

## Walsh and women's team take bronze

### World Championships

In the key event of the season, the world championships, Great Britain took two bronze medals and also qualified three boats for the Beijing Olympics next year. (One boat per class can qualify.) China automatically qualify one boat per class.

To open the competition, the women's team, consisting of Fiona Pennie, Laura Blakeman and Lizzie Neave, fought for a medal and took bronze in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil.

In the men's K1 class, Campbell Walsh battled amongst the best paddlers in the world and stormed to third position, despite a 2 second penalty for touching a gate. This did not phase Walsh, who stayed focused for the remaining run of the event and took bronze in a time of 189.34. The winner was France's Sebastian Combout (186.25) followed by Germany's Fabian Doerfler (187.90).

Also in the K1 class, Nottingham's Richard Hounslow came in right behind Campbell's time to grab 4th place (190.83), his best result in a world championships yet. Huw Swetnam just very slightly missed out on going through to the finals (the top ten went through) and came 12th. In terms of qualification for Beijing, in the men's K1 it was the top 15 places that qualified boats (one boat per class per nation) so GB successfully qualified one boat for next year's Olympics.

Fiona Pennie achieved 7th place in the women's K1 class. It was a strong performance by Pennie, who was in 8th place after the semi finals, but she has the raw strength and technical ability to deliver when it matters and managed to pick up the pace enough to climb one position in a clean run. Fiona's performance also secured GB a boat in the women's K1 at the Beijing Olympics.

In the men's C1 David Florence was up against the best and most experienced canoeists in the world; he achieved 5th place (196.49) and Stuart McIntosh achieved 8th place (201.48). The winner was Slovakia's Michal Martikan (192.87) and France's Tony Estanguet came in 2nd (194.23). The athlete's performances mean that one boat in the C1 class has been qualified for Beijing.

In the C2, unfortunately, GB did not make the finals and no boat qualified for Beijing. However, the C2 crews will have another opportunity to fight for GB's representation in the Olympics in the European Championships next year, held in May in Krakow, Poland.

The GB team have a lot about which to feel proud after the weekend's slalom. The competition was fierce but a superb proportion of GB athletes made it to the finals. Perhaps more importantly, two medals were won and GB has secured its representation in the men's K1, the women's K1 and the men's C1 classes in Beijing next year. Congratulations; there is certainly much to look forward to in the next 12 months!

### Cloe Nelson-Lawrie

**K1W:** 1 J Bongardt, Deutschland, 210.05. 2 E Kaliska, Slovensko, 210.99. 3 S Hilgertová, Česká, 214.54. 7 F Pennie, GB, 216.60. **K1M:** 1 S Combout, France, 186.25. 2 F Doerfler, Deutschland, 187.90. 3 C Walsh, GB, 189.34. 4 R Hounslow, GB, 190.83. 12 H Swetnam, GB. **C1:** 1 M Martikan, Slovensko, 192.87. 2 T Estanguet, France, 194.23. 3 R Bell, Australia, 195.70. 5 D Florence, GB, 196.49. 8 S McIntosh, GB, 201.48. **C2:** 1 Hochschorner/Hochschorner, Slovensko, 206.81. 2 Luquet/Luquet, France, 214.83. 3 Benett/Masoero, Italia, 215.34. 14 Goddard/Smith, GB. **K1WT:** 1 Deutschland, 238.76. 2 Česká, 240.49. 3 GB, 241.42. **K1MT:** 1 Deutschland, 204.96. 2 France, 205.28. 3 Česká, 205.91. 7 GB, 213.89. **C1T:** 1 France, 212.16. 2 Deutschland, 214.40. 3 Česká, 217.87. 7 GB, 241.37. **C2:** 1 Česká, 235.48. 2 France, 237.22. 3 Slovensko, 239.37. 5 GB, 255.98. **World Cup winners:** **K1W:** 1 J Schornberg, Deutschland. 2 I Pavelková, Česká. 3 V Oblinger-Peters, Österreich. 4 F Pennie, GB. 5 L Blakeman, GB. 17 L Neave, GB. **K1M:** 1 F Dörfler, Deutschland. 2 M Kurt, Schweiz. 3 A Grimm, Deutschland. 4 C Walsh, GB. 19 R Hounslow, GB. **C1:** 1 N Bettge, Deutschland. 2 D Florence, GB. 3 R Bell, Australia. 4 S McIntosh, GB. **C2:** 1 Hochschorner/Hochschorner, Slovensko. 2 Volf/Stepanek, Česká. 3 Jiras/Mader, Česká. 4 Baillie/Stott, GB. 9 Goddard/Smith, GB.

## Florence scoops another bronze

### Augsburg Slalom

In Augsburg, Germany, on the 1972 Olympic slalom course, 24 year old David Florence completed two outstanding runs and took a bronze medal. This has been a successful season for C1 paddler Florence, who took another bronze medal in the first World Cup slalom in Prague (29th June – 1st July). He is placed second in the World Cup overall, a personal best and a magnificent achievement. Last year Florence won a gold medal in the Augsburg World Cup and it seems he has continued to stay focused on medalling since.

