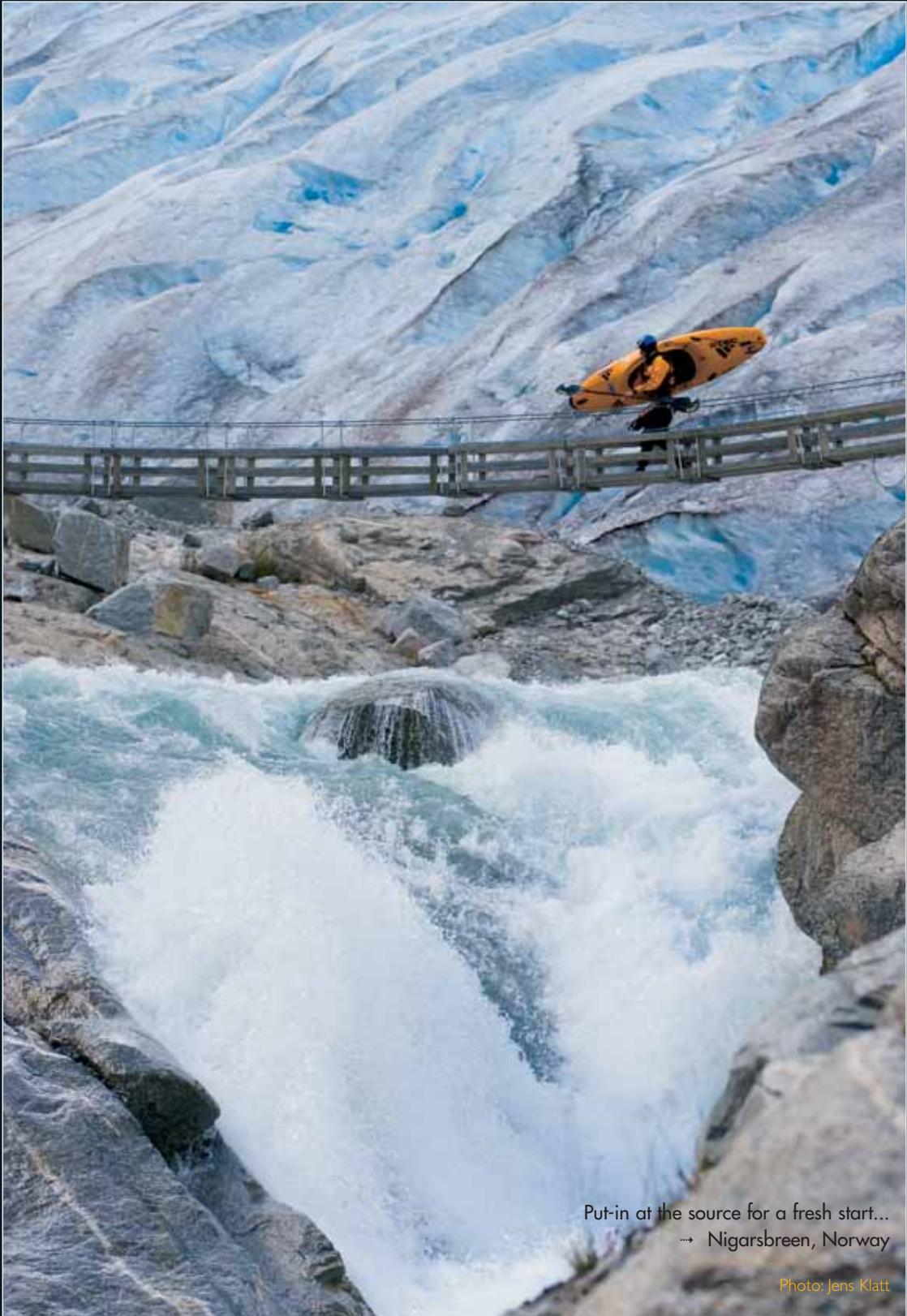
Urban Kayaking in Amsterdam  
→ The Netherlands

Photo: Manu Arnu



Canoeing is a family affair  
→ Isar River, Germany

Photo: Jens Klatt



Put-in at the source for a fresh start...  
→ Nigarsbreen, Norway

Photo: Jens Klatt





Early morning work out  
→ Walschsee, Germany

Photo: Manu Arnu



Locals enjoying a kayaker challenging  
the laws of gravity  
→ White Nile River, Uganda

Photo: Chris Emerik



Paddling in paradise at the bottom of the Victoria Falls  
→ Zambezi River, Zambia

Photo: Chris Emerik



# Events 2006 2007

2006 AT A GLANCE  
PREVIEW OF 2007



# Flatwater Racing

## World Championships 2006

SZEGED  
HUNGARY  
AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup> TO 20<sup>TH</sup> 2006

◆ By Gábor Ganczer, Media Officer - Pictures: Peter Harsanyi - Balint Vekassy

### A New Inspiration for Flatwater Racing

A contest of remarkable paddlers, unforgettable triumphs on the water, the smell of grilled food, a spectacle of attractive women and muscular men, and tens of thousands of fans lining the shore are just some of the memories of Szeged from August 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, when it hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> Flatwater Racing World Championships. It was a real feast for canoeing fans, particularly with Hungary enjoying a public holiday on the final day of competition. There was good reason for the Hungarians to celebrate, as they took 12 gold medals out of the 27. It wasn't only the Hungarians, however, who were the winners in Szeged. The slick organization, excellent competition, vibrant atmosphere, and new and innovative TV coverage, ensured that the sport of canoeing and kayaking was the biggest winner.



All the effort to win a medal can be seen reflected on Zoltan Kammerer's face who won a gold and a bronze with his partner Gabor Kucsera

Thousands on the seats squeezed against each other to witness the finals



Cristobal Everardo of Mexico snatched the gold from favourites in the C1 1000m event



Szeged had already hosted the European Championships in 2002 of that year, and the World Championships 1998, as well as numerous World Cup Events. The organizers of the 2006 World Championships could therefore build on those earlier successes, with early signs that 83 countries would participate. But the Hungarian experts, who were already proud of the popularity of their events, didn't want to make the mistake of organizing the World Championships based solely on their past experience. New ideas and options were researched to put on the best World Championships ever. Beyond the number of athletes, the incredible number of fans also lived up to the high expectations; with more than 50,000 spectators visited the venue during the three days of competition.

The Hungarian government and the city of Szeged were aware that they would be supporting a successful event, and therefore extended support to the ideas of the ICF and the Hungarian Canoe Federation. This led to the financing of the renovation of the Szeged regatta centre, which serves as the one of the main camps and competition venues for water sports in the country. To fully serve the competitors, the media and the spectators, sponsor packages were created (which were sold out a year and a half before the Championships), and contracts were signed. Of the many generous sponsors, the organizers wish to convey special thanks to T-Mobile, MOL oil company, MKB Bank, Astra Zeneca pharmaceutical company, Seat (the official car supplier),

Démász power supplier and Magyar Turizmus Rt (Hungarian Tourism Co.Ltd.).

What the Hungarian management did in Szeged allowed us to witness a World Championship event in full compliance with the challenges of the 21st century. In the new millennium almost everything is about media: the sports that are successful are those who are present in the major international media. The key to getting them there is high-level sport performance combined with spectacular and exciting TV coverage.

The 35th Flatwater Racing World Championships was broadcasted using the latest state-of-the-art TV technical equipment, never before seen at either the Olympics or the World Championships. The cable and rail-mounted cameras were hired for 13,000 Euro, using technology recently used in blockbuster movies such as Steven Spielberg's *Minority Report*, major concerts such as Bon Jovi's concert tour, and sporting events like the Soccer World Championships in Germany.

Bálint Vékássy, Competition Director of the World Championships in Szeged, started negotiations with the American and German suppliers a year and a half ago. The result: the most spectacular coverage ever of the World Championships. Fly Cam Europe Ltd installed two 'fly cams' by mid August: one ran on the 500 meter long cables parallel with the paddlers from the 1000 meter start until the half-way point; the other began at the 500 meter start and ran on the cable running diagonally above the course to the finish line. The German PMT Ltd's "Go Cam" showed the events from a rail running from 430 meters up to 30 meters, moving on almost the same level with the paddlers. The views of the paddlers getting on and off the water and going through boat control after the race were obtained using a camera on a crane, offering some truly dynamic shots. On top of all this, there were between 20-22 static cameras, and the few behind the finish line provided spectacular images.

"Everything was designed to get very close shots of the paddlers' faces, showing the heat of competition, anguish, joy or disappointment", said Bálint Vékássy, the Competition Director. "The technical equipment also allowed us to precisely and continuously capture the excitement of the races, the placing at any given moment during the thousand, five hundred, and two hundred meter races."

The conditions essentially created by the Hungarian Canoe Federation set a good example: it has now been proven that Flatwater Racing can be a really spectacular, dynamic sport for TV. This was not lost on the TV companies; the event was covered live by the Hungarian MTV, Eurosport, the German ZDF, the Canadian CBS Sport and several other TV channels.

The TV statistics also lived up to the expectations of the Hungarian organizers, as the number of viewers of the World Championships hit new records. In August of 2006, two major Olympic sports staged their championships in Hungary. These were the Swimming European Championships on Budapest's Margaret Island and the Flatwater Racing World Championships in Szeged. The Flatwater Racing event in Szeged won first place



Katalin Kovacs and Natasa Janics made history by winning six gold medals at the World Championships

based on MTV's coverage. On the 20th of August, 7.9 percent of the total population or 40 percent of TV viewers (almost 800,000), followed the 500 and 200 meter finals of the world's best paddlers. The most watched competition day of the Swimming European Championships, the 6th of August (which boasted the 400 meter medley final with László Cseh, a very popular Hungarian swimmer), had a 4.5 percentage rating. The Hungarian TV Company and Eurosport showed the events in Szeged for a total of more than 9 hours.

The figures prove that the Hungarian TV viewers (and millions of other Europeans watching Eurosport as well), are eager to watch canoeing. The TV coverage of this sport on MTV had a higher viewer rating than the commercial channels RTL Klub and TV2, which were showing popular series and adventure films during this time. It is important to note for the sponsors that the TV viewers of the World Championships were mostly living in towns; and showed a high proportion with higher education. On the 20th of August, 75 percent of the TV viewers with higher education followed the coverage from Szeged.

Understandably, congratulations poured in to Gábor Schmidt, Organization Committee Chairman, and Dr Etele Baráth, President of the Hungarian Canoe Federation, for the overwhelming success. Dr Etele Baráth pointed out: "To evaluate our performance on the course and off, let me quote the opinion of an objective, foreign expert. The Italian Federation President stated 'all World Championships should be staged in Szeged as long as the federations of other nations realize that the event is primarily about the competitors and the spectators.'" The president also appreciated the team of 560 that worked together so smoothly to make the World Championships in Szeged such a great success.

Of the many fine Hungarian competitors, Dr Etele Baráth drew attention to the unique career of the thirteen-time World

Champion canoeist, György Kolonics, and to the performance of the twenty-one-time World Champion, Katalin Kovács, who is set to follow in Birgit Fischer's footsteps in her attempts to emulate her twenty-six World Championship titles.

Germany and Russia finished behind Hungary in number of medals, after each won four golds. It is important to note that the sport can rely on ever-growing international interest, as this year's competition resulted in medals for 21 countries, including Mexico and New Zealand. At the 35th Flatwater Racing World Championships, the Hungarians were the most successful in Women's Kayak, the Germans in Men's Kayak, and the Russians in Canoe.

This time, the fans and organizers could also take their place on the podium next to the competitors. The unforgettable production was also acknowledged by the International Fair Play Committee. At the closing ceremony, Chairman Jen\_ Kamuti presented a special prize to the head fan, István Beé Senior, Chair of the fan club who supported and cheered on the local and foreign competitors with great enthusiasm and thundering drums. Ulrich Feldhoff, President of the International Canoe Federation, received a plaque to acknowledge his contribution, and his support for and protection of the spirit of Fair Play.

The most touching moment was when the Iraqi kayaker, Abdel Jaber Saddam Hamid, received a special international Fair Play Award at the Closing Ceremony. This competitor came to Szeged and competed despite the fact that his K-2 partner was a victim of a recent tragic bombing in Baghdad.

This moving act also confirmed that canoe is not merely about victory, but about human values; it is a sport which can continuously enrich its fans and its business grounds, with new impressions and new inspirations. ■



# Flatwater Racing

## Report for 2005 - 2006

### THE FLATWATER RACING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GIVES A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE SEASON AND ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE WORLD CUP

◆ By Mr. Istvan Vaskuti, Chairman of the Flatwater Racing Committee

#### World Cups cheer

##### World Cup I in Poland

The first big international race of the year, the World Cup, was held mid-May in Poznan (POL). Nine months passed since the last World Championships in Zagreb, thus paddlers and coaches were happy to meet again at this year's first contest in Poznan.

The accreditation centre served as the first meeting point, where Halina Pikula (Secretary General of Polish Canoe Federation) assisted those arriving with the usual efficiency and courtesy. They managed once again to successfully host a really big event, as competitors arrived from 52 countries. The high participation was understandable, as the Mayor of Poznan, Ryszard Grobelny, in cooperation with the Polish Canoe Federation did everything possible to ensure that the participating paddlers had a really good time at Lake Malta.

Competitors and experts agreed that the course and the organisation were both at a high level.

Directly after the Team Leader Meeting, the ICF President, Mr Ulrich Feldhoff, opened the coaches' meeting, where the Olympic Qualification system was presented. The meeting proved to be useful in providing the coaches with a better understanding of the qualification system.

On the Friday morning, everybody was excited to see this year's first contest of the world top paddlers. We were curious to see how far the World Championships medallists had progressed with their preparation after the winter months.

The best paddlers in the men's K1, Van Koeverden from Canada, Ben Fouhy from New Zealand, Norway's Larsen and Sweden's Marcus Oscarsson were locked in fierce competition from the first heats.

Medal Ceremony  
in Guangzhou



Mr Istvan  
Vaskuti in  
China

The top C1 competitors were present, in the form of Andreas Dittmer (Germany), Maxim Opalev (Russia), Baraszkievicz (Poland), and Martin Doktor (Czech Republic).

Perhaps the women races were more open, as the best Hungarians could not come to Poznan due to the national selection.

The competitions were well managed, as usual, and the latest Omega photo finish and timing equipment helped in the fast evaluation of the results. Due to the high number of participants and the large number of events out of the World Cup programme, numerous heats had to be organised, which ensured that the programme was quite busy.

It was a new feature to see Polish school children cheering on the grandstand. It was good to see how enthusiastic the kids were. I sincerely hope that the organizers will continue their efforts in future so that even more people attend flatwater competitions in Poznan.

### Second phase in Duisburg (GER)

On 26 May, less than two weeks after Poznan, the world's top competitors met again, this time at the 2nd World Cup in Duisburg (GER).

The organisation and the course in Duisburg were considered as the premier example of flatwater canoeing in the 80s. Unfortunately not much development has been done there since that time, so we hear Adolf Sauerland, the Mayor of Duisburg, at a reception saying, if they manage to fulfill their plans, Duisburg will again offer the best conditions at the World Championships in 2007.

The Organising Committee with Otto Schulte in the chair has been preparing the races with great experience for many years. This was proved this year as, despite the Football World Championships they could accommodate the competitors from the 54 countries in the city.

The World Cup events were completed with Dragonboat races and events held for the younger talent. This has been the usual programme for years and it was exciting to see the development of the competitors and teams.

Fortunately, the weather was also very pleasant, ensuring that there were no problems with teams needing a roof over their heads on the course.

In the 500m races, Dittmer triumphed in C1 again, and Van Koeverden in K1, as was the case in Poznan, while Paldanius (Sweden) finished first ahead of Idem in K1 Women after her 2nd place in Poznan. In the team events Rauhe/Wieskötter

could not be bettered, with the same outcome for Kovács and Janics in the women.

The relay events, held for the second time in Duisburg, were very exciting. The relays covered 4x200m, i.e. four single boats formed one team. Another 200m relay version was held for teams of single, double and four boats. Organising these relay events was a good opportunity to test new events could make the canoeing competitions more attractive for the spectators. The World Championships forms part of the World Cup series and as major event of the year, it is dealt with in another article. Nevertheless I have to add that the enthusiastic support of the crowd was again an exceptional experience for all participants at the World Championships in 2006, in addition to the excellent organisation.

### Third run in China

After the World Championships, the 3rd and final World Cup was held in Guangzhou (CHN) (on a course new to canoeing). Asia was hosting a World Cup event for the second time, and the interest in Flatwater Racing has grown with the Olympics in 2008 in Beijing approaching. In addition to the Chinese team Russia, Germany, Canada, Australia and Belarus were represented with a number of Olympic and World Champions. Several countries of Asia also sent entries to the competition. Besides the strongest team of China, teams from Iran, Japan and Indonesia also arrived to Guangzhou with strong teams.

With the participation of almost twenty countries, the hosting of the last World Cup after the World Championships was a success for the Chinese federation. Song Guangly, Chairman of the Organising Committee, presented the venue back in January in Warsaw and promised excellent organisation of the World Cup. Beyond tasting the real Chinese food, the competitors could get to know more about China and Canton at this event.

The Chinese and European teams dominated at the 3rd World Cup event. In addition to the medals Adam van Koeverden in the men's kayak and Maxim Opalev in Canoe deservedly received the cup and prize money at the end of the closing ceremony. Sophia Paldanius was unfortunately not present for Kayak Women, and received her award later. Jens Kahl, Germany's Sports Director received the cup on behalf of the winning German team.

This brought to an end the year's World Cup series.

Let me express our sincere thanks to both the organisers and participants, who ensured that the year provided thrilling racing and excellent organisation ■

# Slalom Racing

## World Championships 2006

PRAGUE  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> TO 6<sup>TH</sup> 2006

◆ By Michaela Drobna, Press Centre Officer - Pictures: Jiri Prskavec





### About the Championships

After 39 years, the Slalom Racing World Championships returned this summer to the Czech Republic. From August 2nd to August 6th 2006, 267 slalom racers from 65 countries tested their strength against each other in the artificial slalom channel in Praha-Troja. However, the Championship had a symbolic significance as well. The Capital of Prague, individual regions and the government have until the end of 2006 decide whether they will put in an application for organizing the Summer Olympic Games of the year 2016 in the Czech Republic and the White Water Center in Troja will form one of the key parts of this bid. Slalom Racing was the only Olympic sport organised in Czech Republic in 2006.

Prague proved to be a very good host city for such championships. Around two and half thousand spectators watch each day of competition enjoying dramatical competitions on the water. A total of 307 competitors were accredited, along with 199 accompanied persons such as coaches and managers 19 international judges, 30 Czech judges and more than 150 volunteers for organisation.

The most succesful team was France topping the results in three of the four disciplines. The host country reached five medals, including two World Championship titles. The Czech crew of Jaroslav Volf and Ondrej Stepanek become the most succesful athletes of the championships with two gold medals.

The most talked about title was in the K1 men competition. Cipressi was announced as the winner after reaching the finish line. However, a few minutes later, the French protest was upheld and Billaut was announced as the new Wworld Champion. This lasted for only a few hours, because after lengthy discussion the Italian contra protest was upheld again and the title returned to Cipresi's hands. This discussion opened the controversial issue of video judging once again...

In the C1, favourite Tony Estanguet won comfortably, while the bronze medal surprisingly went to Stanislav Jezek, one of the main organizers of this championships, who was responsible for all of the IT infrastructure.

The K1 Women should have been a big triumph of the hometown hero Stepanka Hilgertova, the double Olympic winner, but after few costly mistakes, she finished only fifth, while young Slovak Jana Dukatova celebrated her first title.

### Media

During World Championships in Prague, 86 journalists were accredited from all over the world. Czech TV used two channels for life broadcast, providing a total of 19.75 hours of compelling television. Prague had commentators from Czech TV, Italia RAI and Slovenian RTVS, while the TV signal went for further commentary to Eurosport, TVE Spain, RTR Russia, STV Slovakia. Own TV staff and own broadcasting used TF3 France and ZDF Germany

### Short stories from the Champs

#### Stanislav Jezek

"I was very surprised myself" said Jezek, constantly smiling. He was one of the busiest people at the championships, spending most of his time running between his boat and the press centre. The 29 year old engineering graduate has just won the first World Championship medal of his career. Although he was in the finals several times before, it has never come off until Troja. There, on his home course, he finally broke his run of failures.

#### Stepanka Hilgertova

"I always considered Jana Dukatova as one of the biggest favourites to win the race. She has been a very good racer for several years." Hilgertova explained that she had lost her concentration out on the course. "I heard every single word of the announcer and it disturbed my concentration. When I am competing abroad, I never mind. But it was in Czech and I couldn't help listening"





said Hilgertova. "I am very disappointed with my performance, as I wanted to win a medal so badly for the home crowd. The spectators were really fantastic."

The 38 year old multiple World, European and Olympic medalist doesn't want to retire from the sport yet. "There have been a lot of good young kayakers coming through recently, but I believe I can still compete with the best," said Hilgertova, who is the mother of a talented young Czech slalom racer Lubos Hilgert junior.

#### Development programme

There were not only top racers competing in Troja. Through the

development programme of the International Canoe Federation, a lot of athletes from exotic countries have taken part in the championships. Some of them have unbelievable stories to tell. For example, Lui Sze, from Hong Kong, failed to notice the posters at the airport and waited ten hours for someone to collect him. Perez Olaya, from Columbia, wanted to travel to Troja on his own but found himself lost in a different district of Prague. Luckily he bumped into a Spanish speaking person, who drove him to Troja. Arun Sajwan, from India, found to his horror that he had to compete in the slalom, he didn't want to take to the rapids, he wanted to compete in a flatwater event.

#### Volf - Stepanek

Vanda, the pregnant wife of Ondrej Stepanek, has been working in Troja as a co-commentator. But the TV staff didn't allow her to commentate on the finals of the mens doubles, the race her husband won. "Mr. Vichnar, commentator of the Czech TV, was probably afraid I would give birth before my time," smiled Vanda, who is a former slalom racer, too. Their daughter Julie is supposed to be born at the end of October and both parents are looking forward to raising her. Stepanek is not afraid that the caring for the baby will distract him from training. He and his college Volf are European and World champions and in two years time they want to be the Olympic champions, too.

#### Jaroslav Pollert

Jaroslav Pollert (gold medal teams event, 6th place individual), who together with Jaroslav Pospisil, and other team-mates Jaroslav Volf and Ondrej Stepanek, Marek Jiras and Tomas Mader, has been competing in the C2 Team event for Czech Republic, has been going through the pain barrier during the championships. He cracked his heel several days before the start of racing, when he was preparing wi-fi connections in the press center in Troja. Jaroslav Pollert is the cousin of Lukas Pollert, Olympic Champion in 1992 and silver medalist in 1996. Lukas is working as a doctor in the hospital and Jaroslav visited him for an examination. "The bone is broken, but you can paddle, for paddling you don't need heel, do you?" Lukas said. So Jaroslav has been paddling – all the way to the gold. But his colleague Jaroslav Pospisil has had to carry their boat alone!

#### Technical parameters of the course

Length: 410m Width: 12- 14 m Drop: 3,6 m Flow rate: 13 - 15 m3/s Difficulty: WW 3 - 4 ■



# Slalom Racing

## World Championships Juniors 2006

SOLKAN  
SLOVENIA  
JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> TO 9<sup>TH</sup> 2006

◆ By Andrej Jelenc, Sports Director of the Canoe Federation of Slovenia  
Pictures: Mirko Bijuklic

Spectators enjoy in  
attractive race



Solkan, a smallish town on the border between Slovenia and Italy has a history going back to some 1000 years. This town on the banks of Soca River had also played an important role in the sport of kayaking and its growth in this part of the world.

The best known land mark of the town of Solkan is the unique cut stone railway bridge built in 1906. With the 85 meters arc stretching above the River Soca, it is also witness to the growth and the development of kayaking on this emerald river.

The first organized kayaking fraternity established in Slovenia on River Soca 75 years ago. Year 2006 is therefore an important milestone in Slovenian kayaking and in this anniversary year, the staging of the Slalom Racing World Championships Junior 2006 was entrusted to the Canoe Federation of Slovenia and to the Kajak kanu klub Soske Elektranne.

The organizers did not lack of experience as they did acquire their organizational skills in a number of events of this kind on the river in the past – notably it can be mentioned the Wildwater Racing World Championships 1991, which was admittedly staged in the upper reaches of the Soca River. After the completion of the dam and power station near the old railway bridge at Solkan, the white water course was constructed just before River Soca crosses the state border between Slovenia and Italy. This course was tested successfully at the Slalom Racing European Championships Junior 1999. While the course has been man-made, it retains all the feel and characteristics of a natural stream. Furthermore the proximity of the power station just some 1000 meters upstream and its water storage behind the dam guarantees the full control of the water flow on the course.

A new purpose built complex has also been established. It should be noted that, according to the chief planner and architect Mr. Jo\_e Toma\_i\_ (himself an ex Kayak competitor and coach), there is still some work to be done. Nevertheless, the new Kayak Centre had enabled the organizers to carry out their promise to the kayaking sport that 2006 competition would be well organized and were successfully carried out. The 42 nations participating at the Championships in 2006 in Solkan enjoyed a great venue that enabled every competitor to train and compete to their full potential.



