

Case Study: Paddle Towards the Hampshire Games 2010

Saturday June 19th saw 60 new young paddlers from Canoe Clubs in 6 Local Authorities across Hampshire take to the water in the Canoeing event at the Hampshire Games.

After an inspirational message at the Games Opening Ceremony from Hampshire Talented Athlete and Marathon and Sprint paddler Sam Willis, young people made their way to Mytchett on the Basingstoke Canal. The Canoe England Canoe 2012 event was hosted by Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club (B3C) for the second year at the picturesque Club at Mytchett on the Basingstoke Canal.

Teams from local canoe clubs across Hampshire were developed through a successful Sport Unlimited bid to encourage kids to take up paddlesport. 8 weeks of after school land based sessions and a 6 week programme of Saturday morning on water sessions and some slalom training put the young people on top form for the Sport Hampshire and IOW Games on Saturday the 19th June.

Teams from Southampton, Winchester, Basingstoke And Deane, Basingstoke Canal, Blackwater Valley and Sandle Heath Sea Scouts in the New Forest used every ounce of paddling energy to take home the winning trophy which was finally won by The Winchester A team. Once the competitors had completed their Slalom runs there was an opportunity for some K1 sprint action which for most young people this was their first time in a racing boat. It was supported by Canoe England's Club and Coach programme.



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Sport Unlimited is a programme targeted at 'semi sporty' young people who have some interest in sport but aren't particularly involved within the community or a local sports club. It engages them in an extra 1-2 hours a week of high quality, sport and physical activity, outside of school. The paddling opportunity to link local schools to local Canoe clubs was given to school children across Hampshire as part of the Sport Unlimited Programme. A series of land and water sessions was given to young people with the end goal being the competition at the Hampshire Games. It was such a Popular programme within schools that some clubs had second team of Young people entered into the event. It is clear that Canoeing is very much a growing sport within the County of Hampshire.

In addition to Sport Unlimited funding the teams were lucky enough to be sporting brand new Buoyancy Aids which were a joint sponsorship deal between Bournemouth Canoes and local company On Tap. The company director Simon Parker said 'I had no idea of the scale of the event. It is so cool to see so many kids being outdoors and having fun and I'm so pleased to be able to support the event.

The Buoyancy Aids will go to all the clubs that took part for an additional School-club link in the Autumn for other kids to enjoy the sport.

Hampshire Watersports Officer, Samantha Jones said 'Last year was so enjoyable that I wanted to make this year twice the size and twice the excitement. With support from Sport Unlimited and On Tap this was made possible'.

Samantha Jones
Watersports Development Officer
19th June 2010

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