

Marathon National Championships

Strictly - The British National Open Marathon Racing Individual and Team Championships and this year they were held at Worcester on the River Severn on the Saturday and Sunday of the August Bank holiday week-end.

Excellent venue. An excellent event. Camping on racecourse adjacent to the canoe club. The weather was kind. The river levels thankfully dropped in time for the races but there was still a strong current. We even had TV to watch the men's and women's Olympic 500m sprint finals courtesy of Worcester CC who were excellent hosts.

All the BCCC paddlers enjoyed their racing. Everyone raced well in tough conditions and we had some notable successes.

Naomi Smith came first in her K1 race to be crowned Under 14 Women's National Kayak Marathon Champion of Great Britain.



Following in her wake just two seconds behind was twin sister Isobel.



Sunday saw them enter the K2 race and they won by five seconds to become the Under 14 Women's K2 National Champions and to be presented with The Espada Cup in addition to their gold medals.



Well done, girls: these were great results.

James Freemantle paired up with James Keeble of Wokingham to win the division 4/5/6 K2 race by a comfortable margin from a Worcester crew – well it looked comfortable from the bank.

Charles Hicks raced well to come third in the Over 64 Men's K1 race and win a coveted bronze medal.

The full results can be found at

http://www.worcestercanoecub.org.uk/nationals_entriessofar.html

Overall BAS – as we are known in racing circles, came 11th with 232 points.

Brian Gandy
August 2008

A few more photos of BCCC racers at the event...