The wish of the organizers was not only to offer the 250 participating kayakers and canoeists an excellent venue for the competition. A myriad of other activities and events were staged outside the actual Kayak Centre. A number of concerts were organized, and there was a kayaking history exhibition as well as the showing of a documentary film on kayaking in Solkan. The Slovenian Post Office issued a commemorative stamp, postcard and envelope highlighting the event.

Part of the program was also a very colorful and entertaining opening ceremony on the lawns in front of the Town House of the City of Nova Gorica. The area was named "the HIT Beach" and the event as well as the opening ceremony was sponsored by the HIT Casinos Group. A day after the opening ceremony the competitions started, with all the youngsters' thoughts centering on qualifications and the team event. The traditional favorites were the crews from the strongest countries: Germany, France, and Czech Republic, with the young athletes from Germany had justifying their status as the favorites, particularly their girls in both the kayak as well as the canoe classes. There was a real nail biter for the 3rd place amongst the girl teams. The four teams had been separated by mere hundreds of a second between them and the French girls won the bronze medal. On the second day of competition, the German team added a gold medal in K-1 teams whilst their C-2 colleagues had to yield to the French team despite the fact that in the first run the German team was in the lead. Missed gate put an end to the otherwise flawless run and ended German dreams.

The quietly hope for a medal for the local team of inexperienced youngsters did in fact materialise. The C-2 team got the local supporters onto their feet when it became obvious that they were in line for the bronze medal. Slovene juniors had never before medalled at a world championships in a C-2 category. The idea of fielding a C-2 team in Slovenia which has a great tradition and a strong of successes in K-1 and C-1 seems to be working well, and will be encouraged by this result

Whilst the training sessions and the first two days of competition were well attended by the spectators on the final day of competition the viewing stands were jam packed. The question on everybody's lips was "Will the German competitors continue their run on gold also in the individual events?" They had a number of brilliant youngsters and each one had the ability to contest the gold.

The course setters Jean-Michel Prono and Andrej Jelenc did spice up the challenge by some hidden traps on the very fluid course, many of which troubled some of the best paddlers. Germany's tally of medals stood at 7 medals at this stage, but a further gold proved too elusive, The brilliant Polish boys picked two golds, with K1 paddler Mateus Polaczyk making the semi-finals with a lead in excess of 2 seconds over his rivals.

With the best time of the day, Sebastian Schubert did attack fiercely – albeit from the 6th place, and the best result of his superb effort was silver. The bronze was picked up by his team mate Aigner Hannes. The 2nd gold for Poland was the result of lots of skill and hard work of Dawid Bartos. To win he had to overtake the leading semi-finalist Norbert Neveu of France who finished with silver, whilst the bronze went to Tasiadis Sideris of Germany. After the team gold, the individual title went to the French C-2 crew of Hugo Bisio and Pierre Pico. The silver as well as the bronze went to Germany. Brothers Kevin and Kay Mueller earned silver and the crew of Robert Behling and Thomas Becker had to settle for bronze.

Any competition is considered to be successful when besides all the excellent work done by the organizers, the local team returns some good results. For the organizers to be able to say that the Championships were an outstanding success, something extra had to happen. And this "little" extra was the result of a talented local girl Urka Kragelj. She capitalized on her local



Opening ceremony's Junior athletes have fun after opening



C-1 winner Bartos Dawid on the shoulders of team-mates



German C-2  
Behling and Becker  
won gold in team  
event and bronze  
individual

knowledge of the river, and had fought herself into a top position in the semi-final, and then managed to hold on to this lead with a great determination and tenacity. As it was with other categories, the silver and bronze went to K-I girls of Germany Jacqueline Horn and Caroline Schlumprecht respectively. The local winner was overwhelmed after the race and commented on national radio: "I feel on the top of the world. It is hard to me to grasp what just happened. Indescribable! For a moment, during the run, I had thought that something may go wrong, particularly after the touch at one of the gates, but when I crossed the finished line and saw the result I was overjoyed. Before the championships I had hoped to place myself well; however I did not even dream of such a success."

The Championships did create a lot of interest amongst other Slovenian media. A 30 minute special was run on the Slovenian National TV network immediately after the coverage of the finishing of the World Soccer Championships which was on the same day as the Soca Competition.

The atmosphere at the venue throughout the Championships was outstanding. The general feel of camaraderie was enhanced clever and entertaining music selection as well as very good commentary of the racing. She did lead the narration of the competition with the inside knowledge of the sport as well as good information and a lovely sense of humor. All in all her commentary approach contributed to the relaxed and well informed atmos-

phere among the viewing public. The same can be said for the competitors. They did not come just for the medals – mainly they came to compete, learn and gain important experience. The organizers supported the ICF program for the development of sport, and assisted the competitors from the countries where this wonderful sport is still in its infancy.

The competitors were assisted in many ways - with the equipment as well as transportation and accommodation and many other logistic aspects.

The participants from Paraguay, Andorra, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Tunis, Moldova and some other countries where the sport is being newly developed had been given assistance from the coaches of Canoe Federation of Slovenia who assisted these newcomers to improve their skills and to give them guidelines for future development even after the competition. The local coaches as well as their charges were thrilled with the result of Uzbek K-I kayaker Andrey Nikolayev who reached 14<sup>th</sup> place.

In superb weather, the spectators enjoyed the extremely competitive event. The competitors were able to mingle with the young people from other parts of the world and form new friendships.

The next major event of this kind will be in 2008 when under the old bridge at Solkan on River Soca where the Slalom Racing European Championships Junior and U23 will be held. ■



# Wildwater Racing

## World Championships 2006







## KARLOVY VARY CZECH REPUBLIC JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> TO 17<sup>TH</sup> 2006

◆ By Vlastimil Lepík, Race Director - Pictures: Tomas Holkbecher

### Venues

The Wildwater Racing World Championships took place in the famous Czech Republic spa town of Karlovy Vary in the west of the country, located in a charming valley of the Teplá and the Ohře rivers. The classic race course was 6.5 km long, with a white water rating of Grade Three, and used a water flow rate of 20m<sup>3</sup>/sec. It led through the picturesque valley of the Teplá from the village of Březová to the Thermal Hotel. Its upper section was in a natural riverbed, while the lower one was in an artificially regulated river. The sprint race was held on a 650-meter-long grade three course, which had some artificial obstacles installed, including gate obstacles and concrete blocks, and wooden slides on the weirs. The start of the sprint was located in the very heart of the spa town opposite the spa colonnade.

### Participants

Karlovy Vary was pleased to welcome 199 athletes from 26 countries. There were traditionally strong nations as well as nations just joining the global wildwater family. There were 145 boats in the Sprint race (65 Men's kayaks, 33 Women's kayaks, 27 C1s, and 20 C2s) and 159 boats in the Classic race (made up of 74 K Men, 35 K Women, 27 C1, 23 C2). 40 teams entered the team race (20 K Men, 8 K Women, 6 C1, 6 C2). The most successful



Michaela Stranadova - Mruzkova, World Champions in all races (Sprint / Classic / Team)



competitor was Michaela Mruzkova (CZE) who took 3 gold medals from individual and team events.

For the total results of the Cup of Nations please see [www.wwc2006.com](http://www.wwc2006.com)

All the results are available at the website [www.results.cz](http://www.results.cz).

### Atmosphere

The Wildwater Racing World Championships were accompanied by a wide range of cultural and sporting events and activities, such as the Eskimo roll competition and numerous concerts featuring top Czech singers and bands. Great weather, good organization, well-organized development program and big crowds of water sport lovers and fans contributed to the success of these World Championships. The visiting athletes in Karlovy Vary, also had a unique opportunity to learn about the Czech history, including a tour of the underground of the spa town. Most of the participants were enchanted by the Bečov castle where the impressive closing ceremony was held.

The Championships received a very positive coverage in the media, too. During the Championships, 22 journalists were accredited from Czech Republic and European countries as well. Czech TV broadcasted every day of competition – a total of 6,5

hours on CT2 and CT4 Sport channels - and offered it to broader Eurosport network as well.

In addition to the emotions of the award ceremonies and the great parties, there were also some special moments at the World Championships in Karlovy Vary.

French athletes Leblond and Silotto won the gold medal in the C2 category. "After the classic race, our whole team was very sad. So it may have been a great motivation for us for today's race," they said. Even a greater motivation factor was the fact that they were racing their last C2 race in Karlovy Vary. "We will not continue any longer. Today was a wonderful day and it ended with a happy-ending for us," they smiled. Apart from the World Champion titles, they earned a more valuable award from the fair play point of view. At the start, they handed over a floating away paddle to their greatest Czech opponents Lisick – Vlček.

Ulrich Feldhoff, President of the International Canoe Federation, addressed the organizers during the closing ceremony as follows: "I would like to thank the town of Karlovy Vary, the Karlovy Vary Region, the Czech Canoe Union and most of all the organizers headed by the club SK Hubertus for organizing these championships. My special thanks go to sponsors without whom these championships could not take place," he said. ■



# Marathon Racing

## World Championships 2006

TREMOLAT  
FRANCE

SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> 2006

◆ *By Philippe Saïd, General Director of the Organising Committee Trémolat 2004-2006*

*Pictures : FFCK / Igor Meijer*

### **A positive outcome for the development of Marathon Racing**

At the end of a five year project including staging the World Cup in 2004, the Organising Committee was able to witness a very positive outcome of the Marathon World Championships in 2006.

The numerous contacts ahead of the event with the Marathon Racing Committee of the ICF led to the success for the championships, particularly as the site of Trémolat proved to be ideally suited for this type of event. From the very start it was decided that these World Championships should be of the highest quality - quality of partnership between the different elements of the







Organising Committee (OC), quality of the site, quality of the environment for the athletes, quality of additional events for the public with the intention to involve the local population, and the quality of the media coverage. These championships also enabled France to raise its standard in marathon racing.

#### **A 5 year project working in partnership**

From the outset, the World Championships as well as the 2004 World Cup were jointly organised by the FFCK (French Canoe Federation) and the General Council of the Dordogne working together in an Organising Committee alongside the region of

Aquitaine, the commune of Trémolat, the Aquitaine canoe federation and the departmental committee. Each partner was able to add its own expertise to the common objectives. These objectives had a twin aim, the development of the marathon and canoeing in general and also the promotion of the image of canoeing and outdoor sport in the Dordogne. In the end this mixture of cultures led to a very fruitful outcome, and the success of the championships.

Hosting a stage of the World Cup in 2004 was extremely useful to gain experience and make valuable contacts with the ICF, its Marathon Racing Committee and the whole world of canoeing. The Organising Committee of the Trémolat event benefited before the event by working with the Marathon Committee of the ICF in numerous meetings. This included a French delegation attending the championships of 2003 in Valladolid and the 2005 event in Perth. This goodwill shared by all meant they could work with confidence with the Marathon Racing Committee. They were also able to make certain changes as a result of the experience gained in 2004 (such as the course, direction of departure, and the positioning of the podium) in consultation with the Marathon Racing Committee. These changes contributed greatly to the success of the championships in 2006.

It should also be mentioned that the Masters events were also a highly successful compliment to the event itself.

It was also possible at Trémolat to establish facilities in consultation with the FFCK to develop the site of Trémolat and to get underway the project of a water sports centre. For the time being, the President of the General Council of the Dordogne, Mr Bernard Cazeau, has expressed the wish to keep the installations in place (notably the starting pontoons and re-embarkation beach). The site was acknowledged by all to be exceptional and could thus continue to be used for training purposes and for competitions.

#### **A championships of quality**

The main concern from the very beginning was to place the athlete at the centre of the efforts. For 2004 as well as 2006, the feedback from the delegations confirms that this objective has been achieved.

Although the site at Trémolat was ideal and very beautiful, there was the disadvantage that this was a small rural community, at some distance from large population centres and transport systems. To overcome this disadvantage, the OC put a great deal of effort into its organisation and the local population and associations were very much involved. The whole of the village and the department were committed to make this competition a success. It is also true that the Dordogne has the great advantage of a high quality tourism infrastructure which meant that high quality accommodation could be provided. This standard was maintained in the athletes' accommodation and also for judges and VIP's. In this area the OC was at great pains to



uphold the reputation of France and in particular the Dordogne A second concern which was a greater worry: the quality of the event as a spectacle for the general public and the numbers of spectators who might be expected to watch canoeing in general and Marathon Racing in particular. It is a discipline which is at first not easy for those not familiar with it especially with the wide variety of races to follow. The experience gained in 2004 was of great use here. Great emphasis was laid on communication which had implications for the total budget.

The total number of spectators on the Saturday and Sunday despite the poor weather was about 10,000. The public seemed very satisfied with the arrangements provided with a large screen and very informative commentaries on the races. It should also be pointed out that the changes in the course carried out in the light of our experiences of 2004 gave the spectators a better overview of the course.

High quality organisation depends on great commitment both from the local population and the many volunteer helpers. The OC took up this challenge in conjunction with local organisations (municipalities, associations, and tourism committees.) as well as some 400 volunteers from local and regional canoe clubs but also from the local population. Private sponsors played a significant role in helping with the whole event.

This desire to put great emphasis on communication that wide coverage in the media in France served to promote canoeing and Marathon Racing.

#### **A Championships to promote canoeing and Marathon Racing**

The coverage of the World Championships by the French media was considerable and not only in the sporting media. The two main French TV channels each gave a two minute report in their news bulletins at 8.00pm on Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Here are the viewing figures**

- Journal Télévisé TFI (National news at 8.25 pm) : 9.7 million viewers

- Journal Télévisé France 2 (National news at 8.25 pm) : 5.5 million viewers

Not to mention the broadcast on channel M6 at 8.35 pm (Sport 6) : 3.4 million viewers

That means that on Sunday evening more than 18 million people watched the coverage of the marathon. There were also other reports on France 3, L'Equipe TV, and LCI

It should also be noted that during the month of September, there were 25,000 hits on the official website with its reports on the Masters and the 3 days of competition.

On top of this extensive media coverage, the results obtained by the French marathon team bear witness to the improvement made in this discipline in France, with a total of five medals, three of which were obtained by Juniors. In Trémolat, Spain and Hungary confirmed their standing as the leading nations in this discipline. The French general public were able to get to know a sport which is often unrecognised, to get to know the athletes, to identify with the champions, and in the process France confirmed its ability to put on important events of this nature.

In France, Marathon Racing is facing an exciting future. ■



# Marathon Racing

## Report for 2005-2006

### THE WORLD CUP 2006 IN MARATHON RACING

◆ *By Jorn Cronberg, Chairman of the Marathon Racing Committee*  
*Pictures: Mick Feeney*

The World Cup competitions were awarded to Zamora in Spain and Trencin in Slovakia. Zamora is a well known and well tested venue looking forward to hosting future world competitions, while Trencin had its first test as world competition venue.

In 2005, a new course concept was introduced and tested. With a lap distance of 7.2 km and all portages in the start and finish area the new concept turned out to be a clear improvement from a spectator point-of-view. This concept was refined during 2006 with improvements at the portage to assure the safety aspect when bunches of crews fight their way through this clearly spectacular obstacle, put there to show one of the exciting sides of canoe marathon racing.

#### **Zamora World Cup**

The World Cup was attended by 15 national teams, competing on the water that hosted the very successful 2002 World Championships. The weather was quite hot with temperatures at







one stage on the Sunday over 35°C and with a strong hot wind. The racing however was excellent with some very fast times.

In men's K1 Spain's Alonso was a clear no.1 with Hungarians Salga second and Jambor third. Hungarians Csay and Follath were first and second in Women K1 with Spanish Garcia third. The Men C1 was won by Spanish paddler A. Garcia, with Hungarian Gyere coming second and Spain's M. Garcia third.

The Men K2 was won by Spain (Arroyo/Gonzalez) with Hungary (Homoki/Jambor) second and Spain (Corominas/Alongo) third. In women's K2 Hungary (Csay/Follath) came first, Spain (Kaperotxipi/Agirregabria) was second, and Norway (Fjeldheim/Fevang) third. In men's C2 Spanish crews Dios/Blanco and Riva/Lausada came first and second with France (Yoyeux/Gamery) coming third.

In the junior classes the medals were taken by France (1-0-0), Great Britain (2-1-0), Germany (0-0-2), Spain (1-4-3), and Hungary (1-0-0).

#### **Trencin World Cup**

This World Cup was attended by 14 national teams. The competition was held on the course which next year will host the

European Championships. The weather conditions were good and provided a good platform for high level competition dominated by the strong Hungarian team.

The men's K1 was attended by 24 paddlers, and after a close finish between four boats Hungarian Istvan Salga came first, followed by another Hungarian Attila Jambor, and Dutchman Edwin de Nijs. The women's K1 was totally dominated by three Hungarians - Renáte Csay coming first, Vivien Folláth second, and Judit Kollár third. Men's C1 was only attended by 5 boats with Slovakian Radoslav Rus first, Hungarian Zsolt Gillanyi second, and Hungarian Attila Györe third.

Hungary (Homoki/Jámbor) came first in men's K2 with Spain (Lage/Bertrán) second, and France (Place/Maillotte) third. In women's K2 Hungary (Kollár/Folláth) came first, Poland (Przybylska/Suchan) second, and Hungary (Grohol/Szirom) third. Men's C2 was won by Hungary (Gillanyi/Bindl) with France (Herbez/Lagarde) second, and another French (Joyeux/Gamory) third.

In the junior classes the medals were taken by Denmark (1-0-3), Spain (2-2-0), Great Britain (0-1-1), Germany (2-2-0), and Hungary (0-0-1). ■

# Canoe Polo

## World Championships 2006

DE BOSBAAN, AMSTERDAM  
THE NETHERLANDS  
JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> TO 17<sup>TH</sup> 2006

◆ By Martijn Rol, tournament secretary - Pictures: Jeroen Derksema

Men finals Italy  
vs France



In the summer of 2006, the city of Amsterdam was the host of one of the biggest sport events in the history of Dutch canoeing, when the Dutch Canoe Federation (Nederlandse Kanobond: NKB) organised the 7th Canoe Polo World Championships. From August 9th to the 13th of June more than 500 athletes from 25 Federations competed at the rowing and canoe track 'De Bosbaan' in the middle of the Amsterdam Forest, in competitions for Men, women and Under 21 athletes.

Those who are familiar with De Bosbaan from Flatwater Racing would not have recognised the track during this competition. With military precision, the organization created four basins next to the finish tower, each containing a perfectly prepared Canoe Polo pitch. Next to the pitches, a grandstand was erected which held more than two thousand visitors each day. A well known Dutch restaurant was contracted to provide athletes and fans with first class lunches and beverages from the huge tent built next to the grandstand. To add to the atmosphere, several major canoe stores ran stands at the venue as well.

The opening ceremony on Wednesday 9th was magical. Famous Dutch illusionist Hans Klok opened the 7th World Championships with a great magical show. After the show the athletes were welcomed to the Championships by ICF President, Mr. Feldhoff and competition organiser, Mr. Frits Jager.

### Men

The 7th Canoe Polo World Championships brought a new world champion in the men class. Host and defending world champion, The Netherlands, couldn't reclaim their title, and former World Champions Great Britain and Australia were eliminated from the tournament before the semifinals.

The first round brought us one shock result. Outsider Spain, semi-finalist in the 6th European Championships last year, were eliminated by Ireland 4-3. The other favourites for the



Semi finals  
Men: France  
vs Holland

title all placed themselves relatively easily for the second round. In this round, the deciding round for the semi-finals, three times World Champion Australia and two times World Champion Great Britain failed to advance. Australia became third and Ireland fourth, behind the Netherlands and Italy. Great Britain ended, together with Portugal, behind Germany and France - the first time that Team GB didn't win a medal at the World Championships.

In the semi-finals, the scoring machine of the Dutch men couldn't cope with the pressure and failed to score against a very slick French team. The defence of France was simply too strong for the strikers of the Netherlands, and they won 3-2., resulting in the exit of World Games winner and defending champion Holland. In the other semi final a second champion was kicked out of the tournament, when European champion Germany lost to Italy 1-0.

The final between Italy and France was the longest ever. In the first half, France dominated the game. Philippe Pfister scored the first goal from a beautiful French attack. In the second half France went ahead 2-0, through Debieu, and all the spectators thought the game was over for Italy.

However; Italy fought back into the game. Italian striker Luca Bellini scored to make it 2-1. With only one minute to play, Bellini forces his way through the French defence, and earned a chance to square the game after he was fouled. Out of the free shot D'Addelfio scored: 2-2!

The final went to extra time - two periods of ten minutes. Neither of the team's scored in these twenty minutes, so penalties had to decide which team would become the new World Champion. France won; scoring three penalties to Italy only two. In their shadow the Netherlands won the bronze medal after a thrilling game against Germany (6-5).

### Women

The trend of the World Games continued in Amsterdam; New Zealand replaced Australia as the dominate team from Down Under in the Women class. With great play, they reached the final against Germany. There was also a remarkable for the Dutch ladies, who had never won a medal before, and went on to defeated France in the battle for bronze. Defending World Champion Great Britain didn't make it through the second round.





Semi finals Men Under 21: GB vs Holland



World Champion France (men)

In the first round, all the favourites won through relatively easy for the placing round for the semi-finals. In the second round, two times World Champions Australia and Great Britain were eliminated from the tournament by France and the Netherlands. Japan, bronze winner in Duisburg last year at the World Games, ended behind Germany and New Zealand. Italy shared their fate.

In the semi-finals, Germany beat the Netherlands 5-2, while France lost 1-2 to New Zealand. The final between Germany and New Zealand was nerve racking for both teams and the fans. Both finalists were send in to the pitch with one mission: defend the goal at all cost, resulting in a twenty

minute long chess match between two well matched teams. After a 0-0 score at the end of normal time, Stefanie Esser scored the Golden Goal to make Germany the World Champion in the women class.

### Men Under 21

No class is more unpredictable than the Men's under 21. Poland almost eliminated defending World Champion Spain. Favourites Germany and Italy ended with nothing. France and the Netherlands performed the best; and both deservedly reached the final.

The first round was already full of surprises. Italy was defeated by Poland and Germany. Japan, bronze winner in Miyoshi two years ago, left the tournament empty handed. And runner

up Portugal was eliminated by Canada. In the second round, the 2002 World Champion Germany ended behind France and Great Britain, while Canada joined Germany. The Netherlands and Spain were the top two in the other group, defeating Poland and Chinese Taipei.

In the semi finals the Netherland defeated Great Britain in a thrilling game, in which scores were tied at 1-1 at the end of normal time. In extra time both teams has several opportunities to score, but didn't. Dutch striker Bartels finally scored the deciding Golden Goal. Meanwhile France beat defending World Champion and European champion Spain 3-2. In the final France continued their winning ways, as they overpower the Dutch 5-2. ■

### BEST SCORING PLAYERS

	Name	Team	Nb	Scored in nb of matches	Nb of goals
<b>Men</b>					
1	Jeroen Dieperink	Netherlands	1	9	20
2	Neil Edmunds	Great Britain	4	7	16
3	Michiel Schreurs	Netherlands	8	7	15
<b>Women</b>					
1	Lena Weinberger	Germany	2	7	15
2	Ina Bauer	Germany	1	7	14
	Zoe Anthony	Great Britain	8	7	14
<b>Men -21</b>					
1	Thomas Bartels	Netherlands	1	6	12
	Martin Lelievre	France	5	7	12
3	Ryo Oshima	Japan	6	6	11
	Jesús Bernáldez Díaz	Spain	10	3	11

# Dragonboat Racing

## World Championships 2006

KAOHSIUNG  
CHINESE TAIPEI  
SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> TO OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2006

◆ *By Raymond Kamber - Pictures: Raymond Kamber, Dornach / SUI*

### 15 International Crews in a Clash of the Titans

The Dragonboat Racing World Championships in Kaohsiung / Chinese Taipei provided a grand spectacle for onlookers and competitors alike. The championships, organised for the first time by the ICF, brought Dragonboat canoeists from four continents to the island nation in the East China Sea. For most competitors this entailed a very long and expensive journey.

The Organising Committee of the Chinese Taipei Canoe Association (directed by Aki & Ellen Chen) and the members of the ICF Dragonboat Racing Committee (led by Chairman François Ryffel, from Switzerland) made every possible effort to ensure the success of this major four-day canoeing event. The coordination of over 1000 athletes was not always an easy task, the organisation experienced occasional lapses but in the circumstances this was understandable.

The stars in these World Championships were undoubtedly the Ungarn. In the boat were nearly only Olympic medallists and World Champions in Flatwater Racing. So no surprise that they, so brilliantly, won 10 medals (7/1/2).







After training only 6 months for Dragonboat Racing, the Iranian Women team reached 5<sup>th</sup> place on 2000m. Big hopes for the future!



You could see dragons everywhere in Kaohsiung. On water and on earth.



Athletes from 15 National federations took part: France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Philippines, South Africa, Russia, Singapore, Switzerland, Taipei and the USA. Asia was thus represented by eight crews, Europe by five and Africa & North America by one each.

In view of the centuries-old Dragonboat tradition in Asia and the long journey to Taiwan for the European, African and American competitors, it is no surprise that the Asian nations were represented by the largest number of crews. However, tradition alone is no guarantee of success in sport, as was clearly demonstrated by the races on the Lotus Lake in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan. As a basis for the rating below we have considered only 'Dragonboat Seniors Men, Mixed und Women' (of 20 categories) and to some extent the results of the 10 races shown in the medals rankings. Why? Because we are convinced that like should be compared with like. Without wishing to diminish the very real efforts of the Masters and Juniors teams, and without entering into the underlying causes, the number of crews entered in these categories was simply too small for a world championship event.

