



Cloe Wallace of Stafford & Stone A, second in C1.

# Stafford & Stone unbeatable

### Interclubs Slalom

Seven clubs and a club group entered a total of 11 teams from central England for the Interclubs championships at Cardington. The venue, Britain's first artificial slalom course, has recently been upgraded with new obstacle blocks.

Facilities for the event included a large marquee to shelter everyone from the rain which never arrived, just sunny intervals, mild temperatures and nothing worse than an occasional few minutes of breeze to waft the poles about, better than for much of the country.

Spectator numbers were high, especially on Sunday morning when a Parkrun brought hundreds of runners across the course.

Kayaks were for separate divisions from Premier to 3 plus veterans and there were single classes for C1s and for C2s. Teams were selections from those various categories.

There was plenty of flexibility with some competing in higher divisions than those in which they were ranked. In men's Premier J12 Leon Reeves was competing against veterans Steve Briggs and Alison Longhurst and pretty well every age group between while J10s Fane Dhamari and Aidan Backhouse picked up points for their clubs. The youngest competitor simply sat in the front of a C2, holding a paddle, while being paddled down the course by somebody rather more experienced.

On the first day Stafford & Stone A opened a commanding lead, the next three teams with a one point spread. This changed little on the second day, Viking just pulling clear for second place from Lee Valley, tied with Stafford & Stone's B team.



Viking, second placed women's team.



Stafford & Stone A, the winning women's team.



Second placed canoe team, Proteus A.



Stafford & Stone A's winning canoe team.