

Scots produce best British results in Beijing but no medals

Preolympic Slalom

Slalom paddlers prepared for the Olympics in a test event held at the newly opened Beijing Olympic venue. There proved to be very exciting slalom as eight of the potential GB athletes competed against paddlers from all over the world!

David Florence from Edinburgh competed excellently to come 4th in the C1 event. This has been a successful season for this paddler who won two bronze medals in the World Cup series. Florence managed to hold the lead until right near the end when the last three boats went ahead of him. His second run was outstanding and he had the fastest run of the day, over 3 seconds better than any other C1 paddler, a great performance!

Qualification for the K1 was one of the hardest events we have seen in 2007. Olympic silver medallist 29 year old Campbell (from Bridge of Allan) in the men's K1 lost a little on the qualification first run and smartened his act on the second, coming a competitive 6th to qualify easily. However, due to tough competition, the other finalists worked harder, meaning Campbell finished in 10th place.

In the women's K1 Fiona Pennie, who recently took bronze in the first World Cup in Prague, came 5th in the finals. This was a great comeback for the 25 year old athlete who made a recovery from the semi final results in which she was in 8th position. Laura Blakeman, age 28, did not make the finals as the strong current took over, meaning that she achieved 13th place overall in the K1 event.

In the C2 class it was Nottingham based Tim Baillie and Etienne Stott, silver medal winners in World Cup 2, who came 10th. Nick Smith and Dan Goddard did not make the finals but came 12th in the qualifications.

Great racing from the GB team all round with four top ten overall positions!

Chloe Nelson-Lawrie

K1W: 1 J Dukatová, Slovensko, 218.24. 2 J Schornberg, Deutschland, 218.55. 3 L Jingjing, Zhongguo, 225.11. 5 F Pennie, GB, 230.17. 13 L Blakeman, GB. **K1M:** 1 J Billaut, France, 188.02. 2 F Dofler, Deutschland, 188.92. 3 S Parsons, USA, 189.72. 10 C Walsh, GB, 243.55. **C1:** 1 N Bettge, Deutschland, 199.47. 2 M Marikan, Slovensko, 200.07. 3 J Benzien, Deutschland, 201.68. 4 D Florence, GB, 205.69. **C2:** 1 Hochschorner/Hochschorner, Slovensko, 204.45. 2 Fargit/Braud, France, 208.47. 3 Felix/Piersig, Deutschland, 215.19. 10 Baillie/Stott, GB. 12 Goddard/Smith, GB.

Tatchell placed 6th

Roudnice Slalom

All of the athletes put in 100% effort and competed fantastically against some tough competition.

The junior slalom pre world championships took place in Roudnice nad Labem in the Czech Republic. The juniors paddled extremely well, particularly George Tatchell (aged 15) who finished 6th in the C1; this was an outstanding result considering his age. Toby Jones was another athlete who competed excellently; he came 9th in the K1 event. This is another good result for Toby who has his sights set on gold next year when the junior worlds are held at the same venue.

With some of the worlds best juniors competing it was very tight.

There were some brilliant performances from the young team!

Chloe Nelson-Lawrie

Less officials, the same workload

The IOC have instructed the ICF to reduce the number of officials at events. It is not clear whether they think that there are too many people not performing useful roles.

Olympic slalom concerns

The Olympic Delivery Authority have abandoned the Broxbourne site planned for the 2012 Olympic slalom because pollution levels have

proved to be higher than anticipated. A second site further south is now being considered. We could get back to the Jubilee River yet...

The post of canoeing organizer for the 2012 Olympic Games has been advertised on the BOC and ICF websites. Slalom chairman Anne Hounslow asked for this to be notified to the sport in general, to be told that the shortlist had already been drawn up. Her reaction was of dismay and anger that the BCU had kept this quiet.

Not the important bit

Having got back to using Llangollen for the autumn slalom, competitors were upset to learn that the falls were not to be used this time. Without the falls, the course is only suitable for lower divisions, not slalom's elite. Alternative venues are to be considered again for another year.

2009 European championships

The 2009 European slalom championships are to be run at Holme Pierrepont over May 28th - 31st to suit a TV company. In the event that there is no TV coverage, the event will be moved to August, better for paddlers.

Charges for slaloms at Holme Pierrepont have increased dramatically to over £880, with no improvement in standards in return. The Slalom Committee were to remind the management why the course was built in the first place.

Additional Tryweryn lines

Further slalom gatelines are being added on the Tryweryn. They have been placed as far as the Ski Slope and are to be extended to meet the international slalom site.