### The incredible Hungarians, the best crews of the championships

In our opinion, personally and as journalists, the Hungarians proved to have the best crews of the championships. They were stars! Their boats included many flatwater canoeing aces - some even legends, to judge by their Olympic, World and other championship titles. Paddling in the Hungarian crews were Katalin Kovacs (Olympic champion 2004 and 26 times World champion), Renata Csay (6 times World champion), Berenike Faldum (3 times junior World champion) and other top athletes. Amongst the men were Edwin Csabei (11 times World champion), Csaba Hüttner (4 times World champion), György Kolonics (3 times Olympic champion and 14 times World title holder), plus other Olympic, World and European medal winners. Hungary won a total of 5 golds, a silver and a bronze in the categories Seniors Men and Mixed. All the races in the category Mixed were won by Hungary: 250 m, 500 m, 1000 m and 2000 m. The Hungarian crew also won the spectacular 2000 m race, their first (and presumably not last) entry at this distance. A minor miracle that their boat didn't sink under the weight of all that talent!

### Germany and Switzerland also top teams

After Hungary, the top crews of the inaugural Dragonboat Racing World Championships were Germany and Switzerland. The German crews won all the Seniors categories for all four distances, giving a total of 11 medals: 4 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze. Switzerland also managed to win the astounding total of 11 medals: 3 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze.



World Championships on the Lotus Lake in Kaohsiung / Chinese Taipei

### World Games 2009 with Canoe Polo and Dragonboat Racing

In 2009, a year after the Olympic Games in Beijing, the World Games for non-olympic sports will be held in Taipei. Canoe Polo and Dragonboat Racing events will be amongst the events represented and the venue will again be the Lotus Lake regatta course near Kaohsiung. During the Dragonboat Racing World Championships, this course exhibited certain deficiencies which must be rectified before the 2009 Games: the race lanes have shallow sections and sandbanks, which are a hindrance to fair paddle racing. At the Dragonboat Racing World Championships, the racing was too far away from the spectators and the finish area results board was difficult to read, all of which must have detracted from the ambiance in the spectators area.

We hear that these problems are to be solved before 2009. The Lotus Lake is to be drained and excavated to a depth of 2.5 to 3 m, and the race lanes may be repositioned to be nearer the spectators area. These measures should improve water conditions which at the moment are not adequate for international racing.

The next major ICF Dragonboat Racing event will be the Club Crew World Championships 2007, to be held between the 8th and 10th June in the heart of Europe: Gérardmer in France. ■

# Flatwater Racing World Championships 2007

DUISBURG  
GERMANY  
AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup> 2007

◆ *By Mr. Kewitz, press officer of Organising Committee*

## **Olaf Heukrodt, president of the German Canoe Federation, promises “Championships at their best”**

Germany is looking forward to hosting next year's Flatwater Racing World Championships. Between August 8th and August 12th 2007, the world fastest canoeists and kayakers will race for the ICF titles on the famous Duisburg “Regattabahn”. However, the World Champion titles are not the only thing the paddlers will be after, as these World Championships will also be the qualification regatta for the Olympic Games 2008 in Beijing.

Olaf Heukrodt, president of the hosting German Canoe Federation (DKV) and chairman of the Organizing Committee, promised during the World Championships 2006 in Szeged that Duisburg “will organise championships at their best.” Heukrodt's confidence is based on an experienced organisation team, directed by Otto Schulte, president of the Canoe-Regatta-Club Duisburg. Germany's Federal President Horst Köhler is patron of the World Championships in the city known for being the biggest domestic port in Europe.

Duisburg is hosting the Flatwater Racing World Championships for the fourth time, after successful events in 1979, 1987 and 1995.

After Szeged set a new record of 81 participating countries at the World Championships 2006, there will be even more countries on the startline in 2007. Otto Schulte expects 1500 athletes from 90 countries to compete in Duisburg, which makes the regatta management a remarkable challenge.

In addition to Duisburg being the qualification regatta for Beijing 2008, the ICF Development Program brings more national teams to participate. This program helps young canoeing countries by offering free lodging and training for athletes under supervision from experienced coaches.

Since 1980, the world biggest international Flatwater Racing regatta is held in Duisburg. The Duisburg International Regatta is part of the ICF World Cup Series. During the World Games in 2005, the Regattabahn was the competition venue for both the Dragonboat races and the Canoe Polo games.

A rail based camera system alongside the course will provide enthralling pictures from all the World Championship races. 2500 seats are available on the grand-stand and there is enough space for 2000 standing spectators to watch the live action on the water and on a 44 mÇ video screen in the finishing area. Furthermore, the city of Duisburg has taken the

The German Flatwater Racing national team and the president of the German Canoe Federation, Olaf Heukrodt, are looking forward to their home champs during the World Championships 2007 in Duisburg.



Aerial shot of the Sportpark Wedau in Duisburg with the regatta course and the MSV-Arena, a stadium big enough for 30.000 spectators.





positive step to build a channel parallel to the course. The Regattabahn is 2150 meter long, 9 meter deep and about 135 meter wide. Trees on both sides guard the lanes from side winds, making the Duisburg Regattabahn one of the fairest racing venues worldwide.

In addition, comprehensive training facilities are available in the surroundings of the Regattabahn as well as ample accommodation close to the venue, making for ideal conditions for the teams.

The Flatwater World Championships in Duisburg will provide more than sporting competition. Shows and live acts in the Championships Plaza in Germany's biggest sports park will set a colourful framework for the paddling action. During breaks and after the races, exhibitors show and sell canoeing gear, while a special programme will provide entertainment for kids.

Duisburg's mayor Adolf Sauerland emphasises: „We want to be good hosts for our canoeing friends from all over the world. We work hard to make these World Championships a highlight for both the participants and the sports city of Duisburg.” ■

The finishing tower and the Regattabahn grandstands with its 2.500 seats.



View of the athletes area on the Regattabahn Duisburg with the Olympic Training Centre and parts of the boathouse.

## FLATWATER RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

Website:  
[www.kanuwm2007.de](http://www.kanuwm2007.de).



From December 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, online ticket sales will be available.



# Flatwater Racing World Championships Junior 2007

RACICE  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> TO 29<sup>TH</sup> 2007

◆ *By Mr Jan Boháč, Vice-president of the Czech Canoe Union and Chairman of the Organizing Committee - Photo : Lubos Lstiburek, Racice Sportcenter*

## **Flatwater Racing World Championships Juniors return to the Czech Republic after 14 years**

The Czech Republic will be hosting the Flatwater Racing Championships Junior from July 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. After fourteen years, the Junior Flatwater Racing Championships return to the regatta course in Racice. In 1993, forty-two states participated in the Championships at the recently finished regatta course and brought to the Czech Republic not only valuable experience in organising an event at the highest level but also the silver medal in the K1 500 m women category by Kateřina Hluchá. The 1993 Championships were evaluated as being very successful. Since then canoeing remains amongst the top 10 sports in the Czech Republic, competing with soccer, ice hockey tennis and other more attractive and traditional sports.

Also since then, the Racice Sport Center has organized various important competitions, including several Flatwater Racing World Cup regattas and also international Flatwater Racing or rowing seniors and juniors regattas. The international rowing community knows the regatta course from the World Championships 1993 and the World Masters competition in 2002. The most recent event that has taken place at the Racice Sport Center was the Flatwater Racing European Championships Seniors 2006.

## **Short history of the Czech Flatwater canoeing**

The history of the Czech Canoe Union stretches back to September 29, 1913 when the Canoe Union of the Czech Crown Countries was founded. Water tourism started to be popular and the first marathon-style races were organized. In 1925 the Czech Canoe Union became the fifth member of the International Canoe Federation. Czech activity spearheaded the 1st European Canoeing Championships, which were held in Prague in 1933. The success of this event and of the ICF Congress held in Prague at the same time contributed to the quick incorporation of canoeing into the 1936 Olympic Games program.

The golden age of the Czech Flatwater canoeing came before and after the 2nd World War. The Czech flatwater canoeing hall of fame includes a number of famous competitors and officials at the international scene, as well as a number of Olympic winners, from Brzák, Syrovátka, Holeáek, áapek, Felix, Kudrna, to contemporaries like Martin Doktor. The Czech



Regata course with finishing tower

Air photo of the  
Racice Sport  
Center

Karel Popel was ICF President in the years 1954 - 1960.

The ninety-four years of organized canoeing in the Czech Republic represents a period of devoted work by all the officials, trainers and juries of the Union and led to the setting of new targets and challenges, one of them being the Junior Flatwater Racing Championships in 2007.

#### Czech Flatwater canoeing today

In global terms, contemporary Czech flatwater canoeing maintains roughly 10th to 15th place. Among the legendary athletes are Martin Doktor – junior champion and double Olympic gold medalist, Petr Procházka, the 42-year-old world champion 2006 at C4 200m (his 1st international participation took place in 1982), the double kayak Mrůžková and Blahová - silver medalists 2006 from Szeged. The attention of all participants is now focussed on the qualification for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. However, the preliminary conditions for Flatwater Racing are rather hard and therefore the struggle for qualification of Flatwater Racing worsens the position of our sport at the national level – but this seems to be an international problem worldwide.

#### Racice Sport Center

The Racice Sport was first used in 1986. Since then conditions for all water sports are being improved all the time. One of the center's main advantages is its proximity to the capital of the Czech Republic, Prague (45 minutes by car). For its sporting atmosphere and fair conditions, the Racice Sport Center has become a favorite for both Czech and foreign sportsmen. Each year competitors from various countries, like New Zealand, Slovakia or Belarus take the advantage of training there because the regatta course fulfills all their technical needs - : total length of the water canal is 2.350 meters, width of the main canal 130 meters, depth 3,5 – 4 meters, return channel has 30 meters of width and it is connected with the main at the 1100 meters' mark (this allows quick crossing back to the main channel), there are 9 lanes of 9 meters width using the Albano system, starts equipped with the automatic start system Polaritas, electronic time keeping system with Omega, photo finish camera and video recording.

#### Flatwater Racing Championships Juniors 2007

The Championships 2007 will be organized by the same tested organizing team that prepared the Flatwater Racing European Championships Senior 2006. Countries that confirm their interest well in advance can use the possibility of the training camp in Racice before the Championships. Internationally renowned boat makers will supply boat rental for teams that will not be able to bring their own boats. A wide variety of accommodation is available in the vicinity of Racice, and, if requested, accommodation in Prague can be arranged. Spectators can choose from various campsites in 20 km range from the regatta course.

General information about the Championships should be available starting December 2006. All communication will be done via e-mail. Just as in 2006, all information about the races, and all the results, will be immediately available online on the Czech Canoe Union web ([www.kanoe.cz](http://www.kanoe.cz)).

#### Come to the Czech Republic, welcome to Racice

There are various reasons to come to the Flatwater Racing Championships Junior. The competitors will gather new experience at one of the top international regatta courses. Backup teams can take advantage the opportunity to visit the various allurements of close-by Prague. The winners will take home Junior World Champion 2007 titles.

The Organizing Committee hopes that all the participants will leave with many beautiful memories of the Czech Republic and that they will be returning, either for future competitions or on holiday ■

## FLATWATER RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS JUNIOR 2006

Website: [www.kanoe.cz](http://www.kanoe.cz)



# Slalom Racing

## World Championships 2007

First water release  
with obstacles upper  
section of the course



FOZ DO IGUASSU  
BRAZIL  
SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> 2007

◆ *By Adriano Rattmann, CBCa Media Relations - Pictures from André Behs*

Slalom Racing World Championships 2007 will expect around 400 athletes from 70 countries, competing for the places in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Ten years after hosting the Slalom Racing World Championships with great success back in Três Coroas, Rio Grande do Sul in 1997, Brazil will host another major canoeing event. This time, it will be the Slalom Racing World Championships 2007, which will serve as be the First Olympic Qualifier for the Olympic Games in Beijing 2008. Races will take place from September 19th to 23rd, in Foz Do Iguassu, Paraná, the third biggest tourist destination in Brazil thanks to its amazing water falls, the Iguassu Falls. The competition will take place at the Itaipu Canal, the second artificial course in the Americas, built in the Piracema (fish migration) Park, a natural protected area centering on the Itaipu Dam, which is the biggest hydroelectric plant in the world.

With the city, state and federal governments, Itaipu Binational and more than 300 students of the Uniamérica University assisting, the Brazilian Canoe Confederation and the city of Foz Do Iguassu are getting ready to host the great names of the sport eager to secure their spot in the Olympic Games in Beijing.

“This event will allow many improvements to the Itaipu International Training Center, that is home to the Brazilian and Paraguayan slalom teams and is also available for international training, ensuring that all the necessary infrastructure will be in place for a technically well run competition,” explains João Tomasini Schwertner, President of the Brazilian Canoeing Confederation and 2nd Vice-President of the International Canoe Federation.

According to Jean-Michel Prono, Chairman of the Slalom Racing Committee of the International Canoe Federation, who has been to Foz Do Iguassu to evaluate the structure, the Itaipu Canal is one of the ten best courses in the world.

According to André Behs, Secretary General of the Brazilian canoe Federation, who accompanied Prono during his visit, “The





Aerial view of the Piracema Park Itaipu Dam in the back

Piracema Park is a unique canoeing complex, due to its ecological context, and the ability to practice just about any canoeing discipline, in addition to the great beauty of the place. This includes the important leisure and tourism elements like canoeing and rafting, using the Inlet Canal, the Upper Lake, the Lower Lake and the Bela Vista Canal”.

It's also been confirmed that the test event for the World Championships will be in Foz Do Iguassu, from March 16th to 18th, 2007, with a training period for teams from March 1st to 15th 2007.

#### Partners

The new course built in Foz Do Iguassu was an old dream of the CBCa's president, João Tomasini Schwertner, that was realized through a partnership with the city of Foz Do Iguassu, the government of Paraná, the Federal Government and Itaipu.

As Itaipu, one of the most important players in the construction of the canal is binational, (belonging to Brazil and Paraguay), Paraguayan canoeing has also benefited from the structure, and Paraguayan canoeists make use of the facility to improve their techniques.

The Itaipu Canal will also serve the future generations of athletes. Children from the region can participate in the Slalom Canoeing School which will be developed by the Brazilian Canoe Confederation, the city's sports secretary and Itaipu Binational.

The surrounding of the artificial course is in a preservation area. The Itaipu Canal and its surroundings ranks as one of the most beautiful artificial courses built for slalom canoeing. The competition course that was first used in April 2006 is 400 meters long, with a 7 meter drop, with a 12,5 m<sup>3</sup>/s flow. The race course will be from 250 to 280 meters long. The canal has also a warm up and a cool down areas.

The first competition in the Itaipu Canal was organized by the Brazilian Canoe Confederation as 2006 Worlds qualification for the Brazilian Slalom Team in May, and served as the trials for the World Championships.

Many improvements will be made for the Slalom Racing World Championships 2007, some of them temporary and some of them permanent, in order to fulfill the demands of the World Championships.

#### Foz Do Iguassu - Beautiful Tourism

Foz Do Iguassu, with all its diversity, represents one of the most beautiful destinations in the world. It has unmatched natural resources such as the Iguassu National Park where the Iguassu Falls are located.

Itaipu, the biggest hydroelectric power plant in the world is another major tourist attraction. At the Itaipu's Tourist Complex, tourists can visit the Ecomuseum, the Bela Vista Biological Refuge, the dam's monumental lights, as well as the Slalom World Championships course - the Itaipu Canal.

Other than the falls, the Iguassu National Park also has trails and ecoadventure activities such as rafting, rappelling, rock climbing, and boat rides by the falls. It's also possible to fly over the falls on a helicopter.

#### Itaipu Binational

The Itaipu's Tourist Complex consists of the power plant, the Piracema Park, the Bela Vista Biological Refuge and the Ecomuseum. This venue was visited by around 800 000 people in 2005. Opened in 1987, the Ecomuseum is the pioneer of its kind in Latin America and has gone through a big reformulation, which ended in December 2002.

The Bela Vista Biological Refuge, also unique in Latin America, is an attraction on its own. In its construction low impact materials were used and its architecture is bioclimatic, considering the building's height, its position to the sun, windows openings and its surroundings.

The Dam's Monumental Lights were projected by the biggest specialist in lightening in Brazil, Peter Gasper. When the lights go on, visitors hear music especially composed for the spectacle, created by Antônio Fava.

#### Location

Foz Do Iguassu is located in western Paraná, south of Brazil, and borders with Paraguay and Argentina. With an international airport, the city receives several daily flights.

Foz Do Iguassu International Airport is located at highway BR 469, 16 kilometers from downtown and 25 kilometers from Itaipu where the Itaipu Canal is. The distance between Foz Do Iguassu downtown and the Itaipu Canal is approximately 9 Km. With wide avenues, the ride from Foz Do Iguassu downtown to the Itaipu Canal takes around 15 minutes. ■

## SLALOM RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

Website: [www.foz2007.org.br](http://www.foz2007.org.br)

# Wildwater Racing

## World Championships Juniors 2007

COLUMBIA / CHARLOTTE  
USA  
JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> 2007

◆ *By Chris Hipgrave, High Performance Director for USA Canoe/Kayak*

View of Charlotte



June 15th, 2007 will see the start of the Wildwater Racing World Championships Junior 2007, which will be contested for the first time in the USA. The host federation, USA Canoe & Kayak, is looking forward to welcoming athletes, coaches, officials and countries to our country and to the cities of Columbia and Charlotte.

This Junior World Championships is somewhat unique as the Sprint and Classic will be contested on rivers in two separate cities. The Classic will be held in the city of Columbia in the state of South Carolina. Columbia was established in 1786 and is now the state capital of South Carolina with a population of approximately 125,000 people. It is located at the confluence of the Broad River and Saluda River. The Saluda will play host to the Classic race. The lower Saluda is an outstanding natural recreational resource located within the urban setting of metropolitan Columbia. Emerging from the dam at Lake Murray, the cold water flows 11 miles before joining the Broad River to then change names to the Congaree. The river flows through rolling topography, rock outcrops and forest with day to day river flows varying from only 11 cumecks to in excess of 500 cumecks. Flows will be controlled for the classic race at approximately 225 cumecks. The Classic start will be close to Interstate I-26 and finish close to the Hampton Street bridge in downtown Columbia. Major rapids are class II – III with the exception of Mill Race Rapid located behind the Columbia Riverbank Zoo which is class IV in difficulty.

The Sprint portion of the Wildwater Racing World Championships Junior 2007 will be located in the city of Charlotte in the state of North Carolina. Charlotte is approximately 160 north of Columbia and is connected via a major high speed Interstate. Charlotte has its own International Airport that services most of Europe and the America's. Originally settled by the Scotch-Irish in the 1740s, the Charlotte area also felt the strong influence of German colonists who came south about the same time. In fact, the city owes its name to German born Queen Charlotte, wife of England's King George III, and the county to her birthplace of Mecklenburg. From its modest beginnings as a small village, Charlotte abruptly attained city status with America's first discovery of gold in 1799. It was also the first small step in establishing the city as a financial center. Charlotte quickly became the gold mining capital of the country until the California Gold Rush fifty years later.

10 minutes from downtown Charlotte is the US National Whitewater Center which provides over 300 acres of woodlands along the scenic Catawba River. Olympic-caliber athletes, weekend warriors and casual observers share this world-class sports and training center.

The US National Whitewater Center is the world's premier outdoor recreation and environmental education center. Alongside mountain-biking and running trails, a climbing center, and challenge course, the park's unique feature is a multiple-channel, customized whitewater river for rafting and canoe/kayak enthusiasts of all abilities.

Inspired by the successful Penrith Whitewater Stadium built for the 2000 Olympics and the stadium built for the 2004 Athens Games, the USNWC is the world's only multi-channel re-circulating whitewater river. The US Olympic Committee has designated the USNWC an official Olympic Training Site.

USA Canoe and Kayak (USACK) has also designated the Center as its new home. The USNWC will apply to host future World Cup competitions and Olympic Trials, and serves as the home of international Olympic athletes. It will also be the venue of the sprint portion of the Wildwater Racing World Championships Junior 2007. The longer, "Wilderness" channel will be used featuring 2 minutes of fun class III whitewater. ■

## WILDWATER RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS JUNIORS 2007

Additional information about the Wildwater Racing World Championships Junior 2007 will be available later.

Additional information about the City of Columbia and the Saluda river can be found at the following web sites.

**Columbia** : <http://www.columbiasc.net>

**River Alliance** : <http://www.riveralliance.org/>

**USGS Streamflow** :

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/sc/nwis/rt>

**Saluda River Project** : <http://www.dnr.state.sc.us>

**Columbia Sports Council** :

<http://columbiasportscouncil.com>

Additional information about Charlotte and the US National Whitewater Center can be found at the following web sites.

**Charlotte** : <http://www.charlottechamber.com/>

**Charlotte Sports Commission** :

<http://www.charlottesports.org/>

**US National Whitewater Center** :

<http://www.usnwc.org/>



# Marathon Racing World Championships 2007

GYÖR  
HUNGARY  
SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 9<sup>TH</sup> 2007

◆ *By Mr. Robert Weisz, Member of the Organising Committee*  
*Pictures: Bureau of Tourism Győr, Zoltán Vegh, Balint Vekassy*

Győr is hardly unknown to the friends of canoeing as it previously hosted the Marathon Racing European and World Championships and 2007 will bring the Marathon family together again in Győr next September to decide the new world champions on the waters of the Rába and the Danube.

Győr is situated in the western part of Hungary, halfway between Budapest and Vienna at the confluence of four rivers, the Danube, the Rába, the Marcal and the Rábca. Its unique location makes it an ideal place to stage marathon canoe-kayak competitions.

The restored and revived historic city centre with its well-proportioned streets and buildings lures not just for intimate strolls but shopping in the lively quarters as well. The city is also world famous for its ballet dance group. Győr is one of the regions industrial centres and home to such companies as Audi and Phillips.

Győr has one of Hungary's biggest kayak-canoe clubs with 300 athletes aged between 8 and 80. The club focuses on attracting new generations to our sport each year. Several of these once new-generation beginners have gone on to become Olympic Champions in later years, such as Kinga Czigány and Zsolt Gyulay.

The currently most successful athletes of the club are three-time Olympic Champion Zoltán Kammerer and six-time Marathon Racing World Champion Renáta Csay. The competitors participated in every major Senior and Junior international canoe-kayak events in 2006 where they won a number of medals, some of them gold, from these competitions.

The rivers of Győr served as the venue for the Marathon Racing National Championships for the first time in 1994 and that proved to be too successful to be left without a sequel. International competition soon followed and their unequivocally warm welcome led to the hosting of the Marathon Racing World Championships in 1999 on the same waters. It was followed by the European Championships in 2001. The layout of the city and the maze-like system of rivers makes Győr a special marathon competition venue as most of the course is in the city centre and the banks are usually lined by spectators throughout, lending a special atmosphere to the event.

We are looking forward to this type of congestion in Győr

Start from the foldable pontoon on the Rába River

Getting in and out are from a sandy beach





A new finish tower was built for the World Championships in 1999, which, together with the whole infrastructure erected and renewed for the event provides solid background for organizing marathon events in the future. Hotels, motels and guest-houses in the city and the university's nearby hostel provide ample accommodation for guests and the spirit of Győr is sure to guarantee an enjoyable stay.

The World Championships in 1999 became a milestone in the history of the discipline from several aspects. The grandiose opening ceremony and the sight of tens of thousands of spectators could not pass unmarked. Giant screens conveyed the pictures of joy and pain to the fans lining the rivers and the TV coverage took those pictures to the homes of millions of TV viewers who have never heard of this sport before.

Besides kayaking and canoeing, there are several other sports that have a proud history in Győr. The women's handball team won both national championships and national cups in the past two years and played in international cup finals five times recently. Győr boasts of four Olympic Champions and many Olympic medallists and was proud host of numerous international sports events in the last few years.

The organisers of the World Championships 2007 intend to improve on the already successful marathon events held in Győr. Based on their own experiences and furthering their vision with observations in Perth and Trémolat and many other competitions, they are aiming high in trying to set new standards for the event on 8-9 September, 2007.

