



*Sedate conditions on the first day.*



*The only sailing on the second day.*

# Wood, the fastest in a canoe

## UK Nationals

Clyde Canoe Club was formed in 1873. Despite a change of name to Loch Lomond Sailing Club, this year is their 150th anniversary. Hosting the IC nationals was one aspect of the celebrations, the club having a couple of IC sailors as well as a shed full of kayaks and having hosted previous championships.

The major logistics exercise was simply reaching the club. The cycle racing world championships were to be run in the area a few days later with much of the route being resurfaced in advance, not necessarily the ones most in need of repair, but with a dearth of information about which roads would be closed and when and few other options.

Over a score of canoes arrived, including four One Design Slurps. The weather, often unpredictable on Loch Lomond, was not entirely cooperative but could have been worse and the race committee pulled off a memorable event.

Rain that had been falling vertically from an overcast sky overnight eventually ceased and the sun appeared from time to time, as did the midges, but the wind remained absent until 4pm, when the fleet got afloat for the first race, a sedate affair.

Courses were alternating triangles and sausages with an upwind gate at the committee boat. Mike Fenwick had the lead at the first wind mark from Chris Hampe and Robin Wood, who were getting away from the rest of the fleet as the wind dropped. The Germans had four entries, two of them female. Simon Beers was leading the rest of the fleet at this stage. He was to drop back to 9th by the gate.



At this stage the wind shifted by 30°. Fenwick and Wood had got away from Hampe by the windward mark with Anette Steimann leading the rest of the fleet.

Towards the back was the senior member of the fleet, John Ellis, who had announced his retirement last year but was back again with his shiny new *Slingshot*. Dan Skinner had a knot in a sheet that failed to respond to his usual yank and he retired to shore to sort out the problem.

Meanwhile, the biggest excitement of the day came at the finish when Wood snatched the win from Fenwick by just 4 seconds, Hampe a minute and a half down and Anette Steimann next home.

Stephen Fleming was the first of the One Designs with a corrected time that put him exactly a minute up on Tony Marston or 14th overall.

The course was relaid for a second race, Wood winning again from Fenwick but by a much larger margin, Emma Grigell and Anette Steimann in 5th and 6th. Stuart Dawson was the first of the ODs, next on corrected time, from Peter McLaren of the host club.

Thursday, the second day, saw no sailing at all except for radio controlled yachts which were able to make progress in the calm conditions.

Friday was a happier story with the fleet afloat in the sunshine at 11am. Wood led Race 3 nearly all the way, the real race being for second place. Fenwick was around the windward mark for the first time ahead of Tony Robertshaw, Skinner and Beers. Robertshaw had pulled ahead of Fenwick by the second time round the leeward mark,



*Robin Wood crosses the finish line.*