

Oklahoma Super Cup

The ICF have announced that a Super Cup will be held in Oklahoma City over Aug 21st/22nd. It will feature races for men and women in canoes and kayaks and also a mixed canoe race, using the course for the 2014 world marathon championships.

DW cancellation

The whole competition and every other calendar has gone out of the window for an unknown period as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the first to clarify their position were the DW Race organizers, not because of the risk of contagion but because St Thomas's Hospital have allowed their premises to be used for race vehicles at the finish for the last two decades. Anticipating a very busy period this Easter, the hospital withdrew their permission this time and it did not prove possible to find an alternative site elsewhere. Even a shortened course, such as to Ham, was potentially difficult so the race was abandoned. As it turned out, this would have had to be done in the deteriorating health situation so they have turned out to be ahead of the game.

And I quote...

... Tim Marshall's *Worth Dying For* on the Olympic Games. 'The focus of the Games is meant to be on the individuals, and not on the countries' overall performance and medal tally. In fact, the Olympic charter even states that they "shall not draw up any global ranking per country, instead honoring individual medal winners... the Olympic Games are competitions between athletes in individual or team events and not between countries". Nevertheless, that doesn't stop countries focusing and competing on the medal count, using the event as a way to boost their national pride, celebrate their apparent superiority and justify their often-massive investments in the sports sector.' Not a lot of media people know that.

Russia banned again over drugs cheating

In a quagmire of allegations and counter-allegations and event organization legal complexities, the World Anti Doping Agency have banned Russia from major sporting events for four years. As well as numerous failed drug tests, the Russian ADA are accused of tampering with samples due to be sent to the WADA. Performances under investigation include results in various competitions back to and including the London Olympic Games.

Drugs ban lifted

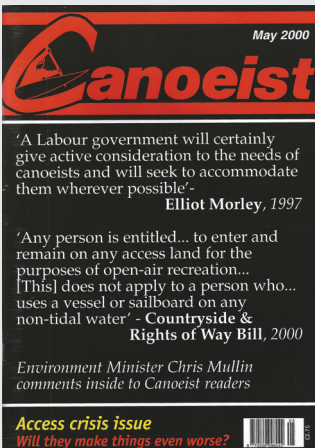
The ICF have reviewed the drugs ban imposed on Canadian Laurence Vincent-Lapointe and the evidence presented by her legal team. The traces of Lingadrol found in her sample were minimal and they accepted that she did not knowingly take the substance, being a victim of third party contamination. Her ban was lifted immediately but she missed the 2019 world sprint championships, which was also a Tokyo Olympics selection event, affecting both her C1 and C2 eligibility.



Conwy biathlon only

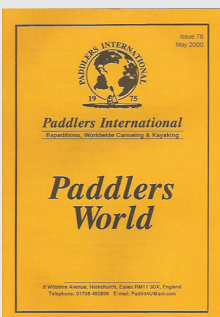
Because of difficult tides the Fabian4 Conwy Mountain Triathlon has been moved to September. Furthermore, the paddling has had to be dropped so it is now only a biathlon.

Back then 20 years ago



- * Water users were written out of the Countryside & Rights of Way Bill, in contradiction to a Government promise to help paddlers. Environment Minister Chris Mullin told readers 'there is more to do to ensure that voluntary measures work.'
- * BCU federalization was approved, despite the opposition of sprinters, but many officials and facilities would be both BCU and English Canoe Association and paddlers would only be allowed to join the federation covering their home address although they could join foreign associations.
- * A Spanish Royal Decree required all vessels over 2.5m long to have regular inspections or face fines up to 50,000,000 pesetas.
- * Dave Holmes' dog, Blaze, made the first canine descent of the Nene white water course.
- * John Court was attempting to get outrigger racing off the ground in Britain with Lottery funding.
- * Wayne Smith, wearing wrist weights for training, drowned at Holme Pierrepont after a dragon boat capsized.
- * An astonishing list of demands by anglers, including the right to block access agreements, required all conifers and all farm animals to be removed from a strip each side of all rivers.
- * A speed limit was to be imposed on Windermere.
- * BW were to take over the Tees barrage.
- * There were further slashings of canoeists' car tyres in southwest Wales, this time on the Tawe.

- * A long report on an expedition to Cape Horn included much detail of use to others planning expeditions.
- * An inquest recorded 'misadventure' after 57 year old soldier Colin Forrester had failed a Christmas North Sea solo crossing from the Netherlands.
- * Answering a question on rudder design, Frank Goodman explained that the first rudder design on the Nordkapp was based on the one used by Paul Caffyn for his circumnavigation of Australia.
- * Duncan Winning's obituary of former SCA Vice President Hugh Stevenson recalled that he had drawn up federalization rules with the BCU, was years ahead of the rest of the UK on internal buoyancy in canoes and had designed the Loch Lomond to fit into West Highland Railway guards' vans.
- * Having circumnavigated Great Britain and a large chunk of eastern USA and Canada, Chris Duff paddled round Ireland.



- * Editor Peter Clark dislocated his clavicle, not doing anything sporty but in bed in his sleep.
- * As well as two pages of Severn Bore predictions there was also a page for the Trent Aegir.
- * £37,000 had been raised towards buying Symonds Yat rapids.
- * Angus Geddes reported on the Farrington Lighthouse, a folly between Swindon and Oxford converted to a working lighthouse as Millennium art.
- * Lendal were introducing their Paddlok system for split paddles.