All the Marathon racing competitions in Győr are accompanied by the legendary crowds along the banks and on the bridges spanning the rivers, cheering for the athletes no matter what country they are from. We expect these crowds to be there again in September 2007 to witness the Marathon Racing World Championships that the organisers hope to be the grandest Marathon Racing had seen so far. ■

The most scenic part of the course leads right by the castle

## MARATHON RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

Website: [www.gyor2007.com](http://www.gyor2007.com)



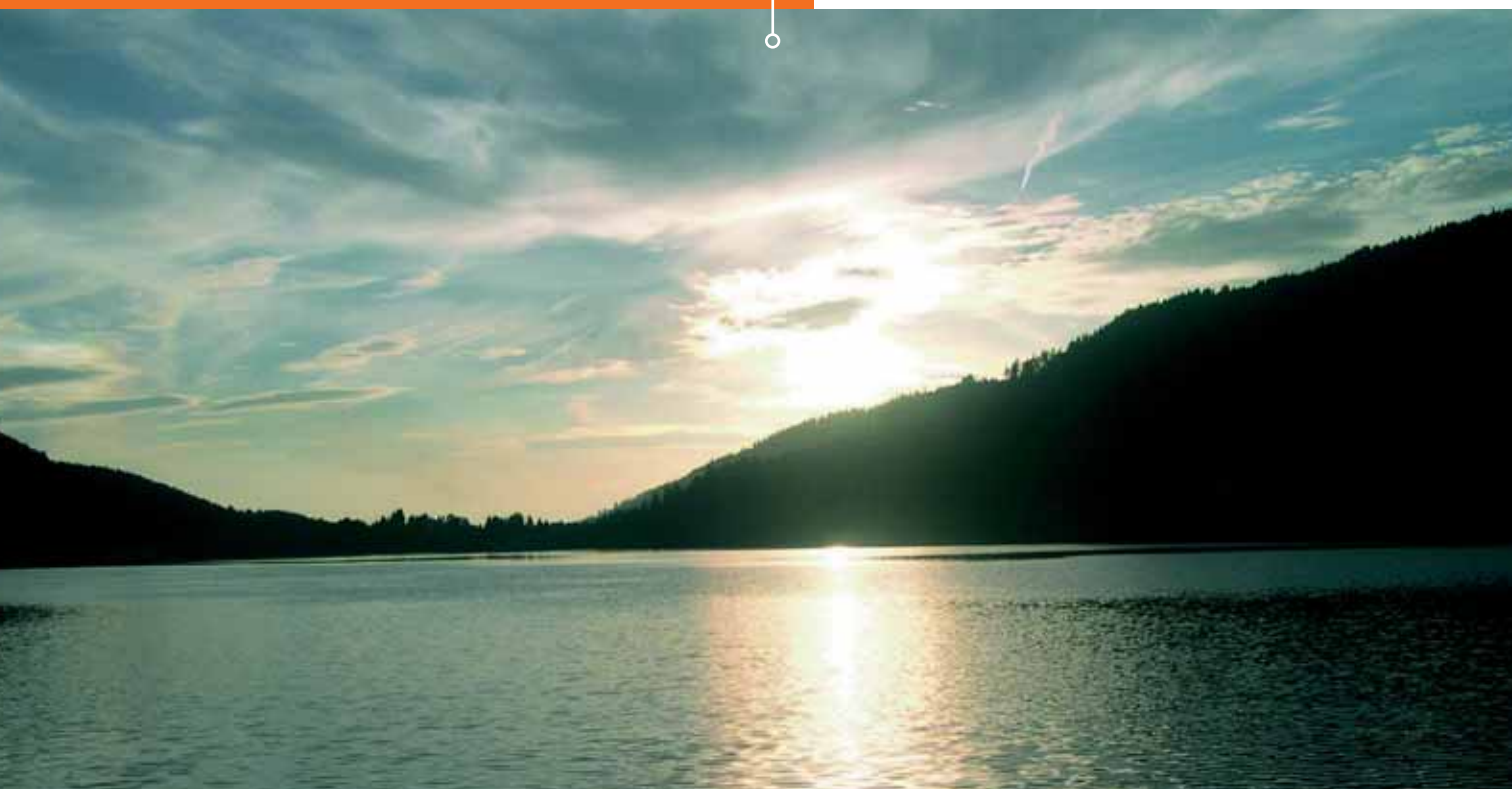
# Dragonboat Racing

## World Championships 2007

GERARDMER  
FRANCE  
JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup> 2007

◆ *By Rémi Lepage, General Director - Pictures: Organising committee*

Sundown on  
the lake





Sports event in Gérardmer.



Flatwater international regatta.



### “The year of the Dragon” in Gérardmer

The town of Gérardmer (FRA) is going to host the next Dragonboat Racing Club Crew World Championships, in June 2007. It will be the first time that this kind of large scale event will take place in France.

Gérardmer is a charming city, nestled in its lake, mountains and forests. Within an exceptional natural environment, the so-called “Pearl of the Vosges” is located in the heart of the Vosges Mountains and offers an ideal setting to all the nature-lovers and those who enjoy outdoor sports.

With its slopes favourable for alpine and cross-country skiing, the city offers the biggest skiing resort in the North-East of France. Whatever the season, Gérardmer lives to the rhythm of activities and major events which reflect its dynamism and identity. Among them “La Fête des Jonquilles” (i.e. “The Daffodil festival”), which is a huge popular gathering and “Fantastic Arts”, the international fantasy film festival. A lot of very important sports events also contribute to make Gérardmer a dynamic and lively city. For many years, a lot of big events have chosen “The Pearl of the Vosges” for its organization, hosting and environmental qualities. The international triathlon Ironman, the Tour de France, the Tour de l’Avenir and the Grande Boucle, and the Trophée Andros have been enjoyed by the athletes and spectators alike. Gérardmer is a town linked to its lake, from the hotels, camping sites, restaurants, road network, to the leisure and tourism facilities, the whole town centres on it.

During the summer season, all the life of the city is concentrated on this lake. It is 660 meters high, and is the only ice age lake in France that fills up and discharges in the same area. Its size also makes it ideal for all sorts of water activities as it is 2000 meters long, 600 meters wide and 40 meters deep.

This wonderful natural stadium has already hosted numerous events in sports such as rowing, sailing, triathlon and canoeing, with the flatwater international regatta and for the historic first ever Flatwater Racing World Cup the week before the Dragonboat Racing Club Crew World Championships.

An Organizing Committee has been specially created for this big

event, composed of representatives of the French Canoe Federation, the City of Gérardmer and the Gérardmer canoe club, which is one of the most important in France, together with the local councillors, the municipality, tourism industry, and all the users of the lake are all committed to presenting a high quality event in 2007.

A permanent competition section is being created and will be ready in a few months. It will allow the promotion of Dragonboat activity and enable other international events to be hosted in world class conditions in the future.

During the Dragonboat Racing Club Crew World Championships in 2007, Gérardmer will welcome between 1 000 and 1 500 athletes, and more than 12 000 spectators. With the Flatwater Racing World Cup of the week before, there will be more than 20 000 persons watching these two spectacles.

From a sportive point of view, there is a lot at stake for France. Beyond the organisation of a great international event, France is committed to some important development initiatives through this World Championship, such as :

- acquiring a score of dragonboats in order to inject enthusiasm into dragonboat racing;
- training a large group of French officials for Dragonboat Racing
- reinforcing Dragonboat Racing structures in France. ■

## DRAGONBOAT RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

### Provisional program :

Thursday 7 June : Opening Ceremony

Friday 8 June : 1000 meters race

Saturday 9 June : 500 meters race

Sunday 10 June : 250 meters + 2000 meters races

Website: [www.gerardmercanoe2007.com](http://www.gerardmercanoe2007.com)



# Freestyle World Championships 2007

OTTAWA  
CANADA

APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> – MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2007

◆ *By Joe Kowalski, Chairman of the Organizing Committee*

## Canada to host the Freestyle World Championships 2007

The International Canoe Federation, the governing body of Olympic paddle sports, has awarded Canada's Wilderness Tours on the Ottawa River the right to host the Freestyle World Championships 2007. This is huge honour and a big responsibility. It reflects favorably on Wilderness Tours' ability to professionally host large events. It also recognizes the Ottawa River as one of the world's best kayaking rivers. The event will be held from Sunday April 29 to Saturday May 5, 2007 at Wilderness Tours Resort on the Ottawa River, an hour west of Canada's Capital City, Ottawa. Official Training will begin Wednesday, April 11, 2007.

The event will attract competitors from all over the world with a goal of reaching 50 competing countries. The Ottawa River at that time of year is famous for its big waves. There are three that are world renowned, both sides of Bus Eater and a bit further downstream, Gladiator. The river gauge for the Ottawa measures level in one foot increments from minus 4 to 24. Organizers are hoping for a consistent level of 16.5 which is ideal for Mini-Bus, the river left side of Bus Eater. It's not only a spectacular feature but access is easy via a water ski tow rope tied to shore. Like a sailboat tacking upwind, paddlers angle their boat upstream and shoot across the current into the jaws of Mini-Bus. Best of all there are no downstream hazards so boaters can go big without concern.

This event is not without risk for the organizers and the sport. This will be first "big wave" competition at a World Championships. The risk comes from water levels. While the Ottawa River has many dams upstream and we have cooperation from both Ontario Power Generation and Hydro-Quebec, the Ottawa River is classified as "run of river". In layman's terms, this means the dams must pass the water coming downstream in excess of their carrying capacity. If there is water in the system, it must come downstream and if there is not, it doesn't.

The water required for Bus Eater water level at 16.5 is approximately 1,650 cubic meters per second (cms) of water or 45,000 cubic feet per second. This is a huge amount of water. The average flow of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon is only 8,000 – 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The water flow over Niagara Falls is 100,000 cubic feet per second.

As the Ottawa River is an inter-provincial boundary between Ontario and Quebec, water level control is shared by both provincial power companies. Both are aware of the importance of paddle sports on the Ottawa River and both cooperate. The recent World Cup held on the Ottawa saw perfect water levels thanks to the hydro-electric companies. The



2007 World Freestyle  
Championship Athletes Village



Big Bus on  
the Ottawa  
River

event was held the first weekend of September at summer water levels of 400 – 500 cms. Achieving perfect competition levels is much easier at summer water level. It will not be as easy next Spring.

While risky, organizers and athletes alike both want a “big wave” event to showcase the sport. Bus Eater will easily allow athletes to attain massive aerial manoeuvres of 3 meters. The 2005 World Freestyle Championship was held at the Olympic Whitewater Stadium in Sydney, Australia. As a man made river, water levels were perfect but the features were small. While it was a great event, it could be so much better on a big wave.

For those who have not been to the Ottawa River, it will be a real treat. Canada’s Ottawa River is about 1,000 kilometers long. The whitewater section, known as “Rocher-Fendu” (which means split rock), is the last remaining 10 km of original river. The other 990 km have been dammed to produce electricity.

The Rocher-Fendu is a whitewater paradise with over 175 islands producing of myriad of paddling options. There is everything from class 3 to class 6. International paddlers will find everything they could ask for. One thing they won’t find though is warm water. Ironically, in July and August, the Ottawa River is probably the warmest river on the North American continent. It is surprising considering its northern location.

However, the dozen upstream dams create wide, shallow lakes that are lined with Canadian Shield granite rocks that absorb ultra-violet light and warm the water. Because there are no mountains, the lakes behind the dams are wide and shallow and the electricity is generated with very warm surface water. That won’t be the case though with the World’s though. The river will be cold requiring dry suits, gloves and neoprene skull caps. However, the exciting water will keep everyone’s spirit warm.

Besides a great river, the 2007 World’s will be a great event. The host Wilderness Tours is delaying the start of its rafting season to devote all its staff and energy to this event. There will be an Athletes Village, themed dinners, nightly entertainment with the entire Wilderness Tours facility dedicated to the athletes, their friends, family and spectators. ■

## FREESTYLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

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# Multi events

## When sports multiply

**The term Canoe-Kayak covers a rich palette of disciplines but they are seldom paired together within the same event or in the same location. Recently, a number of federations and organizers have taken some very interesting initiatives in this direction...**

◆ *Pictures: R. Thiebaut*

Last August, at Ceske Budejovic in the Czech Republic, a host of paddlers gathered together on a single site to take part in "Wave 2006", a multidisciplinary event consisting of downhill, sprint, slalom, kayak cross, rafting, freestyle and kayak-polo. The organizers are seeking to develop canoe-kayak pursuits in the south of the Czech Republic by putting together an impressive demonstration of their multifaceted activities in a festive and friendly context: concerts and films washed down with lashings of Czech beer. If that isn't enough, the participants and spectators can discover the abundant cultural and natural heritage of South Bohemia, the most visited region of





The Czech Republic with medieval villages, castles, the Vltava river, the Sumava National Park and a plethora of other splendors. The event was a terrific success and appears to be representative of a certain trend. In 2005 in Duisburg, the disparate aquatic mores involved in kayak-polo and dragon-boat racing were combined during the “World Games” held there. This city is especially known to the canoeing world for previously hosting some of the most renowned sprint events and this new brand of race clearly fascinated a knowledgeable public.

In France, during the national white-water championships, the federation not only used the same river for the slalom, descent and white-water sprint events but also held a kayak-polo tournament. However, the keystone of the competition was undoubtedly the “National Youth Challenge” where 13 and 14 year old athletes competed in a landmark event: the youngsters, organized into regional teams, were ranked according to their prowess across a number of trials, involving agility, running, Eskimo rolls, etc. In the same frame of reference we have the example of “PeakUK Challenge” held in England that includes a white-water circuit involving boater cross, slalom and freestyle paddling.

All these examples unequivocally demonstrate that our sport can transmute its weaknesses into strengths. In fact, it some-



times appears almost impossible to encompass; the vast diversity of images and disciplines tending, unfortunately, to muddle the clarity of the message communicated to the general public. But this diversity can become a force if we bring together, same time same place, several of the disciplines which will then be simultaneously associated in the public’s mind as belonging to the same sport. ■

# Keeping pace with Dubai

◆ By Ian Kingdon for the magazine *South African Paddler* - Pictures: Wouter Kingma

**The UAE stretches for more than 650 kilometers along the southern shore of the Persian Gulf and is bordered by Saudia Arabia and Oman.**

The emirate of Dubai consists largely of rolling sand dunes with the majority of the population concentrated in the city of Dubai. The early inhabitants were committed to life on the coast and looked to the sea for their living. They based their livelihood on fishing, pearling and sea trade. Modern day paddlers, regardless of their livelihood, now look to the sea for their exercise, fun and relaxation. Today Dubai, which grew gradually from a fishing village centered around the Creek, is the product of intensive development over the past 20 years. The rapid development and success of the Dubai we see today is largely due to the foresight of Dubai's rulers. The growth of paddling has mimicked that of the city, starting with a few hardy souls in 1998 and growing to in excess of 140 paddlers today. It used to be that the "ship of the desert" was the camel but more and more along the coast of Dubai, the title is being usurped by the surfski.

The originals paddlers included Wayne Randall, Alan hall, John Callie and Kevin Goddard. They were soon joined by Robert Klok, Andrew Dunstan and Haydn Homes who were all recruited to work at the massive water theme park of Wild Wadi. But it was only when John Callie took a leap of faith and brought in a container load of Hammerhead skis from kayak centre that paddling really took hold in the Gulf. It was from these humble beginnings that the Dubai Surfski and kayak Club was born, it currently has 110 members with an additional 30 paddlers classified as country members. A unique feature is that although predominantly South African, the club has members from Australia, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Denmark, Holland, Russia, Bulgaria, Kenya and Sri Lanka, and somehow, they all get on! DSKC has weekly time trials and a race calendar of 6 major sponsored annual events. The time trials will attract anywhere between 20 – 30 paddlers and the bigger events usually have a field of closer to 70 paddlers.

The growth of paddling in Dubai was made possible by a combination of the enthusiasm of a core group of paddlers from DSKC and Wild Wadi and Rob Klok deciding to pick up where John Callie left off and bring in additional shipments of skis, a combination of Fenn Millenniums and XT's. Another container of Red7's and Mark II's are in the process of clearing customs at the moment to boost the doubles scene. Although not blessed with the rugged coastline of South Africa, Dubai makes up for it with man-made wonders that seem to appear overnight. The weekly time trials usually run along the coast and often involve a circuit along the famous 7-star Burj Al-Arab Hotel – the architecture is amazing and often slows strokes as paddlers stare in awe – and provides good direction makers. The club also has an annual flatwater sprint over 8km which is run on the Creek from

Barry Lewin,  
Daryl Bartho and  
Clint Pretorius



Dawid Mocke taking  
first place



Close finish, 1st in Dawid Mocke, 2nd Oscar Chalupsky  
and 3rd Daryl Bartho







Daryl Bartho at the finish new Marina development in the background

the very exclusive Creek Golf Club marina. It can all feel quite surreal – paddling out to the start of the race between massive power boats worth millions of dollars, to powering under each of the main two bridges usually choked with traffic, to the traditional after race “shave off” in the plush Golf Club changing rooms with razors and shaving cream provided free of charge. The most unique race to date must be the Madinat Challenge. It was held at the Madinat Jumeirah complex just as it was completed and involved a beach start through some rather rare surf, around the Burj and back to the beach.

Paddlers were then required to do a 100m portage into the heart of the complex to complete two circuits of the canal which snakes through it. Very different and at only around 3ft deep, contestants learnt all about “bottom suck”! The latest race that DSKC is hoping to stage is a two day +100km event from Abu Dhabi to Dubai with a halfway night stopover on the beach. One of the earlier events, the Standard Bank Global Roots Challenge, was run from the clubhouse beach and was attended by Dikgang Maphoela, the SA ambassador to the UAE.

Another classic aspect of paddling along the coast of Dubai is the opportunity to ride behind a dhow – the traditional wooden boat that epitomizes the fishing heritage of the area. They produce a fantastic wake that is relatively easy to get onto and can be ridden for as long as you want – the record being an hour and a half, which was set by club chairman, Wayne Randall.

You may ask what it is like to paddle in the Gulf? The year can be distinctly divided into two seasons – the enjoyable and the unbearable. The enjoyable winter months run from October to April and are characterized by mild temperatures, clear skies, occasional surf and afternoon runs as the onshore wind picks up. The unbearable sum-

mer months have scorching temperatures in excess of 45°C with humidity levels hovering between 70% and 100%. Paddling is either very early in the morning or late in the afternoon. How the earlier residents survived prior to the advent of the air conditioner is a veritable mystery. But paddling and time trials continue throughout the year regardless.

Apart from the weather, Dubai is a very cosmopolitan city, and actively encourages sports. There are no real restrictions on women and the wearing of bikinis is tolerated on the beaches – even though you sometimes may feel uncomfortable at the level of interest shown towards your scantily clad body. DSKC members have integrated themselves into the beachside community and have good relationships with both residents and the coastguards. Paddlers have been involved in numerous sea rescues where, even though sea conditions are remarkably mild by South African standards, an uncharacteristically high number of drownings do occur. The club is also affiliated to DIMC, who are the main regulators of water sports in Dubai, and safety is an increasingly important aspect of the sport.

As Dubai has a population made up of more than 80% expats and also finds itself as a rapidly developing hub for international travel, thanks to the efforts of Emirates Airlines, DSKC finds many interesting personalities passing through his doors – from paddlers of the calibre of Ant Stott, Warren Jacobs and Scott Maynard to the nemesis of Springbok rugby, Sean Fitzpatrick.

DSKC hope to develop its race calendar to potentially appeal to some of the international professionals, but in the mean time, why not stop over and hook up for a paddle in the Gulf? ■

**More info :** [www.dsck.net](http://www.dsck.net)



STEVE FISHER

# Mr do it all

◆ Photos: Desre Pickers

**A 30 year old who grew up in Kwa-Zulu Natal - South Africa, Steve Fisher started paddling at 6 years old and has been traveling the world as a professional kayaker for the last 10 years. Typically spending about six months a year in the USA/Canada, he spends the rest of the year traveling to wherever there's good kayaking!**

**What most people don't know is his roots were in slalom and sprint paddling! He has won many major slalom, sprint and kayak freestyle competitions and extreme races in the world, run first descent expeditions including the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet and the Irrawaddy in Burma, invented new moves and some claim he's the world's greatest all-round kayaker. But to him it's more important to simply pursue his dream of 'kayaking for a living' and he's truly realizing that dream as we speak. He goes where he wants when he wants, controlled by nothing but his own decisions that pivot around one central passion – whitewater.**

Steve Fisher grew up on a farm in rural Estcourt, South Africa close to the Bushmans River. Although it's not a very large or exciting river, the German and Austrian slalom teams would come train there during the Northern Hemisphere winter. As a child, Steve used to play at the river and at the age of 6, a family friend and paddler, introduced him to the world of paddling.

Paddling had been a fun pass time as a kid, however he soon began practicing and competing against other, older paddlers and the lure of winning races drew him further into the sport. "I got my own boat when I was nine. I'm not sure exactly what it was – some kind of gnarly fiberglass down river racer. My dad bought it for about \$20 with a paddle and we had to do some repairs before I could paddle it." Gear was also hard to come by in South

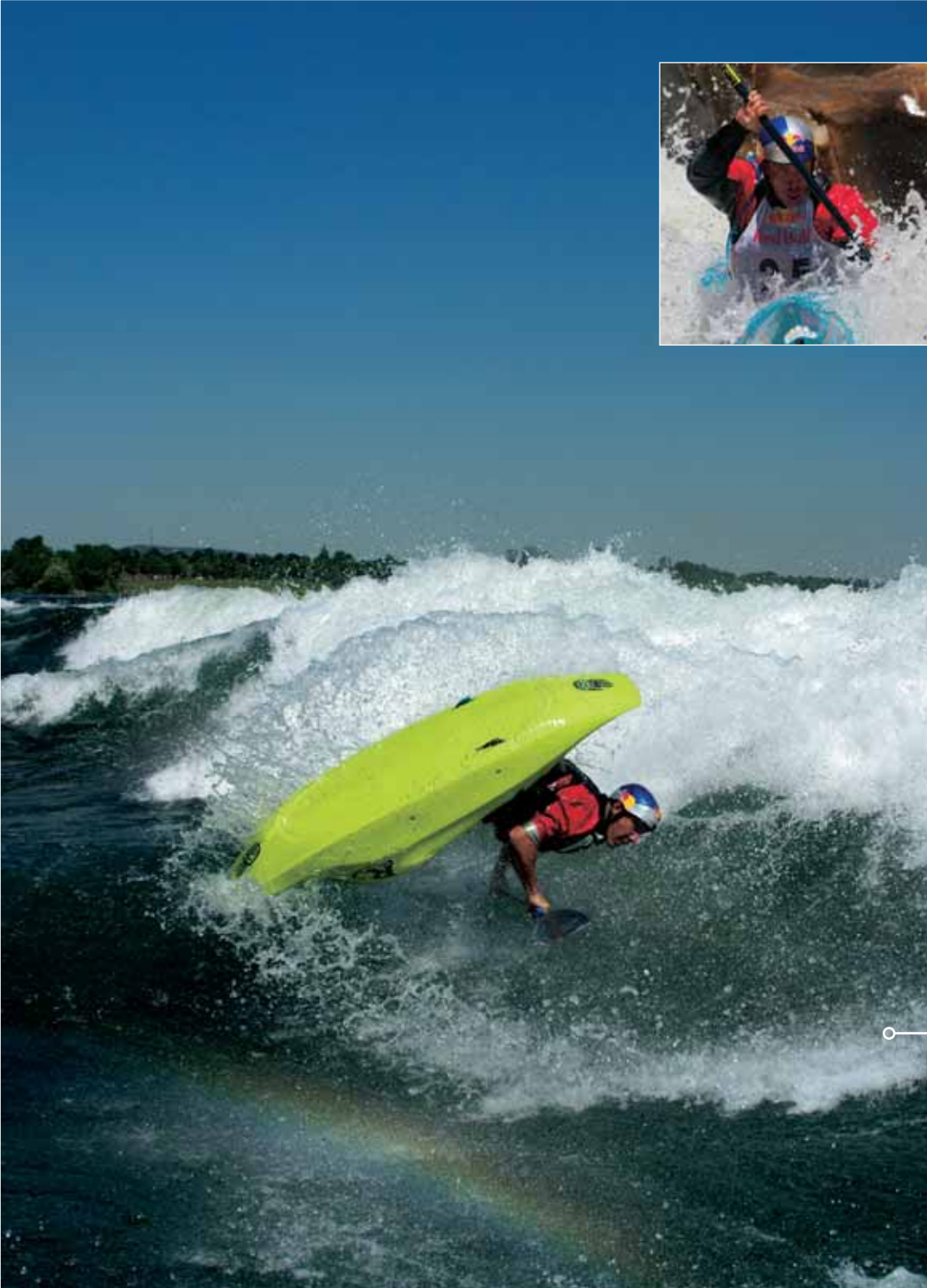
Africa, remembering his favorite piece of equipment was a carbon Schlegle that Michael Neumann gave him in South Africa in 1994, "That's because it was by far the best and newest piece of equipment I had ever owned at that time."

When it came to kayaking gear, they had to make it themselves – lying on the material to draw an outline of themselves that was then sown up. The first time he wore a drytop with gaskets was in 1998! As for kayaking partners, Steve says "I had very few friends who kayaked. I was therefore left with a couple of options – to teach my friends how to paddle, to bring my friends along with inner tubes, or to go alone. As you can guess, I ended up doing a lot of runs alone."

Despite small numbers of white water paddlers, sprint and marathon kayaking are commonplace in South Africa. Ask any South African what the "Duzi" is and chances are they've raced in or supported this 3-day, 120 km downriver race from Pietermaritzburg to Durban in fiberglass sprint kayaks. The sub-culture created from the Duzi is fondly known as Duzi-Fever. As



Team spirit - Aboard the South African K4 team - Junior World Championships - Groningham, Netherlands 1994



Down River Racing on the Upper Animas River in Colorado. A 35 km race on Class 3/5 icy waters

Going big on the Lachine Rapids Waves - Montreal Canada



On his own -  
Fighting for a spot  
in the K1 500m  
finals - Junior World  
Championships -  
Graningham,  
Netherlands - 1994



can be expected, some of the rapids are unrunnable in sprint boats so what else is there to do but put the boat on the good shoulder and run. Crazy? Yes. But even more crazy is doing it at 14! Steve was the youngest person at the time to ever enter and complete this grueling event.

