



# Waterfront

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August 2004

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## Olympic Special

### Congratulations to Helen Reeves on her Olympic selection

Time was when canoe slalom featured prominently in the Club's programmes. Throughout the 80's the club had a dozen or more paddlers at any one time competing in slalom competitions and ran its own monthly mini-slalom competition from Fleet wharf. Several younger members of the squad made quite a mark on the sport, some gaining promotion to division one, a fine performance for a canal-based club.

Sadly the club's participation in slalom gradually petered out in the 90's, but we have one very important link to someone who went on to achieve some of the highest awards in the sport.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1990 at a Tuesday night meeting at Fleet Wharf an all-comers slalom competition was held. A diminutive young lass aged nine, a pupil of Heatherside School, Fleet and who lived close by to the Wharf, tried slalom for the first time. So started the canoe slalom career of Helen Reeves. Later in 1990 Helen gained promotion to division 4 at Winchester and within the next two years was putting in impressive performances in divisions 3 and 4.

To make further progress in the sport Helen, along with brother Andrew, joined Shepperton Canoe Club which specialises in slalom and has excellent facilities at the base of Shepperton Weir, but remained members of the club for several more years. Indeed, Andy rejoined this year.

With much dedication and hard work, and tremendous support from her family, Helen swiftly made progress through the ranking lists and in 1996 at Lipno, Czechoslovakia, crowned her junior career when she won the Junior Ladies World Championship.

Injuries have dogged her in the last year or two but this year Helen has achieved some good results, notably winning the World Cup event in May (the result that clinched her Olympic selection) and coming fifth in another World Cup late in July.

We are proud of our small but vital contribution to Helen's career and the whole Club wishes her all possible success in the Olympic Games.

The Canoe Slalom competition is being held between 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August. **Helen is the girl to watch out for.** Her qualification races are at 10.50 and 12.50 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to seeing Helen again on the 18<sup>th</sup> in the semi-final at 10.40 and in the final at 12.10.

I am sure you will find coverage on the various TV channels, especially on Sky Sports, which often gives good canoeing coverage.

We wish success also to the other slalomists going along with Helen: Campbell Walsh (Men's K1); Stuart MacIntosh (Men's C1) and Stuart Bowman and Nick Smith (Men's C2).

Sprint racing is also an Olympic sport. This is being held on the rowing lake with races over 500 and 1000 metres. Great Britain is represented by Tim Brabants (Mens 1000m K1); Ian Wynne (Mens 500m K1) and Ian Wynne and Paul Darby-Dowman (Mens 1000m K2). It is hoped that Lucy Hardy will also qualify to give GB a representative in the Ladies 500m K1 event.

The sprint events are over six days from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August. Watch out for the K4 events and see them go! Sadly, GB did not qualify for the K4 race.

You can find out lots more about Helen and the other athletes on the following web sites:

the web site for the GB sprint and slalom teams - <http://www.worldclass-canoeing.org.uk>

the European Canoe Association Website - <http://www.canoe-europe.org>

Helen's own website - <http://www.helenreeves.co.uk/>



Are you feeling inspired by what Helen has achieved? As those ancient Chinese proverbs say “Even longest journey starts with a single step” I’m going to paraphrase that to say “...starts with a single paddle stroke”. There are lots of competitive opportunities out there.

## **Slalom**

September 4/5th

Cardington Div 2/3/4 x Double

Mike Carter, 5, Clarendon Street, Bedford MK41 7SQ

September 25/26<sup>th</sup>

Shepperton Div 2/3 x Double

Dave Waine, Shepperton SCC, Lock Island, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 9LW

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Yalding Weir 3 /4

Vince Lamph, Flat 4, 36 Manor Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 5LE

Beginners start in Div 4, if you have some white water experience you can start at Div 2. Send your entry fees to the organizer with a S.A.E two weeks before the event. Entry fees are Div 4 Senior £5.25 senior, £3.50 junior for a single event and £8.50 senior and £5.75 junior for double event. Div 2 £10 Senior, £7.75 Junior for single event, £16.25 senior, £12.25 junior for a double event. Double events have the first race on Saturday and a second different race on Sunday. More information on the slalom website <http://www.canoeslalom.co.uk>

## **Paddlesport Challenge 2004/2005**

The BCU Southern Region paddlesport winter series of events for younger paddlers starts with a marathon event at Pangbourne on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	
Marathon	19th September	Adventure Dolphin Pangbourne	
K4 race	16th October (p.m.)	Reading C.C.,	
Slalom	Mid (tba) November	Reading C.C.	
Fun Pool event	16th December	WillinkPool Burghfield Common	
Polo	January (tba)	Willink pool	
Generation Game	(February (tba)	TBA,	
Wild water racing (WHoppers)	April (tba	Nene,	
Canoe sailing & presentation	May (tba	Dinton Pastures,	

Note - Marathon:

As this years marathon will feature as part of the Pangbourne Hasler event those paddlers who wish to take part in the Hasler event may do so – subject to boat availability. Their times will be taken and used in the paddlesport results. A separate race will be arranged before the Hasler event for those competing in the Paddlesport event but not wishing or able to join in the Hasler event.

## **BCCC Autumn Sprint and Marathon miniseries**

The canoe club are also organizing an Autumn mini series of sprint and marathon races. These will all take place on Saturday mornings at Mytchett from September 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be separate classes for boys and girls and different ages from Under 10s through to Veterans (Over 35), Masters (Over 50) and OAPs! Start time will be 11am and your best 3 results from 4 will count towards the series. Distances are 200m for the sprint and 2 miles for marathon (Great Bottom Flash and back). Everyone welcome to join in with the racing and timekeeping.

Sept 5	Marlow Hasler
Sept 11	BCCC Sprint (1)
Sept 12	Henley Hasler/Paddle Power (Lightning race)
Sept 18	Hare & Hounds/BCCC mini marathon (1)
Sept 25	BCCC Sprint (2)
Sept 26	Elmbridge Hasler (London region)
Oct 2	BCCC mini marathon (2)
Oct 3	Hasler Final Nottingham
Oct 9	Reading K4 for seniors/ BCCC Sprint (3)
Oct 10	Day off
Oct 16	Junior K4 at Reading
Oct 16	Hare & Hounds/ BCCC mini marathon (3)
Oct 17	Windsor Hasler
Oct 23	BCCC mini sprint (4)
Oct 24	Day off/GO to church?
Oct 30	BCCC Mini marathon (4)
Oct 31	Banbury Hasler
Nov 2	Spare)

For more information contact Brian Gandy

### **'Paddlepower in August and more'**

**There'll be no formal Paddlepower sessions on Tuesdays in August. On Tuesday evenings during August we will be running sessions for youngsters - fun and tasters combined, organised each evening. There's plenty more going on too - see the calendar - try something new!.**

**You'll notice that we've had more activities going on in parallel on Tuesdays recently and the new 'beginners' session is also taking off. Many many thanks are due to all the coaches and helpers who've made it work.**

**Paul J**