

CANOE WALES REPORT FOR ACM ON 25th November 2017

Richard Lee will be standing down as Performance Manager later this year. Advertisements have been placed to find replacements and Dan Golder has been appointed performance manager. Tom Power has now taken over the role as Head Coach Slalom with Dan Goddard appointed as Part time Slalom Coach.

During the year a range of races have been run throughout Wales. Many thanks to all the clubs, helpers and organisers who have enabled this to happen. Slalom in Wales is in a strong place and the dedication of all those in the sport has enabled this to happen.

Following the Division 1 race at Llandysul the AGM for the Canoe Wales Slalom Committee took place. All members of the committee for re-election were re-elected. Work is taking place to recruit new members from newly formed clubs. Thanks were given to Richard Lee for his contribution to the sport over many years.

Paddlesport within Wales is developing well with the Talent Pathway program. At present 14+ paddlers are on the program

Within the ranking divisions Welsh paddlers account for : 27 Premier Paddlers (10% of UK), 29 Division 1 (10% of UK), 57 Division 2 (15% of UK) and 38 Division 3 (13% of UK).

During the year a number of Welsh paddlers have been promoted with Division 1 to Premier: 3 ; Division 2 to 1: 10 ; Division 3 to 2: 25 ; Division 4 to 3: 50

Performance pathway

19 paddlers have recorded performances at Premier / Selection races that meet UK performance percentages.

27 paddlers are ranked in Premier division, from 230 in UK (10%)

Ciaran Lee Edwards, Gabi Ridge, Tom Abbott, Megan Hamer Evans were selected for GB senior World cup team.

Gabi Ridge, Megan Hamer Evans and Tom Abbott selected for the GB under 23 championship teams. James Cooper selected as reserve.

Megan Hamer Evans and Etienne Chappell selected for GB junior championship teams.

Gabi Ridge and Tom Abbott gained silver medals at the World under 23 slalom team championships.

Megan Hamer Evans and Tom Abbott were both finalists at the European and World under 23 / 18 championships.

Etienne Chappell – finalist at the European under 18 championships.

During the summer the Wales team also attended ECA cup races at Flattach (1 podium), Augsburg (1 podium), Krakow (1 podium, 4 x 4th places), Ceske Budejovice (5 podiums) and Bratislava (1 podium). Attended Mezzana International (6 finals, 2 podiums)

The Welsh Championships this year were split across two venues - Bala Mill and Llandysul. It is planned to follow the same format next year. Work is taking place to identify missing trophies and to add new trophies.

Winter training plans are being developed and squads selected. Names will be finalised shortly and paddlers invited to attend training camps during November and throughout the winter.

Investment is required with the timing system over the Winter due to equipment failures. Tests have taken place with the new proposed system to replace Tutti for use at lower division races. Feedback has been provided back to Andy Gruzinski.