Over the years Steve took part in 7 Duzi Marathons and in (1996) in a doubles canoe with friend and fellow paddler, Kevin Goddard, achieved his personal best of 6th place.

Steve was educated in a farm school, where along with normal school subject, pupils had to learn animal studies and how to run a farm, doing all the chores themselves. Steves paddling helped him escape the compulsory weekend farm activities.

### **Completed for the South African team in Sprint, Marathon, Slalom, DR and freestyle.**

It was during his university days when he was on the South African Olympic team that he made the decision to pursue white water kayaking instead of sprint kayaking, when he was forced to choose between kayaking or training with his team. He chose to go kayaking that afternoon – and has never looked back. After completing his B.Science, Genetics, Steve made his way to the Zambezi.

“The Zambezi is where I went from average Joe kayaker to good kayaker. It’s where I realized my own potential as well as the growth that kayaking still had ahead of it”, says Steve. With Alex Nicks and Nico Chassing, Steve began pushing his kayaking limits, by feeding off each they could pull out something new almost weekly! “You can’t beat this place for brushing up your paddling and getting fit – long days on the water with a 750ft vertical hike to top it off.” Life off river was great too, part of the reason for his return year after year.

Seven seasons raft guiding, video boating and safety kayaking on the Zambezi allowed Steve to develop skills and a style that would be his key to international recognition. Growing up without outside paddling intervention or opinion, Steve and his friends made up their own rules and limitations – uninfluenced. In 1999 Corran Addison, who had just started a new kayak company (Riot) convinced Steve to come to Canada and USA to do his first international kayak tour. When he first showed up on the international scene, people were surprised by a different opinion on what was possible in a kayak! Steve has always followed the “go-big” way of thinking as opposed to the conservative view. “The first thing I did was freewheel off higher drops than had been done and had a few new wave moves.” This with, his wild ways and desire to push the limits of freestyle kayaking soon saw Steve Fisher becoming a well-recognized name in kayaking – while inventing new moves and designing boats accordingly.

To understand Steve Fisher is to understand the power of the river and the extraordinary forces he is willing to navigate in a kayak. Along with his South African team slalom string of wins, he has won many major extreme races and freestyle competitions around the world including the Gorge Games extreme race in Oregon in 2002, the Camel Challenge Down River in Chile and placing 3rd twice in the world freestyle championships. He has paddled over 300 rivers in more than 30 countries, at least 60 being first descents including rivers such as the Irrawaddy in Burma, Salween in China and the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet - where he was one of a team of 7 who carried the flag of the explorers club to the bottom of the world's deepest gorge. The tallest vertical drop water fall he has run was measured at 87ft although he ran a 200ft multi-stage slide in spring this year.

It is easy to see how in 2003 and again in 2005 Steve was voted the “world’s best all-round kayaker” in a ‘pro-pick’ by the world’s top 250 pro kayakers. In 2005 he won ‘King of the Air’ in ‘The Big Gun Show’ – the unofficial world championships of Aerial freestyle kayaking. Showcasing Steve’s strength: being an all-rounder. He has his pick of sponsors, choosing: RedBull, Riot kayaks, Helly Hansen, Teva, Seven2 and Stohlquist.

Steve is outspoken when it comes to his opinions of competition, believing that competitions for pro’s and top-level athletes should be more ‘extreme’. Top-level competitions should clearly separate the best from the mediocre. The top athletes should be able to showcase only the best that they (and kayaking) have to offer. That way they can ‘tow’ the sport from the front rather than move along with the mid range crowd. He believes there are enough people on the leading edge that will eventually steer kayaking and competition in this direction. Like in sports such as surfing and skiing, there will be a group of individuals that will do things that the masses can aspire to and dream of (even if they know that they will never get there). As long as there are leaders in a sport, showcasing and exposing only the best and most spectacular elements, the masses will be drawn into a sport that they perceive as ‘cool’ – even though they know that they may never run an 80ft fall or surf a 20ft wave. With this formula the future of kayaking will be solid. If the leaders lead, the followers will follow. Steve is a leader.

In 2005, Steve stood up for his expectation of wanting more from the sanctioned competitions, and boycotted the World Freestyling Championship in Australia, leaving his bronze medal undefended, because the venue was “too small and unimpressive.”

He is an accomplished cinematographer and photographer specializing in documenting white water expeditions. Much of his footage has aired within the USA on NBC and OLN as well as others, he also contributed to a number of shows in many countries ranging from kayak industry videos to in-flight entertainment and international broadcasts. He produced White Water videos including Wicked Liquid 1 & 2; Impossible River; Raft Slambezi. As well as being the primary cinematographer for ‘Into The TsangPo’.

When Steve Fisher sets himself a goal, he will do anything to reach it, “I decided I wanted to make a living out of kayaking. And I knew it would be hard. So I decided to work hard both on the river and promoting myself. What makes me the proudest though, is that kayaking is more and more in mainstream media. This is definitely not due solely to me, but I like to think I played a role in this.”

But who is Steve Fisher when he is not in a kayak? A boisterous, gregarious guy who spends his time driving to the next destination, being a mechanic, cook, photographer, videographer and computer geek, with “a few benders” (parties) in between. He claims to drive a solid 80 000 km per year. And in his words “I’m up for any adventure or activity that I’ve never done before and that involves having a good time.” Since his break through onto

the international kayak circuit, Steve has become a citizen of the world, following his “endless summer”. Although he travels to more than 10 countries a year, he spends six months using the USA and Canada as his base to travel from, living out of a rather eye-catching RV. The remaining six months are spent in Africa, mainly Uganda. In fact he has become so fond of Uganda, the source of the White Nile, he has bought a piece of land – an island right above what he claims one of the best kayak surf waves in the world. Using a racing inflatable motorboat, he moves up and down the river accessing the good kayaking spots and building a basic kayak base for himself to operate from during the Northern winter, Steve is in his element!

“The hardest thing about the paddling lifestyle is making it financially viable whilst at the same time maintaining purity without ‘selling out’. I think that I am succeeding at this. The way that I determine whether I’m succeeding or not is by asking myself if I am where I want to be, if I’m doing what I want to do and if I am happy.” What keeps him kayaking? “I realized there are other aspects that keep me kayaking today – seeing great places and spending my life in the outdoors, and the constant ability to be able to challenge myself and experience the thrill of success anytime that I want to.”

Steve believes that your fortune is not where you are or what you do, but who you are. So pick what you want to do, and get on with it! His life, lifestyle and list of achievements is testament to his philosophy. ■



In 1995, Steve Fisher already won a major title in most “traditional” classes available - Slalom, Sprint, Marathon, Downriver. Soon after, Freestyle and River Running will take him to the summits...



Leading the way on the Fish River marathon - 1996



# WORLD FAMOUS PADDLES



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# Paddling and Society

NOT JUST ABOUT COMPETITIONS;  
CANOEING IMPACTS ON HEALTH, THE  
ENVIRONMENT AND INCREASES OPPOR-  
TUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

# The ICF new actions concerning Canoeing for the disabled or Paddleability

◆ By Francesco Conforti, ICF Treasurer and Albert Woods, President of ECA (European Canoe Association) - Photos : BCU



Paddleability or canoeing for the disabled has been practiced for many years, in some ICF National Federations. There may be other Federations which practice this discipline and a questionnaire is being sent to all Federations from the ICF to find out more of their connections to this exciting discipline of Canoe sport.

The ultimate objective is to have the sport of Canoeing in the Paralympics Games, hopefully by 2012. Rowing will be included in the 2008 Paralympics and we will be working closely with them to follow their strategy to achieve our goal. For this to be possible, it must be taken into consideration as soon as possible that Disabled Canoeing take part in the World Championships in the Olympic disciplines of Slalom Racing and Flatwater Racing.

There have now been three European Championships for Paddleability :one in Nottingham (GBR) and two in Milan (ITA). At the Madrid ICF Congress 2002, the Congress accepted the proposal from the British Canoe Union that the ICF should accept the idea of World Paddleability Championships.

The objective is to have a World Paddleability Championships with at least 18 Federations from at least three Continents participating before we can approach the International Paralympic Committee (the IPC) to be considered as part of their programme.

The ICF Board of Directors and Executive Committee have created a special working group for Disabled Canoeing to examine the current activity of disabled canoeing world wide, composed of ICF Treasurer Francesco Conforti, as Chairman, ICF Board member Albert Woods and ICF Board Member Branko Lovric. Proposals from the working group will

be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee followed by the Board of Directors.

At the end of June, Mr Conforti had a meeting with Mr David Grevemberg, Sport Director of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). This short meeting provided several initiatives and suggestions to enter Canoeing in the International Paralympic Committee.

The ICF Work Group, before proposing their solutions about this matter, must first obtain an accurate picture of the current state of disabled canoeing practiced at the National Federation level. To assist in compiling this report, the working group has prepared a questionnaire, which has been sent to all National Federations. The collected information will be very useful to define the most important actions in this specific field of activity (boats, distance, rules etc).

When the ICF receives the replies to its Questionnaire the working group for Disabled Canoeing of the ICF Chairman Francesco Conforti ITA Branko Lovric CRO and Albert Woods BCU, will formulate a way forward that may well include an International Symposium for Paddleability in 2007 or 2008.

Time is against us and the 2012 Paralympic programme will soon be set. If Canoeing was to be included in the Paralympics then it would strengthen the position of our sport in the Olympic programme as well. It seems that only existing sports in the Olympic Games will now be considered for the Paralympics, and as the Canoeing Venues will already be there, there is no extra infrastructure cost for our sport to be in the Paralympics but added value for our both disciplines in the Games. ■



The working group (from left): Albert Woods, Francesco Conforti and Branko Lovric

# River cleaning operation in Kenya

◆ *By Seif Patwa, President of Kenya Rowing and Canoe Federation*



## Tudor Creek Environmental Clean up

The **Tudor Creek Environmental Clean up** was held on the morning of March 18th 2006 at three different locations along the Tudor Creek – near the Tudor Water Sports Club, the Tamarind Restaurant and the Old harbour/Fort Jesus and approximately 6 kms of Beaches on both sides of the Creek were covered. The beaches cleaned comprised of mangroves forests, muddy and sandy/pebble beach.

This Clean Up was organized by Kenya Rowing and Canoe Association to mark the UN World Water Day - celebrated on March 25th 2006. Tudor creek is the home ground of KRACA and it is the venue for a large number of canoeing and rowing activities. Being tidal and sea water, Tudor creek is effected by a tidal range of approx. 4.0 m twice daily.

At midday, a striking presentation was made by Dr F Munga and Mr Husein Allidina to highlight with scientific evidence of pollution in Tudor Creek. Various other root causes of pollution were identified and will be presented to the Municipal authorities for action.

Over 900 participants gathered at the 3 locations, and managed to collect approx. 17 tons of garbage mainly plastic bottles, plastic bags, glass bottles, metal scrap, boat salvage materials, rusted tins, medical waste, and various types of styrofoams, rubber and ropes.

The success and enthusiasm of the participants was surpassed only by the massive and sheer

extent of pollution, which clearly needs a permanent effort in the following days, weeks and months to counter and reduce the pollution, and hopefully to eliminate it completely.

**One clear message emerged from this exercise, emphasising the 4 R's: Re-Use, Reduce, Recycle and Repair your garbage/waste/by products.**

The following sponsors gave the moral and material support needed to conduct this exercise: Tudor Water sports Ltd, Kenya Navy, Mr Pineapple-Organic Food Supplies Ltd, Tamarind Group of Companies, People United to Save Old Harbour (P>U>S>H), Mbwana Communications Ltd, Safaricom Ltd., Cordio EA Ltd Staff, Africa Online Ltd (MSA) – Staff, Alliance Group of Hotels, Kenya Shell Ltd, Surgical Lab Equipment Ltd, Dr Munga- Kenya Fisheries Research Institute, various individual and corporate donors and supporters, community, schools, Youth and Women Groups Supporters, Municipal Officials and Supporters, Governmental Officials and supporters, MP Najib Balala, the Mayor Of Mombasa, Councillors, elders, and religious leaders.

Future support is requested from UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), Ministry of Environment, Municipal Council, Corporate Sectors and individuals who wish to make a difference to the environment.

Many thanks to the large number of schools, especially Aga Khan Acaemy and Oshwal Academy and their students who responded to this clean-up by attending in big numbers, and without whose enthusiasm and support not much could have been achieved.

Continued support for such future events is needed with hopefully more neighbours and many other users of the Tudor Creekt to undertake such Clean-up projects in their neighbourhoods. The sheer extent of pollution requires concerted effort from everybody who uses, lives by and loves the Tudor Creek. ■

## THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR SPORT AND ENVIRONMENT IN LAUSANNE

30 november and 1<sup>st</sup> december 2006

### Mainstreaming the Environment in Major Sports Even

As the time you receive Canoeing international, The Global Forum for Sport and Environment (G-ForSE) took place in Lausanne on November 31<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>. This forum is organized every two years by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Japan-based Global Sports Alliance (GSA). G-ForSE brings together international sports organizations and federations, sports clubs, sporting goods manufacturers, civil society organizations, the media and sport personalities. G-ForSE provides a platform for sport and the environment stakeholders to review sports impact on and contribution to the environment. Specifically, the Forum provides a platform to discuss the integration of environmental issues in the development of sports facilities and equipment and the running of sports events. It also provides a platform to discuss the role of sport in promoting environmental awareness and action and to recognize and promote best practices. G-ForSE online — [www.g-forse.com](http://www.g-forse.com) — provides an extensive database of environmental activities by sport stakeholders. It enables them and the general public to share and view information on the link between sport and the environment.

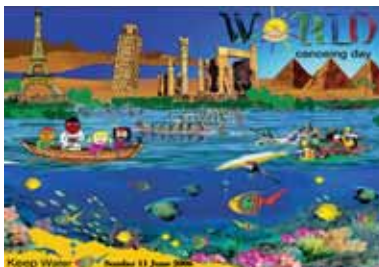
### 2006 Global Forum Sport and the Environment (G-ForSE 2006)

One hundred and fifty participants were expected to attend the Forum will focused on "mainstreaming the environment in major sports events". G-ForSE 2006 participants reviewed efforts by sport organizations to mainstream the environment in their events. The participants used experiences of recent sport events — the Helsinki IAAF World Championships, the Turin 2006 Olympic Winter Games and the 2006 FIFA World Cup — as the basis for discussions. Based on the presentations and discussions, the participants made recommendations on how to further improve and integrate environmental considerations in major sport events.



# World Canoeing Day

◆ By Ali Ghalamsiah, Secretary General of Asian Canoe Confederation



The inhabitants of the planet Earth will face a crisis of water shortage in the coming decades. Water is undeniably a source of life and a necessity for man's survival, while on the other hand, it serves as an important means for the practice of sport.

Aquatic sports are among the most frequently used disciplines around the world. They constitute the first ring of man's interrelation with nature and therefore to keep water clean and healthy is considered a vital facet of protecting the environment. Sport then plays a role in raising public awareness on the importance of protecting the environment.

The idea of a World Canoeing Day was created in 2002 by Mr Ali Ghalamsiah, current ACC (Asian Canoe Confederation) Secretary General, at the time he was elected as ICF 3rd Vice-President. The first World Canoeing day was celebrated on the World Environment Day.

This symbolic gesture, at a global level, aims to promote peace, protect the environment and keep the waterways clean. It was proposed that each national Federation commit to organising special events on that day every year. This concept has been approved by the IOC Sport and Environment Commission.

"At the 1st ICF Board of Directors meeting, I explained my idea about World Canoeing Day's celebration every year on the second Sunday of June, because June has been the ICF birthday

since 1946," said Ghalamsiah. "The ICF President and Board members found the idea interesting and approved it. I wrote a letter to Mr. M. Hashemitaba, IOC member and also president of I.R.Iran NOC and requested him to seek the support of the IOC. He then wrote a letter to Mr. Pall Schmitt, IOC member and Chairman of IOC Sport and Environment Commission".

The World Canoeing Day is part of the project "Canoeing for all" which includes :

- 1. To firmly develop** canoeing in each continent and to establish new canoe federations
- 2. To find or invent** new canoeing disciplines
- 3. To support** those federations that need to be helped, in co-operation with ICF / Continental Development Program commission.
- 4. To find solutions** to add paddleability as official competition in national and continental competitions, and at least world championships, and then include canoeing in Paralympics Games up to 2012 (see article on paddleability).
- 5. To collect information** on traditional or native boats from all around the world as a documentary for ICF library and ICF website.
- 6. To introduce** the World Canoeing Day around the world - the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of World Canoeing Day was celebrated by more than 47 national canoe federations in 2006.
- 7. To introduce canoeing** to the media and people worldwide through the medium of art. ■



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# Report on the ICF Development Programme Period 2004-2006

◆ *By Mr Csaba Szanto, ICF Technical Director*

The ICF Development Programme 2004-2006 came to a successful end.

Most of the targets established in the ICF Development Programme were met.

In the framework of the ICF Development Programme, 72 affiliated National Federations received financial assistance. This was mainly in equipment, participation in major events and direct financial support for the organizing National Federations of Continental or Regional Championships.

The ICF Board of Directors at their meeting in Stockholm in October 2004 elected the ICF 1st Vice President, Mr. Jose Perurena, to be responsible for the ICF Development Programme political side. He aimed at a full involvement of the Chairmen of the Olympic Disciplines in the Programme and a better cooperation between Continental Associations and Representatives of the ICF Development Programme. Under the leadership of the Secretary General, the coordination and execution of the Development Programme remained the main task of the ICF Technical Director with the support of the ICF HQ Staff members. The successful Development Programme is based on this structure and the support of National Federations and equipment manufacturers.

The host National Federations of World Championships and other main competitions supported by the ICF provided great assistance and financial support for the participation of developing National Federations.

Besides the host federations of the competitions, several other National Canoe Federations supported the ICF Development

Programme logistically and financially. Iran, France, Slovenia, Russia, Poland and South Africa are among others who provided the most support.

The ICF wishes to express its special thanks on this occasion to those manufacturers who supported the Development Programme by equipment donation, discounted prices and/or gave rental boats for free in the World Championships and provided services to the developing federations. Plastex, Braca, Nelo, Vajda and Double Dutch were those who gave the most assistance to the ICF.

Without the support of National Federations and equipment manufacturers, the ICF Development Programme wouldn't have been so successful!

**The IOC** has allocated an important financial support to the ICF for the project of: "Increasing participation in the ICF World Championships and connected training camps". The IOC Sport Department has considered the ICF Development Programme among the best Development Programme of International Sport Federations. The IOC will increase its support to the same project in 2006.

**The Olympic Solidarity** approved and financially supported all the ten NOC's application for Technical Courses of canoeing in the reported period.

- Flatwater Racing Coach's course in China, November 17-21, 2004
- Flatwater Racing Coach's course in Thailand, January 17-21, 2005
- Flatwater Racing Coach's / athlete's course in Dominican RP, June 17<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> 2005
- Flatwater Racing Coach's / athletes' course in Ivory Coast, September 2005
- Flatwater Racing Coach's course in Cuba, September 2005
- Flatwater Racing Coach's course in Ecuador, June 16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> 2006
- Flatwater Racing Coach's course in Iran, September 7<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> 2006
- Flatwater Racing Canoe Coach's course in Chile, October 10<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> 2006
- Flatwater Racing Coach's Course in Uruguay, October 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> 2006
- Slalom Racing Coach's course in China, November 2006

**Welcome to the new affiliated National Federations. The ICF now has 140 members!**

**The number of National Federations affiliated to the ICF increased from 131 to 140. The nine new members are:**

N°	Country code	Country	Continent
1	AHO	Netherland Antilles	America
2	GUY	Guyana	America
3	NCA	Nicaragua	America
4	SUR	Surinam	America
5	TTR	Trinidad and Tobago	America
6	LBR	Liberia	Africa
7	PNG	Papua New Guinea	Oceania
8	AFG	Afghanistan	Asia
9	QAT	Qatar	Asia



### Affiliated National Federations by continent

Continent	2004	2006
Europe	43	43
America	25	30
Africa	23	24
Asia	33	35
Oceania	7	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>140</b>

The ICF, with the cooperation of the host National Federations organized and supported participations in World Championships and in other main Events where training camps, training sessions or seminars were held in connection with the competitions in 2005.

### Supported Events:

N°	Event	Place	N° of supported National Federations	N° of supported athletes
1	Flatwater Racing World Championships Junior	Hungary	9	17
2	Flatwater Racing World Championships Senior	Croatia	28	37
3	Slalom Racing World Championships Senior	Australia	26	30
4	Flatwater Racing African Champs	Senegal	13	13
5	Flatwater Racing Asian Champs	Malaysia	7	13
6	Mediterranean Games	Spain	6	12
			<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>

The ICF organized the participation of developing National Federations in 2006 as well (Budget period 2006-2008 of the Development Programme).

The events were:

- Flatwater Racing World Championships Senior in Szeged (HUN)
- Slalom Racing World Championships Junior in Solkan (SLO)
- Slalom Racing World Championships Senior in Prague (CZE)

### The ICF provided financial assistance to the organization of Continental / Regional event to the Continental Associations:

No	Event	Place
1	Slalom Racing Asian Championships	Korea
2	Slalom Racing Pan American Championships	USA
3	Flatwater Racing Bolivarian Games	Ecuador

The result: a record number of National Federations and athletes participated in all the supported Events – except in the Slalom Racing World Championships in Australia (the far distance and expensive travelling costs explain this situation, which is usual if any World Championships are organised out of Europe).

### The following table shows the number of participating National Federations in 2005 and the highest number of participation previously:

### Supported Events:

No	Event	Place	Number of participating National Federations in 2005	Highest number of participation till 2005
1	Flatwater Racing World Championships Junior	Hungary	55	48
2	Flatwater Racing World Championships Senior	Croatia	75	63
3	Slalom Racing World Championships Senior	Australia	52	75
4	Flatwater Racing African Championships	Senegal	13	7
5	Flatwater Racing Asian Championships	Malaysia	27	18
6	Slalom Racing World Asian Championships	Korea	7	6
7	Mediterranean Games	Spain	12	7



First canoeing course in Sudan

Olympic Solidarity course in Indonesia



Afghanistan team participated in the Asian Championships in 2005

Teaching canoe technique on pontoon in Putryaja



South African athlete on the course in Penrith



Team event in K1 is very spectacular



### Why does the ICF organise these programmes?

The main reasons:

- Universality – to increase the number of the participating National Federations and athletes in major events
- Canoe and women categories - to promote canoeing and the participation of women, particularly in the Olympic Disciplines
- Improve the level of the athletes and coaches in training camps, training sessions, seminars and competitions on high standard racing courses with assistance of high level coaches
- Giving opportunity and motivation for the less developed, new and financially retarded federations to taking part in main Canoe/Kayak Continental and World Events;
- Raise popularity and for the profile of canoeing worldwide.

### How were the invited National Federations selected?

The criteria of the selections were:

- the activity of a federation, include their participation in continental level
- the financial situation of the federation
- the level of the athletes
- priority to canoe paddlers and to women participation
- the history / backgrounds of a federation as a new country in canoeing or traditionally strong but in economical difficulties
- cooperation/correspondence between the ICF and NATIONAL FEDERATION
- continental balance

### The equipment supply

The equipment (boats and accessories) were provided free of charge for all invited athletes.

The ICF, the host National Federations, Plastex, and Nelo manufacturers supplied and borrowed boats free of charge and Braca donated paddles for the athletes through the ICF. In addition some participating federations (coaches/athletes) in the World Championships also borrowed boats.



"ICF Team" in the Slalom Racing World Championships in Penrith 2005

### The coach's support

The ICF, with cooperation of the host federation of World Championships, were increasingly able to provide efficient and high quality coach's support for the athletes at training periods and in the competitions in the past years. The assistance of high level and skilled coaches is essential for the development and necessary for the progress of athletes and coaches.

In order to develop canoeing in any new affiliated countries or where canoeing is not developed yet, the ICF paid for two coaches temporarily. Their salary and travelling expenses were covered by the ICF while their lodge and board expenses were provided by the host national federations.

A Cuban coach has been working in Central Africa for Flatwater Racing development and a Brazilian coach has been coaching for Slalom Racing in Central America. Courses were held in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador.

In addition, a Hungarian coach (hired by India) conducted a coach's course in Sri Lanka and a Tunisian coach in Sudan. Another Tunisian coach conducted two courses in Africa.

### Details on the ICF supported participation of main Events

#### Flatwater Racing World Championships Junior 2005, Szeged (HUN)

Athletes from developing or with economical difficulties federations were invited to participate in canoe category in both World Championships Junior and Senior. The venues of the Flatwater Racing Junior World Championships in Szeged and Senior in Zagreb are geographically close and the dates of the two events were two weeks apart. Between these two World Championships, a training camp was organised for those athletes in Szeged. The host Hungarian Canoe Federation provided lodge & board free of charge. The expenses of traveling to World Championships in Szeged and Zagreb were paid by the ICF. Nine National Federations with 17 athletes took part in the programme.