Islington Slalom

Islington Boat Club are running their first ever slalom, a Division 4, on Jun 15th in the City Road Basin. There will also be a Wavehopper race, bellboating, powerboat trips, a barbecue and a canteen. Being Sunday, there is free parking on the local streets. [020 7253 0778]

Estanguet to carry flag

Tony Estanguet is to carry the French flag at the Olympic Games opening ceremony. Having taken gold in Sydney and Athens, he is hoping to be the first French athlete to take individual gold in three successive Games.

Pre World Championships

K1WJ: 1 E Klimanova, Rossija, 225.48. 2 K Kudejová, Ceská, 229.52. 3 V Vojtová, Ceská, 231.92. **K1MJ:** 1 V Prindis, Ceská, 194.24. 2 J Dupal, Ceská, 194.33. 3 B Hayward, Canada, 195.49. 9 T Jones, GB, 202.96. 15 J Coombs, GB. 16 J Bailey, GB. 17 T Brady, GB. **C1J:** 1 J Busta, Ceská, 206.36. 2 J Zupan, Slovenija, 217.96. 3 S Novikov, Rossija, 220.08. 6 G Tatchell, GB, 230.57. **K1WJT:** 1 Ceská, 235.67. 2 Ceská, 253.61. 3 USA, 259.15. 10 GB, 316.96. **K1MJT:** 1 Ceská, 205.59. 2 Rossija, 215.34. 3 Slovensko, 215.98. 5 GB, 218.32. **C1JT:** 1 Ceská, 221.45. 2 Canada, 234.69. 3 Slovenija, 243.83. 9 GB, 279.28.

Praha Slalom

K1W: 4 F Pennie, GB. 10 L Blakeman, GB. 11 L Neave, GB. **K1M:** 10 C Walsh, GB. **C1:** 3 D Florence, GB. 14 S McIntosh, GB. **C2:** 11 Baillie/Stott, GB. 13 Goddard/Smith, GB.

Tacen Slalom

K1W: 9 F Pennie, GB. 14 L Blakeman, GB. **K1M:** 8 C Walsh, GB. 18 R Hounslow, GB. **C1:** 4 D Florence, GB. 8 S McIntosh, GB. **C2:** 2 Baillie/Stott, GB. 12 Goddard/Smith, GB.

European U23/J Championships

K1WJ: 1 C Poeschel, Deutschland, 225.74. 2 K Kudejová, Ceská, 227.53. 3 S Horn, Deutschland, 228.54. 18 A Spencer, GB. 20 C Kimberley, GB. **K1WU23:** 1 M Pfeifer, Deutschland, 216.40. 2 K Frauenrath, Deutschland, 220.61. 3 C Miclo, France, 222.39. 5 L Neave, GB, 225.65. 15 L Donington, GB. **K1MJ:** 1 H Aigner, Deutschland, 199.61. 2 P Eysel, Rossija, 200.81. 3 E Daille, France, 203.82. 15 J Morley, GB. **K1MU23:** 1 D Popiela, Polska, 196.44. 2 S Schubert, Deutschland, 197.29. 3 A Romeo, Italia, 198.24. 10 R Neave, GB, 203.83. **C1J:** 1 S Tasiadis, Deutschland, 212.07. 2 G Pitt, GB, 212.85. 3 J Zupan, Slovenija, 218.28. **C1U23:** 1 C Tsakmakis, Ellás, 206.87. 2 P Karásek, Ceská, 207.27. 3 M Benus, Slovensko, 207.47. **C2U23:** 1 Klaus/Peche, France, 219.95. 2 Pochwala/Sarna, Polska, 222.34. 3 Hammer/Vlcek, Ceská, 224.47. 12 Marshall/Marshall, GB. **K1WJ23T:** 1 Ceská, 271.63. 2 GB, 289.28. 3 Polska, 291.56. **K1WU23T:** 1 Deutschland, 264.71. 2 France, 267.79. 3 Slovenija, 291.49. 11 GB, 436.60. **K1MJT:** 1 France, 234.70. 2 Deutschland, 239.10. 3 Ceská, 240.87. 8 GB, 266.32. **K1MU23T:** 1 Polska, 224.80. 2 Italia, 225.84. 3 Ceská, 227.62. 18 GB, 339.91. **C1JT:** 1 Polska, 236.20. 2 Deutschland, 243.13. 3 France, 243.58. 11 GB, 304.02. **C1U23T:** 9 GB.