

minefield. It would not be appropriate to prevent someone from coaching a partner. Also, starting by suspecting all coaches of being potential abusers is simply going to reduce the number of volunteer coaches, kids not getting coached maybe becoming involved instead in other activities which could be equally undesirable.

Pressure group Mandate Now wants it to be a legal requirement for suspected abuse to be reported, in contrast with what has gone on allegedly within the BC union.

Sport funding

Archery, badminton, fencing, weightlifting and wheelchair rugby have been stripped of their funding by UK Sport 'to protect and enhance the medal potential' according to CEO Liz Nicholl. This is purely about Olympic medal gathering. In fact, badminton did take a bronze medal in Rio but this appears not to be enough and they are relegated to the level of second class sports as far as UK Sport are concerned, a position faced by all of canoeing except sprint and slalom.

Russian doping programme

It has now been admitted that Russia ran a widespread doping programme up to the London Olympic Games and since. In London the Russians took 72 medals, 21 of which were gold. The Moscow anti doping laboratory has also been discredited. The ripples go wider, of course, and even the British cycling team have come under a cloud. Canoeing has had its cheats over the years and when more than one is detected in the same team there has to be suspicion that there has been some level of organization behind this. There is a lot to be said for sports which are not important enough for such cheating to be worthwhile, amateur sports, perhaps.

Forthcoming championships

The ICF have released venues and some dates for major events over the next few years.

Next year's marathon world championships will be at Prado Vila Verde in Portugal. The event will move to Shaoxing in China for 2019 with Baerum in Norway getting a World Cups events before hosting the championships in 2020 with Pitesti the year after.

The Portuguese will also host the sprint world championships next year at Montemor-o-Velho. It goes to Szeged in 2019 with World Cups

events in Poznan and Duisburg and to Brandenburg in 2020. Junior world championships will be at Plovdiv next year, Pitesti in 2019 and Montemor in 2021.

The slalom world championships will be in Rio next year with the European championships in Prague. La Seu d'Urgell will host the 2019 world championships with World Cups events in Prague, Markkleeburg, Lee Valley, Tacen and Bratislava. Junior slalom world championships over the next four years will be at Ivrea, Rio, Krakow and Auckland.

Wild water racing World Cups will be in Banja Luka next year and then on the Soça. It used to be that slalom and WWR championships were hosted together and this happens again in 2019, where both events will be together at La Seu, before WWR moves to Bryson City and then Bratislava.

Freestyle World Cups events will be in Millau and Sort next year with the world championships in Sort in 2019 and in Nottingham in 2021.

Next year's polo world championships will be in Welland and in Rome in 2020.

Major polo league restructuring

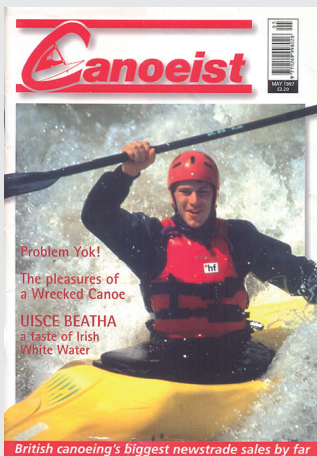
The Polo Committee are proposing extensive changes to suit the changing aspirations of polo players and offer more games for the distance travelled. There is a proposal for separate winter and summer leagues. The winter matches will be played indoors by players from affiliated clubs while summer leagues will be outdoors with more freedom to make up teams. As well as the concept of making up superteams, there are many players who are members of both home clubs and university clubs. At the lower end there could be scope for four boat teams to allow use of smaller pools. It is hoped these changes will halt the decline in participation which has taken place over recent years. With no youth leagues at present, action is to be taken to promote youth polo and a 10th ladies' team is being sought to fill out the ladies' league.

Liverpool tournament

The 28th Liverpool international tournament is being run again by Friends of Allonby Canoe Club on Jun 24/25th. As usual it coincides with the Mersey River Festival and the city is hosting Armed Forces Day the same weekend so there will be many extra activities in addition to the usual buzz of people around the Albert Dock.

Back then

20 years ago



- * Getting slalom repeated as an Olympic sport was looking unlikely. Steve Whetman and Paul Cripps competed in the Peruvian championships on the world's highest slalom course at an altitude of 2,900m
- * Peter Knowles, Marcus Bailie, Gerry Moffat, Jock Montgomery and Peter Walsh were to undertake a study for the Bhutan tourist board of the potential for paddling their rivers. Alan Fox's lecture to the Royal Geographical Society on running rivers in Ethiopia was warmly applauded by a capacity audience of 700.
- * Exeter Maritime Museum was to be closed and its canoes and other boats dispersed. A 6,800 year old canoe removed from Shannon mudflats was 2,000 years older than any other canoe found in Ireland.
- * The BCU AGM had no motions for a second successive year and only nine people in total turned up for it.
- * The public inquiry into control of navigation on the Wye was hotting up. Plans were floated for making Holme Pierrepont a £10,000,000 angling centre.
- * James Foley was rescued from the Erich gorge, reported as previously unrun, after coming out of his boat, police abseiling 60m into the gorge to reach him.
- * White Water Consultancy began importing Mad River canoes. Some were supplied to Ray Goodwin to prepare his canoe coaching series with us.
- * The Association of Canoe Trades voted to hand over running of the International Canoe Exhibition to the British Marine Industries Federation, who ran the London and Southampton boat shows. The next national polo championships were to be the last of their kind because of

falling entries and rising pool costs.

- * The 1997 *Canoe Racing Handbook* explained there were new rules for the MacGregor Paddle competition as 'It is hoped that this will simplify yr scoring.'
- * The Sports Council finally accepted that the BDA ran dragon boat racing, not the BCU or Amateur Rowing Association, as they would wish.
- * ISKA gained access to email and the internet.
- * YL Des Lauriers described the workshop from hell in Wisconsin at which he had expected to build a Baidarka.
- * John Chamberlin described an Irish Sea crossing, including using the new Capella sea kayak.
- * OLL, owners of the Lyme Bay canoe centre from which four teenagers on a trip died, were to sue the Coastguard for their alleged contribution to the tragedy.
- * Didier Plouhinec offered a set of proposed sea kayak paddle safety signals.