#### Flatwater Racing World Championships Senior 2005, Zagreb (CRO)

The Croatian Federation provided full board and transportation for the invited athletes including accreditation, boat supply and coach's assistances for 30 Euros /day/person.



The first strokes in kayak and canoe



Tunisian coach Mr. Zakaria conducted a course in Sudan



Padding on the dry land is the first step to learn cane technique



38 athletes representing 28 National Federations were supported in this programme.

197 athletes participated in the canoe events, which is the highest number in World Championships in this category. A record number of 37 federations entered the C1 500m event.

#### Slalom Racing World Championships Seniors 2005, Penrith (AUS)

The development of Slalom Racing is very important in the ICF Development Programme. The increased participation in the World Championships was a part of the programme where 26 National Federations with the participation of 30 athletes were financially supported.

The Australian Canoeing Inc. provided excellent support to the programme from coaches and volunteers during the training camp and the competition.

The coaches were on good professional level, enthusiastic and have established a friendly atmosphere with the participants. Their valuable assistance added a great deal to the participation and development of Slalom Racing in general.

#### IV. African Championships, St .Louis (SEN)

Canoeing development on the African Continent has been a priority for the ICF Development Programme in the last four years.

Besides the financial support of participation in the African Championships the education was another important part of the project.

The ICF financially contributed to the host Senegal Federation for organising the IV. African Championships and donated "vital" kayaks, Racing K1 and Racing C1 boats (produced in Iran) and some paddles produced in South Africa. In addition the Iranian Canoe Federation donated boats to Senegal.

The French Canoe-Kayak Federation provided personal, logistical and financial assistance for the 4th African Championships. The three French experts were the key persons for the preparation of the programme, race course and running the Championships. The participation of 13 National Federations in the IV. African Championships and in the training camp comparing with the 7 participants in 2003 and 4 National Federations in the 1st Championships in 2001 is a good progress.

#### The participated National Federations and the result:

No	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Points
1	South Africa	14	11	5	290
2	Senegal	5	4	3	137
3	Tunisia	3	3	5	125
4	Morocco	2	3	9	108
5	Angola		1		28
6	Sao Tome & Principe			1	22
7	Ivory Coast		1	1	17
8	Kenya		1		8
9	Seychelles				4
10	Guinea Bissau				2
11	Liberia				0
12	Uganda				0
13	Algeria				0

#### XIII Flatwater Racing, Marathon Racing and Canoe Polo Asian Championships, Putrajaya (MAS)

The ICF, with the cooperation of the Continental Association, invited National Federations to the Championships and provided financial support for their participation for the first time in Asian Championships.

The host Malaysian Canoe Association managed a good organisation and provided reasonable prices for accommodation and board (25 Euros per day per person) including transportation and boat rental. In addition they supported the expenses of athletes from DPR Korea and Cambodia.

27 countries were present in the Championships and at the Asian Canoe Confederation Congress. A record number of 24 Federations participated in the competition.

#### Mediterranean Games, Almeria (ESP)

The ICF with the host Spanish National Federation and the Organizing Committee of the Mediterranean Games succeeded in increasing the number of participation in the Games.

It was essential to secure the minimum of 6 countries in each class, which was the requirement of the Organizing Committee to keep canoeing in the programme!

As a result, 12 National Federations participated in the Games out of the 17 affiliated countries in the Mediterranean region ; 9 Federations competed in the women category.

#### ICF organised Coach's courses for canoe category with 65 participants!

The development of canoe category requires well educated canoe coaches. The ICF organized (Canadian) Canoe coach's courses in 4 continents.

**African Continent:** Nagle Dam (RSA), February 11-19, 2005

South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Seychelles, Senegal and Swaziland participated in the training camp

**Asian Continent:** Putrajaya (MAS), February 20 – 27, 2005

Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Laos. Thailand, Pakistan, Myanmar, Mongolia, Indonesia,



The medalist of the K1 1000m event in Senegal

Philippines and Iran participated in the training camp

**Europe:** Snagov (ROM), June 5 -12, 2005  
Slovenia, Cyprus, Turkey, Tunisia participated in the training camp

#### **America:**

The planned canoe course in Cuba had been cancelled on COPAC's request. The NOC of Paraguay organised a course for canoe category where 23 coaches participated from: Argentina, Brasilia, Chile, El Salvador, Antigua & barbuda, Uruguay, Mexico, Bolivia, Venezuela, Cuba, Costa Rica, Republica Dominicana, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Trinidad & Tobago, Colombia and Paraguay. The course was conducted by Ivan Klementiev, Olympic and World Champion.

#### **Equipment donation and transportation**

In the framework of the ICF Development Programme equipment was donated to 75 federations in the last 2 years. The new affiliated National Federations, the federations which introduced Slalom or Flatwater Racing as new discipline and the host federation of Continental / Regional Championships, received Flatwater Racing or/and Slalom Racing equipment. In addition

some well developed but with economical difficulties federations in canoeing were also supported.

#### **Information on Slalom Racing Development**

The development of the Slalom Racing has a special attention and budget in the ICF Development Programme. Even if the discipline was very successful in the Olympic Games in Athens where the all the tickets were sold out and TV rated Slalom Racing finals on the third place the ICF with the Continental Associations and National Federations should continuously work for its further development.

The ICF organized and financially supported the participation in the World Championship in 2005 and did it in 2006 at the World Championships Junior and Senior as well.

Slalom Racing Pan American and Asian Championships.

The number of participating National Federations and athletes were low in both Continental Championships despite the ICF's logistical and financial support for the organization and participation. However;

more and more National Federations have been involved in Slalom Racing in the last 2 years, which is a positive sign.

The 2nd Asian Championships was held in Korea where 7 National Federations took part in the event - China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan and Korea. 20 women and 25 men participated in the K1 events. Few years ago only Japan then China were involved in Slalom activity but now there are 13 countries where Slalom has been adopted, 10 federations participated in the Slalom Racing World Championships in 2006 from Asia.

Slalom training camps were organized in South Africa, Paraguay, Ecuador and Panama by a coach supported by the ICF.

Another good sign is that an increased number of artificial Slalom Racing courses are under construction. Some investors think that the course is a profit making opportunity besides the reason of sport. In some other places, the priority of a new course is to serve the interest of Slalom Racing. This is the case in Brazil, where the Slalom Racing World Championships will be held in 2007 and in Thailand where the Asian Qualification Race for the Olympic Games 2008 selection will be organised in 2008. ■

# Canoeing

## A Sport for Health

◆ *By Dr Don McKenzie, Chairman of ICF Medical and Antidoping Committee*

At the International level, Canoeing is a highly competitive sport that demands intense training and commitment to excellence. Alternatively, many individuals pursue the sport for recreation and health benefits. With such a wide-range of paddle sports that fall under the umbrella of the International Canoe Federation, there is something for everyone. Dragonboat paddling represents the entry level to the world of Canoeing for many individuals. It is ideal for a number of reasons: it is safe, involves a large number of participants, results in predictable improvements in fitness, it is esthetically pleasing and it is fun. For special populations it is attractive because it is non-weight bearing with a low incidence of injury, suitable for older individuals and, because of the technical nature of dragon boat paddling, it rewards groups who focus on timing, technique and teamwork.

Women treated for breast cancer are at risk of developing a condition called lymphedema, which is a painful, swelling of the arm on the side that they received treatment. It occurs in 20-30% of patients with this disease, affects upper extremity function and has a significant impact on the mental health of these women. Traditionally, patients treated for breast cancer were told to avoid many activities that might result in lymphedema: avoid heavy lifting; avoid vigorous, repetitive movement against resistance; avoid rubbing, scrubbing, pushing or pulling; avoid breaststroke in swimming; don't use a driver to golf; no water-skiing and no canoeing.

These recommendations could not be supported in the medical literature yet were limiting the ability of women with this disease to enjoy full and active lives. For this reason, ten years ago, we initiated a dragon boat program for women treated for breast cancer. Dragon boat paddling was chosen because it is the ideal

sport. It is highly visible, involved repetitive, strenuous upper body exercise and would challenge the myth that this type of activity would result in lymphedema.

The original 24, very courageous women, participated in an 8-week program of rehabilitative exercises to prepare them for paddling. They were from all walks of life, 31-62 years of age, with different levels of fitness, with no experience in canoeing; the only criterion for involvement was a diagnosis of breast cancer. Soon a name was chosen - Abreast in a Boat (<http://www.abreastinaboat.com/>). On the water, the training program centered on the fundamentals of paddling a 500 kg boat- timing and technique. Gradually the fitness improved and after 3 months we participated successfully in a large local regatta in Vancouver. In terms of performance, this group seldom places but they always win! These women demonstrated that they could take part in a vigorous, physically demanding activity without developing lymphedema.

From this modest beginning, dragonboat paddling for breast cancer survivors has grown exponentially with teams throughout North America, Oceania, Europe and Asia involving thousands of women with this disease. In 2005, we had a separate festival for breast cancer dragon boat teams in Vancouver and drew 1700 paddlers from all parts of the globe. This program continues to grow and gain momentum and slowly it is changing the way the medical profession thinks about patients with chro-



nic disease. Paddling has restored the physical well-being and improved the psyche. These women act as role models for other patients with this disease, giving inspiration to lead full and active lives. They are athletes.

Although there are several sports where involvement will result in positive health outcomes, Canoeing, and dragon boat in particular, is unique. With the capability of putting 20 – 22 paddlers in a boat, the opportunity for team building and development of a novel support group is distinct. Canoeing represents honest physical work in its purest form, it is esthetically pleasing and the contact with the environment is contagious. In the last ten years teams with specific medical problems have embraced the sport and have been rewarded in return. Teams composed of renal patients, individuals with multiple sclerosis, junior teams of cancer survivors, the visually impaired and teams composed of patients with transplanted organs have joined the breast cancer teams in celebrating the return to full, active and rewarding lives. The ICF should be proud of its involvement with such a movement- it has expanded the scope of the sport for the good of humanity. ■





Marek Twardowski  
World Champion 2006





# Focus

A NEW ERA FOR CANOEING  
IN THE WORLD OF TELEVISION.

# Creativity is the key to success

◆ By Michaela Findeis, journalist for the ICF



**ICF president Ulrich Feldhoff foresees a bright future for the sport. Thanks to his extensive experience as an athlete and influential sports executive, he is well aware of the challenges that lie ahead. In his view, paddling needs to find the right balance between adapting to media and spectator requirements and remaining faithful to its authentic, nature-oriented spirit.**

**Mr. Feldhoff, ICF recently signed a three-year contract with the European Broadcasting Union. Does this represent a major asset for the future of paddling?**

Ulrich Feldhoff: The EBU contract is a very important step and we are lucky compared to other disciplines. EBU will broadcast images of the World Championships of the Olympic disciplines, Slalom and Flat Water, as well as other events. Disciplines like canoeing depend on the distribution of ima-

ges for their further development. Reaching the largest possible TV audience is therefore more important to us than selling pictures for money. Cooperation with EBU has been excellent in the past: beautiful pictures and perfect time slots, depending on the national broadcast stations. This vast potential has to be exploited by the national federations. We have to improve our relationship with each and every national TV station to motivate them to broadcast EBU's footage. But we may be proud of what has been achieved over the past decade. We gained a lot of media terrain compared to other – bigger – disciplines.

National federations play a very important role in securing continuous media and TV presence. Our sport has excellent results before, during and after the Olympics, but little presence during the three years "in between". The ICF cannot stimulate media interest in South America or Asia for example, but national federations should step up their efforts to reach out for media attention and talk to journalists face-to-face, offering simple, practical solutions and comprehensive programs.

**How can organisers help attract more spectators and more media interest?**

Ulrich Feldhoff: The fierce competition for media presence between sports will increase, both on a national and on an international level. Only those sports that can come up with creative solutions to problems will be able to maintain or improve their position. One always needs to ask: for whom are we organising an event? For the athletes AND for our spectators, local public as well as television and other media audiences. Once this is clearly understood, organisers automatically find contemporary

concepts to set up their events. The character of an event has to meet the expectations of a large public, not only of specialists. If we want to "entertain" 60,000 paying spectators, as was the case in Hungary at the last Flat Water Racing World Championships, we have to offer more than "pure" competition. Big events need to feature a variety of attractions in canoeing. Other successful examples are Bourg St. Maurice and Augsburg. While there is no miracle program, organisers can learn from each other how to attract their local public by creating an event that's exciting overall.

**Would you like to see more private partners involved?**

Ulrich Feldhoff: In principle, we are open to all new ideas. In the future, the only viable solution to me seems to take more private, professional partners on board. But not all national federations are ready or able for that yet. You need real business competencies to set up "win-win" partnerships where all stakeholders achieve their objectives. In Augsburg and in Szeged, private companies successfully organised the opening and closing ceremonies. And there are other areas where organisers would be better off letting private professionals do what they do best.

**Will some of the disciplines undergo changes in order to increase media coverage?**

Ulrich Feldhoff: The programs have to become more compact, more comprehensive, and finals should not exceed two hours. When we introduced the new slalom program, success was immediate. In Athens, the ICF earned the third media prize just



behind Athletics and Swimming, partly due to the 90-minute compact programming, broadcast live.

The same thing will happen in other disciplines, especially flat water.

We have to solve two problems at once: too many disciplines and too many participants. With more than 1,200 participants

offer support to athletes who are naturally gifted. In Germany for instance, "Sporthilfe" organises media training for athletes from different sports who meet for four days with leading journalists. They learn how to present themselves in a professional and factual way. But first of all, an athlete needs to be a successful competitor in order to

need to be proactive and educate their members to be self-restricting now and again. No mass events on sensitive small rivers, and if a certain river has to be completely closed during brooding season, we have to get the message out to our members. Some pilot projects are underway with the French, British and German

Federations. We are seeking collaboration with environmental politicians and I am confident that paddling will soon attract private partners who share these values.

### How about future generations?

Ulrich Feldhoff: Federations that don't concentrate on elite sports only won't have any problems recruiting new members. A recent study on leisure activities in Germany indicates that watersports will experience the highest growth rates in the next ten years. Canoeing is "cool", especially with kids, who enjoy the adventurous side of the sport. In many federations, we actually lack skilled staff to cope with the huge number of interested children. Out of this pool, some highly talented young people will naturally join

the elite of the sport and become competitors. If we do our job right, canoeing will never run out of new members. National federations have to integrate leisure and tourist canoeing as an important part of our sport. We see travel offers combining mountaineering and paddling in Vietnam and Nepal nowadays - and they are all sold out! There is a huge demand and this issue will rank high on our agenda at the 2007 Hong Kong congress. Many people aren't particularly looking for competition, they simply want to spend time outdoors and stay in good shape.

One major asset of canoeing is that you can practice it at any age. It's an ideal sport for the whole family, bringing together different generations to enjoy recreational activities in an exemplary way. ■

from 83 nations at the Worlds in Szeged this year and 1,400 participants from 90 nations in Duisburg next year, we've reached the manageable limit. Either we split the championships into Olympic and non-Olympic disciplines, or we have to organise qualifying series.

### Every sport needs regular winners as ambassadors. What can be done to achieve strong media presence for individual athletes?

Ulrich Feldhoff: Although federations can help, they cannot "create" such personalities. Athletes have to walk a fine line, delivering top performances on one hand and being available to the media on the other. Not everyone lives up to that, but we can

enter the media arena. Only then, can national federations sell the success story through a permanent flow of information to the media and effective networking.

### Does paddling make the most of its image as a "green" sport?

Ulrich Feldhoff: Paddlers are environmental forerunners! Healthy open waters are our sports terrain and we are naturally interested in keeping it that way, even restoring nature where necessary, because our children and grand-children should also be able to enjoy paddling. It took some time to convince politicians and environmental activists, but we now work hand in hand, e.g. in France and other countries. Federations



# Raising the bar for Canoeing and television

◆ *By Richard Baker, journalist for the ICF*

With a third negotiation with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) on the horizon, the International Canoe Federation is all set to roll up its sleeves and take canoeing and all of its disciplines forward into a new era in the world of television.

The rewarding partnership between the ICF and the EBU dates back to 1999 when a first agreement was reached for the World Championships. ICF and the EBU then reached an agreement for the period 2001-2003 which was then renewed for the period 2004-2007.

Blessed with a sport which offers plenty for fans in terms of power, passion and excitement, the new mandate for the ICF and its partners is to capture all of canoeing's exhilarating qualities by way of an innovative and reliable television product.

While canoeing rates as one of the most popular television sports at the Olympic Games it is the four years in between which

is under the spotlight with a serious need for a consistent, high quality production for a worldwide television audience.

The EBU is part of a family of ICF broadcasters which includes WCSN (United States territory), CBC (Canada territory), SBS (Australia territory and under its contract, the EBU assists in promoting canoeing through the widest possible exposure of the ICF disciplines on free-to-air television. Working on behalf of its members in the European/Eurovision area, the EBU negotiates broadcasting rights for major sports events, operates the Eurovision and Euroradio networks, organizes programme exchanges, stimulates and coordinates co-productions, and provides a full range of other operational, commercial, technical, legal and strategic services.

Eurovision builds and maintains partnerships with international sports federations

with the objective of maximizing benefits to broadcasters and federations. The ability to establish a direct relationship with member broadcasters and the opportunity to reach the widest possible audience in all the Eurovision territories with one single agreement are key reasons for the 30 partner federations to maintain their long-standing relationships with the EBU.

In a strong statement of the ICF's commitment to television broadcasting, the Executive Committee decided in June to invest substantial funds in order to increase the television exposure of the ICF events in 2006 using additionally the EBU's services - World Feed Service and Sports News Exchange.

And while EBU Head of Sports Marc Joerg admits canoeing can be a difficult product to televise, he is excited by the future of the sport and its relationship with TV.

"Apart from football and Formula 1, most





sports are fighting for airtime however I see a big opportunity for canoeing in the future on thematic channels which seek content, but a high quality production must be secured and the presentation of the competitions must be exciting.

“Clarity of production is an ongoing challenge but canoeing is in good company. You have a sport that was thought of before television was invented. What can be changed now to make canoeing TV friendly without losing its integrity?”

“One must showcase the sport from Olympics to Olympics and this must be driven by the countries and their athletes. With regular winners you build a tradition through consistent coverage and it’s good to put as much as possible into the news system to keep at the top of peoples’ mind, particularly for the general audience.”

The EBU is the largest professional association of national broadcasters in the world with 74 active members in 54 countries throughout Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and 44 associate members in 25 countries further a field.

And for ICF General Secretary Antoine Goetschy the partnership with EBU is the first step towards seeing canoeing realize its potential as a consistent television sporting spectacle.

“For us it’s a long term investment,” Mr. Goetschy said. “We need expertise, technical gear and communication in order to utilize the power of the Olympic Games, the-

refore the arrangement with the EBU helps a lot. The quality of the product is there but we need to produce this standard consistently.

“We need to define our position on the TV market and we need to trust in our capacity to deliver the product. When you establish your position you can go to TV fairs confident in being able to sell the product. Once TV can rely on us we can then sell the marketing rights.”

In an effort to further strengthen the relationship between canoeing and television, the ICF Executive Board decided in 2006 that the sale of TV rights was not a viable option, preferring to secure the largest broadcasting opportunities available and therefore giving the ICF and organizers an excellent platform to generate revenue through attracting sponsors.

Organizers are also encouraged to find and embrace new and better ways of advancing and promoting canoeing through the widest possible exposure of events on an international scale. With this in mind the sport is crying out for some stars outside of their own country. The equivalent of a tennis showdown between Nadal-Federer, where people around the world would be interested, is hitherto seen rarely in canoeing circles.

World Championships and Olympic Games are an exception and have proved to be excellent models to educate organizers on how to showcase canoeing’s many attractive attributes. The Olympic Games has long been the shop window for international canoeing and it is at a stage now when it is a role model for all organizing committees. “Canoeing at the Olympics is in a position where only minor tinkering is required,” Ted Ayling, the canoeing coordinating producer for the Beijing Olympic Broadcasting Co Ltd, said. “We could change a few things in terms of the coverage when it comes to Beijing but we will still keep the spirit of the sport while making sure it has excitement. You have to be true to the sport, you don’t interfere with the athletes but you try to make it as exciting as possible. You imagine situations so you can put cameras where people can’t be for the benefit of the television audience, but it worked last time in

Athens so we are just looking to improve on four years ago.” The Flatwater Canoeing World Championships held in Hungary in August was another perfect example of how to give canoeing and its partners the maximum exposure thanks to a passionate and determined organizing committee. Hungary Canoe Federation Competition Manager Balint Vekassy says the inspirational television production was helped by the fact that the television director was prepared to embrace the sport and all of its qualities.

“It is important that someone from TV has a canoeing vision and passion,” he said. “We showed old footage to the director to get her in the mood and it worked superbly.

“Initially you have to ask yourself some questions. What is canoeing? How can we show the pain and the anger etc? And then you get technical. You have to have the technology with moving cameras etc to capture the real essence of the sport.

“Obviously one follows the race to see who’s first and who’s second but we wanted two fly cameras this year to give interesting and unique pictures on top of the normal standard cameras. It’s important to show worldly images and pictures that sell. We are consistently thinking and evaluating while trying to keep up with other sports. It’s down to having the right people and having the same vision.”

One cannot forget that canoeing has always been built on relationships, trust and cooperation. These ideals will continue to carry the ICF and canoeing into the future making sure that as a team, the ICF and its partners will be working together to make sure canoeing is represented in the best possible fashion. With everyone’s help canoeing will continue to go from strength to strength, whilst remembering that television will always be one of the key tools in the process. ■

**A special section on the ICF website has been established regarding the EBU and television matters. Included in the section are all the contractors, their website links and territories they are covering.**



# Profiles

AN INSIGHT INTO THE LIVES  
AND THOUGHTS OF SOME  
EXCEPTIONAL CHAMPIONS.



Katalin Kovács / Natasa Janics  
p.100



Michala Mrůzková  
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## PROFILE

# Katalin Kovács

◆ By Michaela Findeis, journalist for the ICF

Over the past four years, Katalin Kovács has become the dominating figure in female flatwater racing.

Combining beauty and grace with muscular strength and a rare instinct for competition, she gained sports star status in her home country where water sports are very popular. Tens of thousands of spectators came to Szeged last year to watch her win six gold medals, on her own and together with her team mates.

Katalin's sports career began the day her two paddling sisters took her along to the Budapest Spartacus Sport Club. "Before that, I had only played basketball on the school team." Nevertheless, this early team experience seems to have laid the ground for the most successful

paddling duo modern kayaking has ever seen. In 2005, Katalin Kovács and Natasa Janics paddled their way into the history books by becoming the first female athletes to win all women's K2 titles at the 34th flatwater racing World Championships at Lake Jarun near Zagreb (Croatia). In 1997, Katalin earned her first silver medal at World Championships in a K 4, along with silver medals in K 4 at the Olympic Games in Sydney and in Athens – all over 500 m, her favourite distance. "Whether it's K1, K2 or K4, I prefer 500 m", she confides. Individually, she won her first World Champion's title in 2002 (Seville), over 500 m and 1000 m, earning her the prestigious title of "Athlete of the Year" in Hungary. After successfully defending her titles in 2003, she topped these results by a gold medal in K2 500 m at the Athens Olympic Games – together with Natasa Janics. "It's very hard and difficult to win. But my boyfriend Ervin Hoffmann, a paddler just like me, really helped me keep up my motivation", Katalin explained

in 2004. She divides her spare time between reading, the cinema and extreme sports, such as jet-skiing. She also participated in the first ICF Dragonboat World Championships in Taiwan where she won five gold medals and one bronze. ■

### ID

Hungary

Born in Budapest, 1976

### Flatwater:

Olympic Champion K2 500 m  
World Champion 2006 K4 200 m  
500 m and 1000 m, K2 200 m,  
500 m and 1000 m

European Champion 2006  
K4 200 m, 500 m and 1000 m,  
K2 200 m, 500 m and 1000 m

Trainer: Fábíánné Rozsnyófi Katalin

PROFILE

# Natasa Janics

◆ By Michaela Findeis, journalist for the ICF

“Kayak” is probably one of the first words Natasa Janics learned to pronounce”

She was literally born in a kayak - or at least into a kayak family! When Natasa was two years old, her father Milan Janic won his third World Champion title in K1 1000 m and returned from Los Angeles with an Olympic silver medal around his neck. At age six, Natasa started to work out in a kayak, as did her siblings. With Milan as the family's professional coach, she quickly became the best paddler in the former Yugoslav Republic, winning her first national elite Champion title at age 14 and finishing fourth on K1 500 m at the Sydney Olympics. Towards the end of the Balkan wars, she turned to her neighbouring country of Hungary in order to be able to continue serious training. In 2001, the whole family got together to make a very difficult decision: Should Natasa become Hungarian? While Hungary offered perfect training conditions, it also meant very fierce – and stimulating - national competition.

In 2002, just a year later, her beloved father died. With his legacy in mind, the 20-year-old transformed her heartache into strength and succeeded in beating Katalin Kovacs for the first time in her career. At the Worlds in Seville (2002, Spain), she won her first World Champion title, along with her new team mates in K4 200 m. She definitely conquered the Maygars' hearts by bringing back to Budapest one Olympic gold medal in K1 500 m, plus a second one with Katalin Kovacs in K2 500 m from the Athens Olympics.