In other classes Olympic silver medallist 29 year old Campbell Walsh

achieved 5th place in the men's K1. Walsh looked strong and was fast but collected a penalty, taking 7th place on the finals scoreboard. On his final run Walsh tried even harder and climbed to 5th place in this event and 4th overall in the series with what was probably the most riveting performance of the day.

In the women's K1 there was drama as 28 year old Laura Blakeman was placed a strong 5th and ready to do better when she rolled, losing a few seconds, but she recovered very quickly to come 6th at the end of the competition. 25 year old Fiona Pennie (who took bronze in the first World Cup in Prague) was handicapped with a fresh injury and placed 9th overall, magnificent in the circumstances. Louise Donnington has been very competitive in her first World Cup slalom and has demonstrated her potential.

In C2 it was Nick Smith and Dan Goddard's first season together; we will see plenty more from them. Tim Baillie and Etienne Stott, C2 silver medal winners in World Cup 2, did not make the finals this time owing to penalties on a tricky stretch of the course.

It was fantastic competing from the GB team all round with 7 top ten overall positions!

### Chloe Nelson-Lawrie

**K1W:** 1 J Bongardt, Deutschland, 205.71. 2 J Schornberg, Deutschland, 208.22. J Dukatova, Slovensko, 209.40. 6 L Blakeman, GB, 214.33. 9 F Pennie, GB, 219.20. **K1M:** 1 A Grimm, Deutschland, 182.67. 2 E Pfannmoller, Deutschland, 183.91. 3 M Kurt, Schweiz, 184.28. 5 C Walsh, GB, 185.77. **C1:** 1 N Bettge, Deutschland, 193.71. 2 R Bell, Australia, 195.45. 3 D Florence, GB, 196.21. 9 S McIntosh, GB, 204.23. **C2:** 1 Hochschorner/Hochschorner, Slovensko, 204.43. 2 Jiras/Mader, Česká, 212.76. 3 Skantar/Skantar, Slovensko, 214.25. 9 Goddard/Smith, GB, 275.10. 11 Baillie/Stott, GB. **World Cup winners:** **K1W:** 1 J Schornberg, Deutschland. 2 I Pavelková, Česká. 3 V Oblinger-Peters, Österreich. 4 F Pennie, GB. 5 L Blakeman, GB. 17 L Neave, GB. **K1M:** 1 F Dörfler, Deutschland. 2 M Kurt, Schweiz. 3 A Grimm, Deutschland. 4 C Walsh, GB. 19 R Hounslow, GB. **C1:** 1 N Bettge, Deutschland. 2 D Florence, GB. 3 R Bell, Australia. 4 S McIntosh, GB. **C2:** 1 Hochschorner/Hochschorner, Slovensko. 2 Volf/Stepanek, Česká. 3 Jiras/Mader, Česká. 4 Baillie/Stott, GB. 9 Goddard/Smith, GB.

## 2 silver medals for GB juniors

### European U23/J Championships

GB athletes paddled excellently in the Junior & U23 European Slalom Championships in Krakow, Poland, to take two medals!

Greg Pitt, aged 18, made a great comeback from 6th place to take a silver medal in the C1 event in a time of 212.85 seconds. He came out in fighting form, already having declared that he would win a medal, to storm into 2nd place, less than a second from gold! This is a great achievement from the athlete, taking his first individual championship medal!

The second medal was taken by the junior women's team, which consisted of Hannah Burgess, Alice Spencer and Claire Kimberley, in K1 in a time of 289.28 seconds. Well done to the team!

Other key results include 20 year old Lizzie Neave in the women's U23 K1 event who competed a calculated semi final run to place 3rd and made the final but faced with some superb runs from her opponents she was unable to match them and had to settle for 5th place, a brilliant performance again from Lizzie.

Rob Neave continued his form of the season to put in a clean run to secure 7th position and a place in the final in the men's K1. Rob was determined to win a medal but an error early on meant he finished in 10th place.

Congratulations to the team for some truly memorable competition!

### Chloe Nelson-Lawrie

**K1W:** 6 L Blakeman, GB, 236.74. 10 F Pennie, GB, 249.09. 17 L Neave, GB. **K1M:** 1 J Sajbidor, Slovensko, 202.77. 2 P Kauzer, Slovenija, 203.06. 3 C Walsh, GB, 205.81. **C1:** 6 S McIntosh, GB, 219.93. 20 D Florence, GB. **C2:** 7 Goddard/Smith, GB, 229.86. 14 Baillie/Stott, GB. **K1WT:** 1 Deutschland, 235.70. 2 Slovensko, 241.02. 3 GB, 248.39. **K1MT:** 1 Slovenija, 205.76. 2 Deutschland, 208.63. 3 GB, 211.91. **C1T:** 8 GB.