In Zagreb in 2005, the two top athletes triggered joyous celebrations amongst their supporters by winning the three Champion titles in K2



– something no one ever had thought possible. “We realised just how important this achievement was when we crossed the line”, Nastasa explained after the competition. “I was very pleased, both for myself and for Kati. It was my first world championship in a K2, and to win everything was very special”, she added. In front of their home supporters in Szeged in 2006, the “winning duo” gave a repeat performance in K2 and later propelled the Hungarian team to win all consecutive World Champion titles in K4. Later on, Natasa would like to study languages and use her outstanding language skills. Besides Serbian and Hungarian, she also speaks Italian and English. ■

**ID**

Hungary  
Born in Backa Palanka (Vojvodina, Yugoslavia) in 1982

**Flatwater:**

Olympic Champion K2 500 m, K1 500 m  
World Champion K2 200 m, 500 m and 1000 m; K4 200 m, 500 m and 1000 m  
European Champion 2006 K4 200m, 500 m and 1000 m, K2 200 m, 500 m and 1000 m



## PROFILE

# Michala Mrůzková

◆ By Michaela Findeis, journalist for the ICF

The first time her sister Veronika took her to a canoe club in Prague, the then 10-year-old Michala Stranadova immediately fell in love with the sport. "But it wasn't only the sport. I liked the atmosphere around the water and the friendly relationships between sportsmen", remembers the now 27-year-old world-class athlete. Having grown up next to white water, she naturally first turned to the rapids. From the age of 14, Michala decided to focus on water sports only, leaving handball and other sports behind. And so a hard-working, naturally

**"I liked the atmosphere around the water and the friendly relationships between sportsmen"**

gifted competitor with strong mental and technical skills was born. At age 20, Michala made it to the top, earning her first World Champions title in the Classic race in Treignac (France). Many others were sure to follow. Successfully defending her title in Valsesia, Italy in 2002, she topped her performance by a second gold medal in the Sprint race. "I treasure each and every result. Each race is different and you have to work and fight very hard."

With an eye on the Olympics, Michala started to race flat waters in 2003. "Success in white water depends more on technical skills and strong will, whereas flat water Sprint racing is more powerful and in direct contact. The competition is definitely tougher on flat water, but I like both disciplines". Placing 13th at the Athens Olympic Games over 500 m, she gained confidence and new motivation by teaming up with



Jana Blahova to race K2. "It's something new and different to me, as you need mutual cooperation and confidence to succeed". At the ICF 2006 Worlds in Szeged (Hungary), she won a bronze medal in K1 1,000 m and finished silver medallist in K2 500 m.

"Sometimes it's hard to prepare properly for both disciplines. There are negative and positive aspects to changing disciplines. But it helps me to recover mentally from monotonous work. At the start of a season, I fix my top races and I focus on them. Before each race, I put in a special microcycle of about three weeks to get used to different techniques of paddling."

In 2004, Michala Mruskova graduated as a sports and biology teacher from the Charles University in Prague. Today, she lives with her husband David, also a member of the Czech national kayak team, in a small town near Prague where they train on their own. At the end of the season, the multi-talented top athlete is happy to pick up mountain-biking and cross-country-skiing to stay in shape and for the simple pleasure of being outdoors. ■



### ID

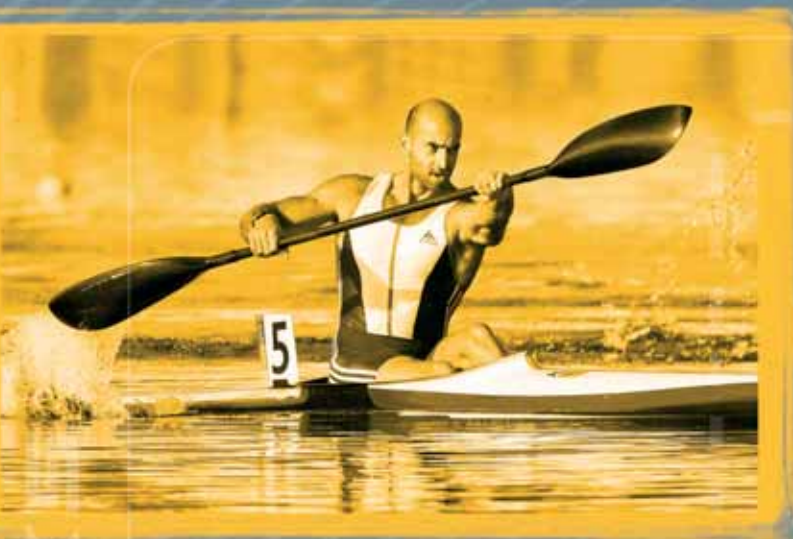
Czech Republic  
Born in 1979 in Prague  
Married to David Mruzek

### White water:

World Champion 2006 Classic, Sprint and Team  
European Champion 2005 Classic, Sprint

### Flat water:

Vice World Champion 2006 K2 500 m



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**VAJDA**  
CANOES & KAYAKS





“I hope to fight again  
for my country  
in Beijing”

INTERVIEW

# Meng Guang Liang

◆ By Bill Endicott - Pictures: Jin Shaohui

Imagine finding yourself at the Olympics with a chance to win your country's first-ever gold medal in either canoeing or rowing -- and then being in last place after the first 100 meters due to a bad start! That's where China's Meng Guang Liang and Yang Wen Jun were in the C2 500 meter race in Athens. (In Chinese, family names come first, then given names.) In 2003 they were told that the prevailing wind on the Athens course was from the left side. And primarily for that reason when they switched from C1s to C2, they put Yang, a lefty, in the stern to be able to control the boat better in the wind. Then, imagine their surprise when they got to Athens in 2004 and found that the prevailing wind was actually from the right side! Fortunately for them, however, despite the bad start, they won the race, thus becoming Asia's first-ever Olympic gold medalist in canoeing or kayaking. Before switching to C2, the two athletes had impressive records in C1. In the 2003 World Championships, Meng finished fifth in the C1 500 and Yang seventh in the C1 1000. Then, less than a year before the Olympics, they decided to combine forces and do C2. In October, 2006, American Bill Endicott went to China and interviewed one of Meng's coaches in Athens, Jin Shao Hui, and submitted a list of

questions for Meng, which Meng answered. In three cases, Jin also answered. Jin translated all the questions and the answers. A transcript of the exchange follows this introduction. But before that, here are some notes about the Chinese sprint program:

**China started Flatwater Racing** in the 1950s, (Slalom Racing in 1999) but there was a break until the 1970s. Flatwater Racing is considerably bigger than slalom, having 1,000 athletes and 6-8 coaches at the national team level and 50-100 coaches altogether. The national team trains in 3 places: Guangzhou (winter), Shanghai (spring) and Harbin, in northern China (summer). The head coach for the Flatwater Racing Olympic Team is Josef Capousek, the former head coach for Germany, who coached many World and Olympic medalists.

**Some of the Chinese coaches**, such as Jin Shao Hui and the Co-Director of Watersports in China (and Executive President of the Chinese Canoe Association), Liu Ai Jie, are graduates of Beijing Sports University. The school has about 7,000 undergraduates in bachelors programs and 3,000 graduate students in masters and PhD degree programs. Many of the students are present or former national team athletes in various sports.

Here is the transcript of the interview with Meng:

**What was your success in C2 coming into the Athens Olympics?**

**MENG:** In the 2004 World Cup race in Duisburg, we won the gold medal in the C2 500.

**What was your height and weight when you competed?**

**MENG:** 182 cm and 88 kg. And I paddled bow right.

**Where and when were you born? And did you grow up in the same place?**

**MENG:** I was born January 1, 1977 in Shao Xing City, Zhe Jiang Province. And I grew up in the same place.

**JIN:** This city has a very long history of Chinese traditional culture. It has had many famous poets and authors in the last few thousand years.

**Can you tell us a little bit about your family background? For example, what are your father and mother's profes-**



sions? **Do you have any brothers or sisters? Were any family members besides you athletes?**

**MENG:** My father is a farmer. My mother is on the staff of the county government. I have two elder sisters. No one was an athlete except me.

**How old were you when you got into canoeing and how did it happen?**

**MENG:** I started canoeing when I was 16 years old. But before that, I was a competitive swimmer. My event was the free style. But I kept coming in second in the provincial races, so I decided to look for another sport. I switched to canoeing because I liked it.

**Can you tell us a little bit about your training in the canoe? For example, when did you start training full-time? Did you train with a lot of other canoeists, particularly when you started? Or with kayakers? Or did you have to train alone?**

**MENG:** I started training full time in canoe when I was 17. I trained with a lot of other canoes, but no kayaks. We all did the same training plan but I don't think it was anything particularly unusual.

**In what ways would you say training in China was/is different from training in other parts of the world?**

**MENG:** I feel now that we have almost the same training as other countries because the coach we have now, Josef Capousek, formerly the head coach in Germany, is from a country that has a very high standard in canoeing. And before him, one of my coaches was Marek Ploch, who had coached in Poland, another country with very high standards in our sport. So, I would say our training is not very different from what the other top countries like Germany and Poland do.

**How was it that you decided to give up the C1 and do C2?**

**MENG:** Despite the fact that our results in C1 were good, we just thought we would have a much better chance to win the Olympics in C2 compared to C1, so we switched.

**Can you comment on the role of Marek Ploch in your development as a paddler? What are some of the things he taught you? Were there other people who helped you?**

**MENG:** I would say Marek is a very good coach who is very professional, hard working, full of knowledge and has very high goals. I really respect him. But our success is not only one person's work. There were many other coaches and leaders helping us besides him. I'd rather say that my success belongs to our whole team.

**JIN:** Marek is a very tough guy. He always gave the athletes some hard targets to reach during training. I think he taught them a lot about how to fight during the race. It's very important to make athletes much tougher than they were before. I always tried to be very strict with the athletes, too. Of course all the team leaders, doctors and other staff gave us a lot of support to do this.

**Were you aware of who your top competitors were and how they trained and did that affect how you trained? Do you feel there were any unique ingredients in your winning?**

**JIN:** Before the Olympics, we knew that Germany, Cuba, Poland and Russia would be the strongest opponents for us. And from my point of view, I thought Poland and Russia would be the strongest of all. But the quickness and explosiveness of our guys was the best, I thought. For example, in the start at the 2004 World Cups, in the time it took the other boats to do 3-4 strokes, our two guys did 7-8 strokes. So, they always had a very good start (except at Athens!) and kick during the races. Also these two guys had very good confidence, because they won all the international races over 500m in 2004 before the Olympics.

**MENG:** We also got a lot of support from the other athletes on the Chinese team. All my teammates are very good athletes. They all helped me a lot. We competed together in every workout, so they were all very helpful for my improvement.

**How did/do you feel about winning the Olympics, about being China's first gold medalists ever in canoeing and kayaking?**

**MENG:** To win the Olympics is the dream of every canoeist in China. I felt my objective should be to realize this dream for all of us and I was successful.

**How has being an Olympic Champion in China changed your life? Do a lot of people**

**recognize you on the street now?!**

**MENG:** Sure, many people know me after the Olympics. I think it's both good and bad, though. On the one hand, a lot of people know me, but on the other hand, there's pressure now to do even better in the future!

**How does being an Olympic Champion in canoeing compare with being an Olympic Champion in other sports in China?**

**MENG:** I don't think there's any difference. We are all respected for winning the honor for our country.

**Tell us a little bit about yourself -- any special hobbies or personal interests that you have besides canoeing? Are you married?**

**MENG:** I like surfing the internet. I got married in April, 2006. My wife's name is Xu Feng Yue and she is a former athlete, having competed in rowing, although she stopped some time ago. We don't have any kids yet.

**What are you doing now?**

**MENG:** I am still an athlete now.

**I thought you had stopped competing! And to be honest, I thought it would be tough being the reigning Olympic Champion, having the Olympics in your country and then not competing!**

**MENG:** Well, I stopped for a year after the Olympics, but only for a rest. But just recently I started up again, in C1, and I hope to fight again for my country in Beijing. I'm not planning to miss that opportunity! ■





# History

GERT FREDRIKSSON  
(1919-2006)

# The greatest has dropped anchor

◆ *By Stefan Gustafsson, Vice President of the Swedish Canoe Federation*

Gert Fredriksson, the greatest male canoeist ever, has left us, aged 87. The Swedish kayaker dominated men's world kayaking from the Olympics in London 1948 to Rome 1960. He won six gold medals in four Olympic Games, five of them in K1. In 1956 he was awarded the Mohammad Taher trophy by the International Olympic Committee as the number one sportsman in the world, the only canoeist to be presented with this trophy. In all Gert won over 500 national and international races, a very impressive record.

Gert started his career late, by touring the great archipelago of Sweden with his club mates from Nykoping canoe club. He was greatly inspired by the first ICF World Championships held in Vaxholm, Sweden, in 1938, an event he visited as a 19 year old spectator, just a year after he had bought his first kayak. The world war interrupted his international career, but in 1948 he







took total command at the London Olympics, a superiority he held until he finished his elite career at the age of 41 after winning his sixth Olympic gold in Rome 1960. Four years later he returned to the Olympics as the coach for the Swedish team bringing home great results including the gold on K1 1000 m.

His strategy for success was simple – just train harder than anyone else and you won't miss. And he really did. Gert was one of the first sportsmen to train twice a day, all year around. He developed a technique where he used the legs and the body much more than most of his competitors at the time. Additionally, he had a mindset that loved victory and didn't allow failure.

He was never a full time canoeist as sponsorship was not yet developed. He combined his training with his work as a fireman in Nyköping by paying from his own pocket when duty interfered with training or racing. Enjoying every minute in the kayak, he never regretted the choice of a sport that did not pay but took him all over the world doing what he loved most : to paddle and to win.

There are many memories of Gert, both as a sportsman, and as a friend. One of the most popular stories still around shows how highly he was regarded during his period of time on the courses: After a race, one of his competitors expressed how satisfied he was with his day - only beaten by Gert - by telling the media that he, for the first time, was able to sit on Gerts wash for quite a while... until the starter shouted "ready go"....

Gert was not only a great canoeist but also a great man. His humble and friendly attitude made him popular and made friends wherever he went. He has inspired thousands of sportsmen- and women all over the world. Not only his medals and victories, but also his mindset, his sportsmanship, his good manner and his willingness to help and provide advices to paddlers whatever level, have meant a lot to our sport.

Gert loved his sport. He paddled all his life and did his final training session on his home waters in Nyköping only a few weeks before the cancer took his life on the fifth of July 2006, after 70 years of paddling. 77 years old he made his latest "come back" on the racing courses. He participated in K2 Masters in the Marathon World's in Vaxholm 1996, because, as he said, "I missed the first one here back in '38 and wouldn't be able to win the next so I really have to win this". Did he win ? Of course...

The greatest male canoeist ever has left us in grief and sorrow. But, his spirit lives among us , inspiring us to work for our beloved sport. He was as a legend during his lifetime. He is greatly missed by the world of canoeing, where he did so much and had so many friends. His memory will live forever and will continue to encourage canoeists and sport leaders all over the world.

Thank you, Gert. I am proud and thankful to have known you, as a friend and as a sportsman. I know I share that feeling with so many sport friends around the globe. May we continue to act in your spirit to provide opportunities to young people to meet, compete, be successful and create long-lasting friendship all over the world. And, may your spirit continue to encourage sportsmen to develop their skills and life's within the great brotherhood of canoeing. You are forever the utmost example of the ultimate sportsman. ■

## LIST OF MEDALS

### Olympics:

**London 1948:** Gold K1 1000m and 10.000 m, His victories, 6,7 seconds on the 1000 m and 30,5 seconds on 10.000 is still the most decisive in Olympic history.

**Helsinki 1952:** Gold K1 1000 + silver K1 10.000

**Melbourne 1956:** Gold K1 1000 and 10.000 m,

**Rome 1960:** Bronze K1 1000 m, Gold K2 1000 m teaming with his clubmate Sven-Olof Sjödelius

### World Championships:

7 gold medals, 2 silver, 1 bronze

He won 71 gold medals in the Swedish championships and won 200 national and international races in a row between 1942 and 1949, with a total of 500 victories during his career.



# International Paddling Federations

NEWS FROM THE WORLD  
OF PADDLING SPORTS  
AROUND THE GLOBE.

# International Life Saving Federation

◆ By Alan B. Whelpton, President



## About ILS

ILS is the world's non-profit association of aquatic lifesavers and aquatic lifesaving organisations. Through our own work and that of our Member Federations, we lead the global effort to reduce injury and death in, on, or around the water. We accomplish this by assisting existing national lifesaving organisations; facilitating and developing a global exchange of lifesaving information and of best lifesaving practices; helping establish lifesaving organisations in areas of the world where they are needed, but do not exist; acting as the International Federation for lifesaving sport; and cooperating with other international bodies with shared goals. The International Life Saving Federation is composed of national aquatic lifesaving organisations from around the world.

## ILS History

Organised international life saving activi-

ties date back to 1878 when the first World Congress was hosted in Marseille, a city in the south of France. In the decades since, there have been many outstanding independent national life saving achievements. A need for an international forum to exchange ideas was soon recognised. This led firstly to the establishment of the Fédération Internationale de Sauvetage Aquatique [FIS] (founded in 1910) and then later the formation of World Life Saving [WLS] (1971). Both organisations were established to promote still-water and surf life saving objectives throughout the world. On 24 February 1993, FIS and WLS were merged into a single, worldwide lifesaving organisation known as the International Life Saving Federation (ILS). ILS was officially constituted by the ILS General Assembly in Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom, on September 3, 1994. Since then, ILS has provided the single uniting force of lifesaving around the world.





### ILS International Aid

A major goal of ILS is to reduce death and injury in the aquatic environment throughout the world. One of the greatest challenges to this goal is presented in countries where no lifesaving organisations exist or where lifesaving organisations exist, but with very little support. This occurs most often in developing nations where the incidence of drowning is high. To address the problem, ILS is developing lifesaving in countries where it is lacking. ILS works through the member Federations in an effort to provide assistance wherever needed.

### Lifesaving Education

Like all public safety providers, lifesavers need proper training to prepare them for their duties and to help ensure that they maintain a high degree of readiness. In addition, through education of the general public, lifesavers can address another major goal - aquatic accident prevention.

ILS is responsible for identifying and implementing education strategies designed to promote world water safety. These include establishing and developing core curriculum components for water safety related courses, identifying and developing benchmarks used for the international accreditation of national water safety education programs, developing water safety education information and resources, convening and conducting international water safety education gatherings, and otherwise developing and implementing key ILS education programmes.

### Rescue

A primary role of lifesavers throughout the world is the rescue of persons in distress in the aquatic environment. In addition, through preventive actions like posting signs and flags, lifesavers can help water users avoid problems that may result in injury or death.

ILS is committed to helping lifesavers throughout the world find the best methods to help prevent aquatic injury and death.

ILS works to help exchange information among member Federations and other water safety organisations of the world regarding effective strategies for drowning prevention and rescue. Areas of responsibility include specific rescue techniques, rescue equipment and its effective use, safety signs, flag systems, signalling systems, and statistics. ILS works globally to gather information, statistics, and research on water safety and lifesaving matters, with the intention to offer sup-

port to operators of beaches, open water sites, and swimming pools in their pursuit of a safe environment.

### Medical

Lifesavers throughout the world must be prepared to handle medical emergencies. At a minimum, most lifesavers are trained to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, to stop bleeding, and to assist persons who have difficulty breathing. Some lifesavers have more advanced medical training, up to the level of paramedic. A major goal of ILS is to assist lifesavers and doctors in advancing the treatment of drowning victims and others who sustain aquatic related injuries.

ILS works to help exchange information among medical experts and lifesavers of the world and to identify best medical practices relating to the aquatic environment.

### Lifesaving Sport

The International Life Saving Federation is the International Federation, which oversees lifesaving sport. Lifesaving sport is primarily intended to encourage lifesavers to develop, maintain, and improve the essential physical and mental skills needed to save lives in the aquatic environment. Since lifesaving groups were first established, lifesavers have met to compete with each other. The international liaisons forged by sport have helped greatly in advancing international exchanges of information on lifesaving practices. ■

**More info Web:**  
[www.ilsf.org](http://www.ilsf.org)

# World Waveski Surfing Association

## Season 2006 - 2007

◆ By Brett Cronin, President



Since our first appearance in the 2006 edition of Canoeing International, there have been a series of exciting developments in the sport of waveski surfing.

During July 2006, a successful world titles series was hosted by the South African Waveski Surfing Association (i.e. three “pre- world championship” Open events were held in Cape Town, Jeffreys Bay and East London). The main event was contested by 87 competitors at the prime contest venue of New Pier, with a major sponsor supporting the event in conjunction with a beach festival in Durban.

Defending World Champion Neil Decker (Australia) lost his title to Mathieu Babarit (France) by one of the narrowest margins in the history of the sport. Babarit has now also attained the title for the second time in his career.

The World Waveski Surfing Association (WWSA) Annual General Meeting was also facilitated in Durban. This was atten-

ded by South African Canoe Federation President and ICF delegate, Mr. Tim Cornish.

The overwhelming majority of member nations present expressed a desire for the WWSA to affiliate with the International Canoe Federation.

This notion had previously been reflected to some degree by the British Waveski Surfing Association’s recent alignment with the British Canoe Union, the South African Waveski Surfing Association announcing its alignment with their national canoe federation and countries such as France and Brazil continuing to maintain affiliations with their respective canoe federations.

Sylvan Longuet  
(France) in  
Jeffrey’s Bay,  
South Africa

Fletcher Burton  
(USA) in the  
Pipeline in  
Hawaii



©Duda



©Penny Beaford



Neil Decker  
(AUS) in Jeffreys  
Bay, South Africa

News will continue to be posted of international developments on the official WWWSA website [www.worldwaveski.com](http://www.worldwaveski.com)

Internationally, the sport continues to readily provide an avenue for people already possessing paddling experience on other craft to utilise their skills in surf situations. White-water rafters and surf kayakers across the world have continued their gradual transition to waveskis.

However, the dynamics of waveski competitions prevail with contest rules and judging standards to remain aligned with surfing contests. Accordingly, the rule book of the International Surfing Association (ISA) still remains the foundation document upon which WWWSA surfing contests are administered with the mandatory requirement of accredited ASP judges being used.

New contest formats have also been trialed in participating nations, (e.g. Australian National Titles have seen initial qualifying rounds followed by “man on man” for-

mat). This approach strikes a balance in keeping competitors as enthusiastic participants whilst providing entertaining viewing for spectators and media.

Developments in the United States of America have witnessed “surf paddling” events incorporating specific categories for waveskis separate from surf kayaks. This reflects an apparent resurgence of interest and increasing numbers of waveski participants in the USA. The newly formed association (USWA) is quickly gaining momentum amongst waveski enthusiasts and may appear to be a catalyst for future development of the sport and regional contests in the USA. An interim website has been established and US based waveski surfers are encouraged to register their interest for free at <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/WWaveskiUSA/>

The power of the internet continues to bring waveski enthusiasts together from all over the world. Prominent indepen-

dent websites such as [www.waveski.info](http://www.waveski.info) and [www.subgraviti.com](http://www.subgraviti.com) continue to be excellent examples in addition to the various national association websites.

High quality DVD's are still in production too with more to be released during 2007 from various media agencies based in USA, France, Australia and New Zealand. Waveski surfers have been chasing world class waves all over the planet from, Fiji, Samoa, Indonesia, Mexico, Maldives, South America, Western Australia, Europe and Hawaii.

The next World Waveski Surfing Championships are scheduled for March 2007 on the East Cape of New Zealand's north island in the seaside town of Gisborne. ■

**The official website for the 2007 championships is [www.waveski07.com](http://www.waveski07.com) and will contain all the updates and news for the event.**



# International Va'a Federation

## 12<sup>th</sup> International Va'a Sprint World Championships

◆ *By Charles Villierme, President*



The 12<sup>th</sup> International Va'a Sprint World Championships took place from March 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Karapiro, New Zealand.

For five days in the late summer of Aotearoa, over 1,800 Va'a paddlers competed on Lake Karapiro NZ for the 12<sup>th</sup> IVF Sprint Va'a World Championship. Competitors from twenty two IVF





regions from all continents except Africa contested the thirty events spread across four disciplines, two distances and six age categories to determine who the fastest Va'a paddlers in the world were. Tahiti topped the podium, followed by New Zealand and Hawai'i. For the first time ever, medals won by paddlers with a disability in six of the thirty events counted towards the final overall standings.

Of these competitors, 51% were female, 27% were juniors (41% female) and 2% were paddlers with disabilities. The event was supported by a small army of volunteers, 120 officials and featured twenty corporate and municipal sponsors. Maori TV covered all events live throughout each of the five days.

The event was presented bilingually in English and French with additional interpreters on site to assist with other languages present.

Age Division	Count
Junior 16	243
Junior 19	258
Open	432
Master	378
Senior Master	316
Golden Master	206
TOTAL	1833

**Full results are available at:**  
<http://worldsprints.wakaama.co.nz/>

The IVF is working on several exciting projects for 2007 and beyond. These include; the launch of an IVF World Cup that combines solo and team boats racing over both sprint and long distances for 2007; a solo boat World Series; a coaching education program; and further developing our program for paddlers with disabilities ■

# International Rafting Federation

## Season 2006 - 2007

◆ By Rafael Gallo, President



This year has been a very busy year for the International Rafting Federation, with important guide certification programs, site inspection and river scouting for the 2007 World Champs as well as Continental Champs, national selections, international events, an ever-growing Euro Cup and the launch of the World Series.

### Guide Training & Education

Guide, trip leader and Instructor certifications have been issued in countries ranging from the USA to Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Brazil, Switzerland, Bosnia/Hertzegovina, Portugal, Ecuador, Colombia, Australia, Korea, India, China and several others. Thailand, Nepal and Indonesia continue their development of IRF standards for their certification and competition. New Zealand continues to lead the industry standard setting and is considering a parallel system to that of the IRF. Their women's team is still ranked as one of the best in the World.

### 2007 IRF World Rafting Champs

The competition for a site for the 2007 World Championship was one of the most difficult decisions for the members of the board as all the bids filled the requirements and more, after extensive site inspection South Korea was chosen over Japan, Philippines and Bosnia/Herzegovina. We look forward to holding our first World Champs in Asia and as it will also be the celebration of the IRF's 10th anniversary it looks to be a special and spectacular event.

### Pan American Champs

In mid September teams from the USA, Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina and Guatemala got together in Costa Rica for

the Pan American Champs. Brazil won the men's event decisively by winning each of the disciplines, with USA coming second and Costa Rica third. The USA women similarly dominated the event with the Costa Rican's coming in second. The event was held on the pristine Pacuare River in Costa Rica in September.

### Gore Cup/ Teva Cup

The Gore Cup took place again on the Class V section of Gore Canyon in Colorado where the teams from the USA qualified for the 2007 World Champs by winning the Teva Cup. The Go Fast Gore Canyon Whitewater Festival, now in its 16th year, has once again proved itself one of the premier class V whitewater races in the United States. The 17th annual Gore Canyon Race will be held on August 17 and 18, 2007. The event has grown significantly over the past four years, and for 2007, the organizers would like to see it become more of an international event. The main goal of the Gore Canyon Festival is to provide a venue for boaters from around the world to race on a fantastic class V river and then to enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded paddlers during the post race festival.

### Asia

India ran the India Cup in March and has just run its third National Rafting Championship on the Ganges River in Uttaranchal, providing an amazing setting and explosive rapids, with their winning teams qualifying for the 2007 World Champs. Australia is preparing to run their Cataract Extreme race in Cataract Gorge in Tasmania, and the Philippines is running an event on the Oro River and getting ready for international competition.





### Katun Cup

In Russia the Katun Cup took place last summer attracting a large number of participants to one of Russia's Classic big water rivers. The event took place on the Katun River, near the confluence with the Ilgumen River, with the Slalom and Sprint on the Chuia River, the lower part from Boorevestnik to Begemot rapids. The event was organised and sponsored by the local government of the Republic of Altai, (part of Russian federation) with cooperation from the local rafting experts of Altai raft club, Rescue Rangers, River tourist section and the University of Gornoaltaisk. The event was sponsored as part of celebration of the Willingness of the Altai Republic to join with Russia, 250 years ago. The Altai-Raft team from Russia dominated the men's section by



winning all three disciplines. The Czech's WD Tygrici team won the women's section by winning the Slalom and Downriver after having a bad run in the Sprint. It was great to see the Kazak teams back into raft racing.

### South Africa

At the second of the SA rafting trials on the As River (Ash River) in the Free State, both the KwaZulu-Natal men's team and women's team posted convincing victories against the committed Wits teams. The selection of teams for the World Championships in 2007 are spread over three events and the KZN women's win this weekend puts them in a very favourable position as they only need to attend the final event to be selected. As part of a development initiative, the KZN women's team recruited a few local schoolchildren into a raft and guided them down the sprint rapid, much to the delight and elated shrieks of the participants and spectators alike.

**Euro Cup** - the overall results can be found on [www.e-rafting.info](http://www.e-rafting.info). The Euro Cup R6 (6 man rafts) and R4 (4 man rafts)

both saw good growth this year in the number of events, number of teams and number of countries taking part. For developing countries the R4 events are appealing as it is often easier to put together and finance a 4-man team as opposed to a 6-man team. Some of the artificial courses are also more suited to smaller rafts. For this reason we expect continued growth in the R4 sector but also predict continued growth in the R6 as it is seen as the classic style of raft racing.

Austria put on a fine event combining R4 and R6, the first time at a Euro Cup event. The event was a great success with a huge number of participants in each section. The participation of Serbia and Montenegro at events and the camaraderie seen is once again a positive side of rafting.

As this season winds down for some (most of northern hemisphere) and starts or continues for others, we all look forward to the events on the calendar next year and particularly our World Champs and 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in South Korea in July. ■



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# Venues

A REVIEW OF PAST AND  
FUTURE OLYMPIC VENUES.



# Olympic water stadiums make paddling all the rage

◆ *By Michaela Findeis, journalist for the ICF*

MODERN WHITE WATER STADIUMS SHOWCASE HOW OLYMPIC FACILITIES CAN BE CONVERTED INTO PROFITABLE AND POPULAR RECREATIONAL AND TRAINING CENTRES.

The Olympic water parks in Barcelona and Sydney gained in popularity after the Games by attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors and leisure paddlers. Programs for schools or commercial offers targeting cooperate associations help develop the sport on a broad scale, while the national and international elite find ideal conditions for training and competing. Return on initial public investments has proven considerable given the substantial impact of water sport activities on the local tourist and leisure economy. In addition, water parks create jobs and are profitable. Their main assets are year-round availability and attractive recreational facilities close to densely populated areas. Athens' Helliniko Water Park is about to experience the same development since the stadium will be leased to a private operator in 2007. Today, the Chinese Olympic Authorities are building the Olympic flat and whitewater stadium on 31,850 m<sup>2</sup> in Northern Beijing with an eye to its future use as "Beijing Aquatic Park". After the Olympic Games, they explain, the Water Park will become a "public facility to hold comprehensive water sports focused on environmental protection, health, leisure, recreation and education".

## Australia: Penrith Whitewater Stadium

As the only man-made whitewater course in the Southern Hemisphere, the Penrith Whitewater Stadium located one hour from Sydney is one of a kind. It was created in 1999 as a joint venture between Penrith City Council, the International Canoe Federation and the Olympic Co-ordination Authority to host the canoe/kayak slalom events during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Pacific power International designed and built the venue for a total cost of AUD\$ 6.5 million.

### The venue

The course was built using a combination of natural and man-made materials to recreate the characteristics of a natural whitewater river. Water is drawn from the nearby warm-up lake by six 300 kw submersible pumps. Each pump delivers 2,800 litres (2.8 cubic metres) of water per second to the start pool at the top of the course, from where it flows down to the finish pool. The river flow is 14 cubic metres or five pumps of water per second. The 320-metre long channel





itself is concrete and varies in width from 8 to 14 metres. It drops 5.5 metres top to bottom and is constructed in a “U” shape. The site’s facilities include a terrace café, change rooms with hot showers, a car park with bus bay and grassed picnic areas.

#### Activities

Today, the stadium is run by Penrith Whitewater Stadium Ltd., a company owned by Penrith City Council. The stadium is available all year round for white-water activities, kayaking and beach volleyball, generating a total of AUD\$2 to 3

million of revenue each year. Seventy percent of its revenue is derived from commercial white water activities as part of a program targeting companies interested in corporate activities. In addition, about 6,000 paddlers a year use the venue as recreational or training facilities. The Stadium does not currently receive any subsidies and covers all its own costs – mainly (60%) for electric power to run the pumps and staff wages. Eight employees work full-time all year round, along with some 40 whitewater instructors (depending on the seasonal demand), and about 10 people staff the café in the summer months. A total of 6,663 instruction hours were recorded in 2005.

Linked to the initial financing, the “Olympic” legacy of the venue is to facilitate and promote canoe/kayak slalom events and thus contribute to developing the sport of slalom. Throughout the year, the venue is used to host a number of competitions that offer free admission to spectators. ■

## Greece: The Helliniko Olympic Centre



The Olympic Canoe & Kayak Slalom Centre is located south of Athens, covering an area of 288,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The water stadium can host 7,254 canoe and kayak slalom fans, with 5,754 spectators seated and 1,500 on the grass. The new venue was built with public funding to host the canoe and kayak slalom competitions at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. It was officially inaugurated in April 2004 at the Athens Slalom World Cup, the second qualification event for the 2004 Olympic Games.

### The Venue

The sports centre consists of a competition course, a secondary training course and a natural-form warm-up lake that occupies a total area of 27,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The course, which is totally artificial, is the

only Olympic Slalom Course in the world that uses salt water. The racing course covers a length of 270 m, an average width of 10m has a drop of 6.2 m with a water volume of 17.5 m<sup>3</sup>/sec. The warm-up course is 120 m long, while the warm-up lake offers 300 m. Designed for sports as well as for leisure activities, the course is fed with water from the Mediterranean by five pumps, with one reserve pump.

### Future activities

During the Athens 2004 Olympics, the stadium was completely sold out. After the Games, it hosted a slalom racing World Cup event in July 2005 and the Athens slalom racing World Cup in May 2006. In 2007, the European canoe/kayak slalom championships Juniors & U23 Years will be held in Helliniko from

August 2 to 5. The Olympic Properties S.A., which manages and develops the legacy of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, is responsible for the Olympic slalom course. This course is currently involved in a tender procedure. November 24, 2006 was the deadline for investor candidates to submit their bids. Two companies are actually in competition to lease and operate the venue for a period of at least 20 years.

The most important condition of the tender with regard to the sport's development is that the investor has to operate the course at least 15 days a year for international and national slalom racing events. The main asset of the course is its location, i.e. in a Mediterranean country with excellent weather conditions for water sports. ■



## Spain: Parc Olímpic del Segre

One hundred and eighty km north of Barcelona, Parc Olímpic del Segre was created in La Seu de l'Urgell to host the slalom and flat water events of the 1992 Olympic Games. Water from the Segre River flowed in the slalom course for the first time in October 1990 and the overall construction was completed in July 1991. The project cost 5,337,000 euros, provided by the Spanish State, the regional and provincial governments and the Olympic Games Organizing Committee. The cost of the water courses and the turbine pumping station amounted to 1.65 and 1.61 million euros respectively. In 1993, a municipal corporation, Parc del Segre S.A.

was created to manage the facility's activities and maintenance. The park's objectives are to support national and international sports competitions, stimulate tourism in the region and develop sport on all levels, without subsidies.

### The venue

The surface of the park covers 66,000 m<sup>2</sup>, including 25,000 m<sup>2</sup> of water areas. The flat water basin is 800 m long, while the whitewater course covers 500m (4 to 17 m wide), dropping 6.5 m from top to bottom. A reversible electric power station, with a 1,200-Kw capacity distributed in four turbine pumps, was designed to fit

the variable flow of the river. The power station guarantees full operation of the sports courses, even in dry weather. The design of the slalom course includes a system of complementary canals and mechanical conveyor belts to transfer canoes back up to the starting area without paddlers having to disembark. This dynamic design promotes intensive use and separates canoeists according to level of skill and ability. Three closed circuits covering class II, III and IV are available to beginner, medium and expert paddlers.

A building of 1,700 m<sup>2</sup> provides services for sports activities, management and a cafeteria with a terrace. The water courses are surrounded by landscaped gardens and the entire facility serves as a park for La Seu d'Urgell, right next to its historical centre.

### Activities

Parc del Segre not only provides fitness, training and competition facilities, but also boosts the local economy and produces an electricity surplus (18 % of overall income). Most of its direct income comes from leisure paddling - 75% of the 42,000 water sports lovers who visit the park annually are novices. Hydrospeed and other activities like mountain biking are also available, but participation is far less significant. The park's overall annual income is around 870,000 euros, covering total operating expenses of some 840,000 euros. Wages for nine permanent full employees and 55 seasonal workers, including 40 instructors account for half the costs. The Spanish national team uses the facility for training camps at no cost. National and international competitions as well as programs for coaching and judging are regularly organized.

The success of the facility lies in its central location, its integrated offer of tourist activities and a temperate climate that permits paddling year round. The park's impact on the local economy is estimated at 3 million euros a year. ■



# NELO

Ronald Rauhe - World Champion K1 200m - 35,2"



Shaun Rubenstein - Marathon World Champion - 2h 33' 35"



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# How is Beijing preparing canoeing ?

◆ By Luo Bing, Competition Manager for Canoe/ Kayak Olympic Games 2008



## Venue

The canoe/kayak events of the Beijing Olympic games will be held at the Shunyi Rowing-Canoeing Park, a brand-new artificial flatwater and slalom facility that will also accommodate rowing. It is located northeast of Beijing, about 50km from downtown Beijing, 7km from the centre of the Shunyi district, and a distance of 36km from the Olympic Village.

The venue is under construction, and will be finished before the first test event.

## Competition Schedule

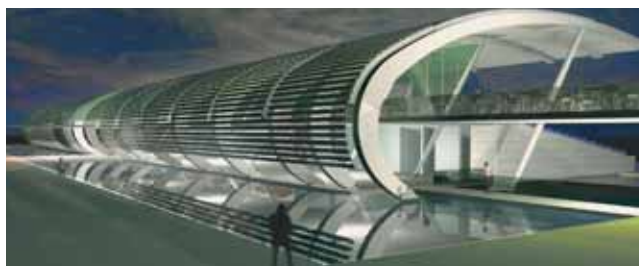
The Opening Ceremony of Beijing Olympic Games 2008 is on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The Closing Ceremony will be

held on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2008. The Slalom Racing will take place from August 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and Flatwater Racing from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2008. The test event for Slalom Racing and Flatwater Racing are from August 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2007 and from August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2007.

## Olympic Village

The Beijing Olympic Village, 18 kilometers away from downtown of Beijing, is located at the north end of the middle axis line that runs from the south of the city. It is one of the major parts of 2008 Olympic Park, set in an attractive environment and featuring convenient transportation. It covering an area of 66 hectares, being adjacent to the National Stadium and the forest Park of the





Olympic Green to its north. Following the finalization of the overall planning design of the Olympic Village, the construction began in June 26<sup>th</sup> 2005. The permanent and temporary buildings will be completed in December 2007 and June 2008 respectively.

The IOC has approved the village opening and closing dates proposed by the BOCOG:

- Olympic Village official opening: July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- Olympic Village official closing: August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Accommodation**

Based on the Agreement, the BOCOG arrange all canoe/kayak technical officials stay in a three star hotel named Eastern Garden Hotel which is ten minutes by car to the venue. The technical delegate and international technical official will stay in a single room. The staying duration will be

“3 days + competition dates” for international technical official, “5 days + competition dates” for technical delegate.

**Weather Condition**

The climate of Beijing in August is generally warm and muggy with an average high temperature of 29.5 degrees, as measured over the last 30 years, with a highest recorded temperature of 35.8°C. Very rarely hail and strong winds can occur. Storms are infrequent but the thunder shower happen often. ■

**MORE INFO :**  
<http://en.beijing2008.com/>



# London 2012 Olympic Canoeing Venues

◆ Words and pictures courtesy of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

The London Olympic and Paralympic Games will host the Slalom Racing at Broxbourne and Flatwater Racing competition at Eton Dorney. Both facilities are positioned outside the Olympic Park in locations that will prove impressive for both the athletes and the spectators.

The new whitewater Canoe/Kayak slalom course at Broxbourne, in Hertfordshire, will serve as a host venue for the London 2012 Olympic Games. It has the capacity to hold 12,000 spectators, and has very good transport links to the Olympic Park in London with Broxbourne Railway station being adjacent to the venue. Broxbourne is 30km from the Olympic Village (a journey of 40 minutes), and 33km from the main Olympic Family hotels in the centre of London (a 50 minute journey).

The new course will also provide a permanent legacy for the region and for whi-

tewater sports, the first of its kind in south-east England.

The new white-water course will be available for a test event in 2011 and for pre-Games training and competition use. The venue will serve as a catalyst for regeneration in the Spitalbrook area in the Lea Valley, incorporating leisure use along with environmental enhancements to the area.

The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority who is an integral owner of these plans also has direct involvement with a number of London 2012's other legacy plans within the Olympic Park.

The London 2012 vision is to inspire more young people into sport and new venues like the Broxbourne canoe course will provide much needed new sports facilities and opportunities to increase sports participation and physical activity amongst young people.

Broxbourne Slalom  
Racing Course.  
Aerial view



Eton Dorney -  
Rowing and flatwater  
Racing Course



The new course would help to grow the sport of canoeing and promote Broxbourne, the Upper Lea Valley and the Hertfordshire region of the UK as an Olympic host venue and destination. This venue will help lead to new era in canoeing and help to broaden the appeal of the sport amongst young people Eton Dorney where both Rowing and Flatwater Racing will take place, is already an established venue.

Eton Dorney enjoys a spectacular location beneath the ramparts of Windsor Castle, approximately 25 miles west of London. The 2,000m course was built and is owned by Eton College. It is set in 400 acres of parkland.

Athletes competing at Eton Dorney will be offered the use of supplementary accommodation in the Royal Holloway College in Egham, Surrey, although com-

petitors will automatically have a bed in the Olympic Village.

After the Games, Eton Dorney will continue to provide a world-class training and competition facility.

The existing world-class facility at Eton Dorney will be enhanced in 2012 to offer 20,000 seats for spectators.

Eton Dorney enjoys excellent transport links by road and rail. The lake is just five miles from Heathrow Airport, with easy access to the M4 motorway and regular train services from London travel to Windsor & Eton Riverside, Windsor & Eton Central and Taplow stations.

Both Canoe / Kayak venues are in fantastic locations and very spectator friendly, this will help to guarantee excellent crowds and a memorable atmosphere. ■

#### MORE INFO :

<http://www.london2012.com/en>



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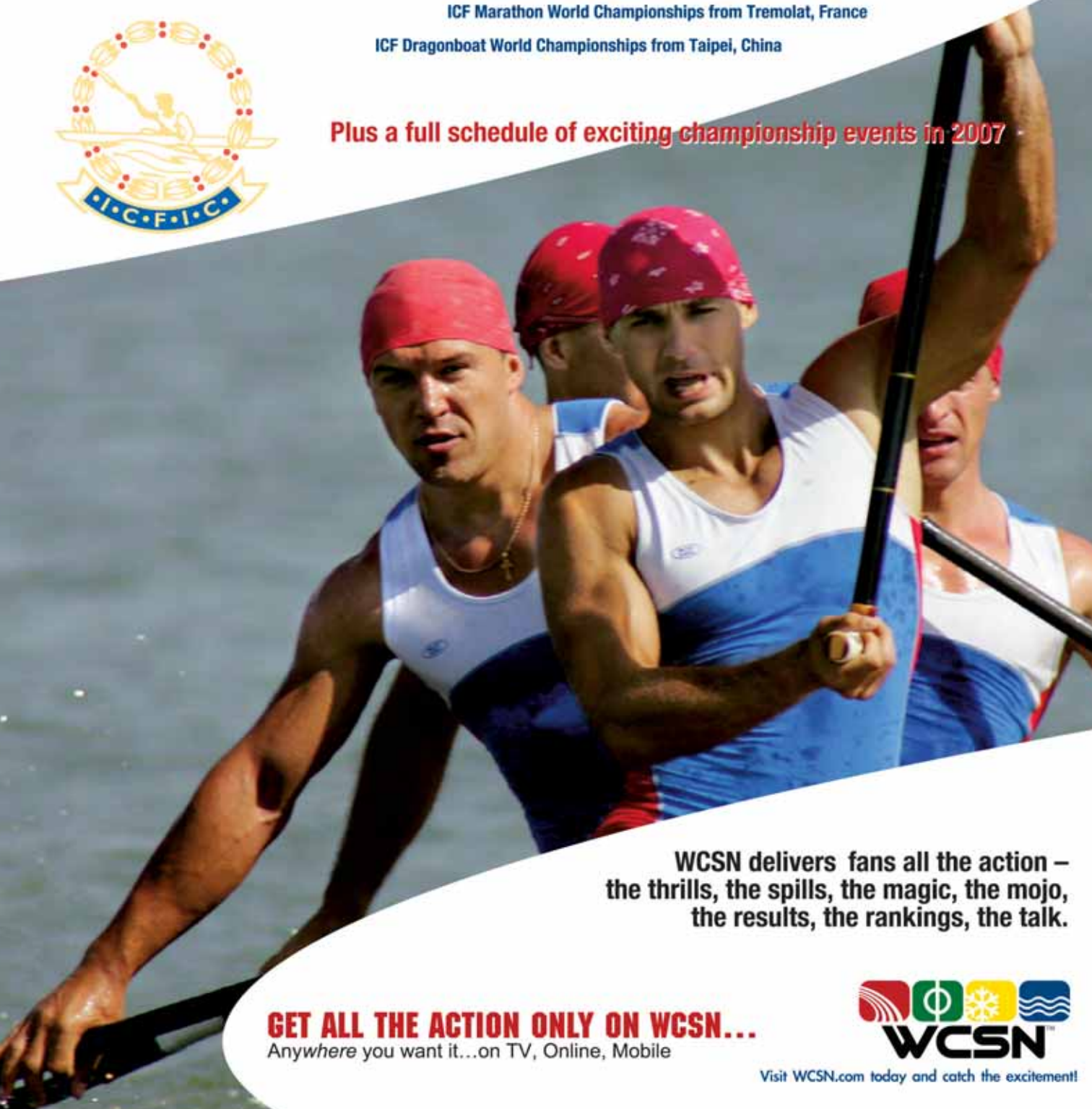
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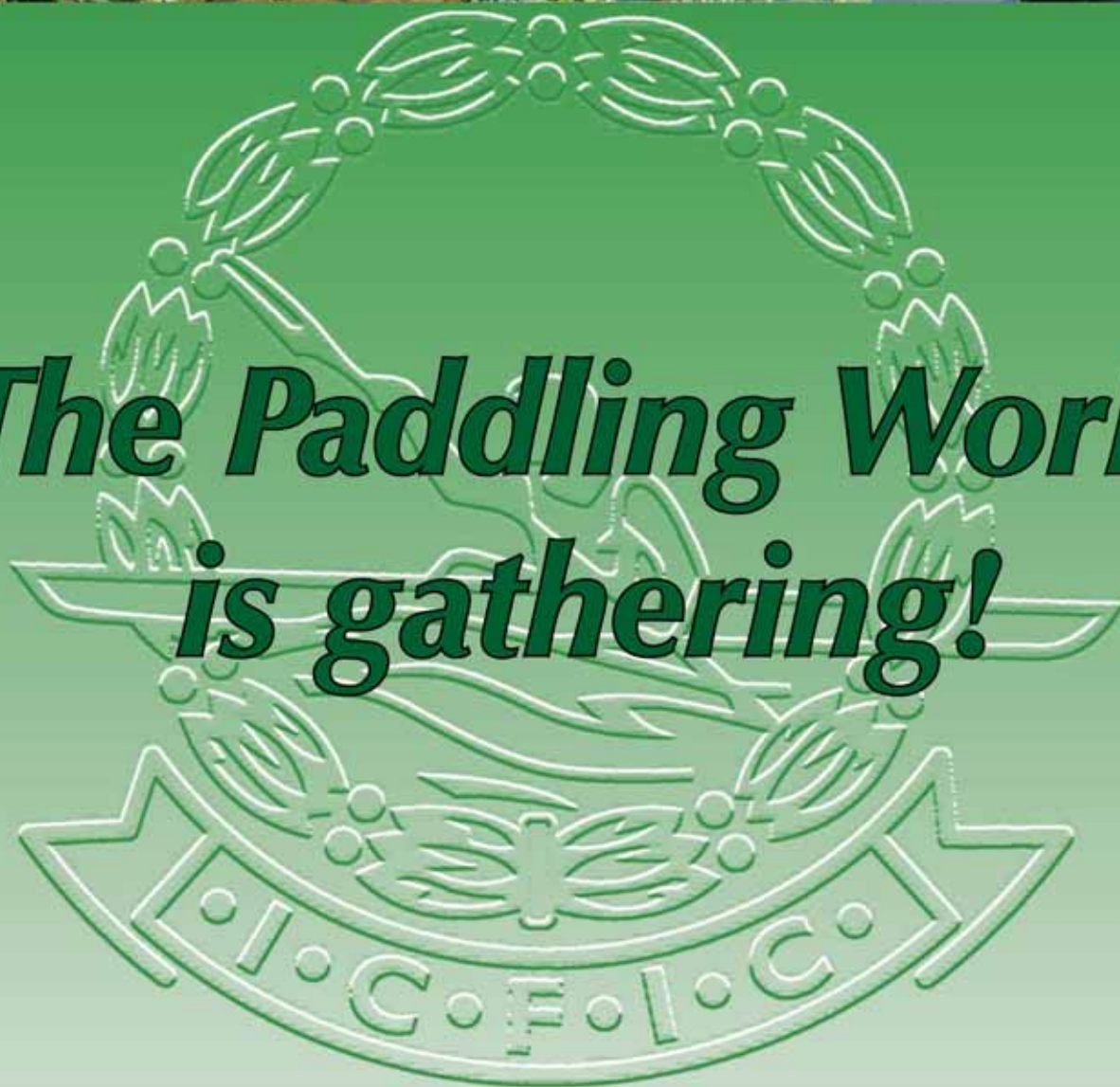
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