

## **CANOE WALES REPORT FOR ACM ON 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

During the year a range of races have been run throughout Wales across all divisions. 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.

Like many other areas within the UK Wales has been forced to cancel races due to the lack of water. We would like to thank all competitors and their families for their support in these difficult situations which were beyond our control.

Many of us have seen the dramatic pictures taken at Llandysul the week after the division 1 race in October. Llandysul has played a key role in UK slalom for many years and the Wales Slalom Committee would like to thank everyone who has provided assistance in any way in getting the centre operating again.

Following the Division 1 race at Llandysul the AGM for the Canoe Wales Slalom Committee took place. Several members reached the end of their term and decided to stand down from the committee. The committee would like to thank them for their support and dedication over the last few years. Work is taking place to recruit new members from newly formed clubs to strengthen the role of the committee.

Within the ranking divisions Welsh paddlers are well represented across all divisions. This is due to the hard work and dedication of the pathway and voluntary coaches operating within Wales. This development is continuing through the winter at various training camps being held around the Country. Within Wales we have 25 Premier paddlers, 27 Division 1 paddlers, 37 Division 2 paddlers and 22 Division 3 paddlers.

### **Performance**

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

Congratulations are due to the following paddlers who achieved GB places in 2018 : Ciaran Lee Edwards, Tom Abbott and Megan Hamer Evans were selected for the GB senior World cup team.

Gabi Ridge, Megan Hamer Evans and Tom Abbott were selected for the GB under 23 championship teams.

Lili Bryant and Etienne Chappell selected for GB junior championship teams.

Welsh paddlers Tom Abbott and Megan Hamer Evans gained Bronze medals in team events at the World under 23 slalom team championships.

At the European Championships in the team events a Silver medal was won by Gabi Ridge and Megan Hamer Evans with a Bronze medal by Lili Bryant.

During the summer training camps were held around Europe with paddlers competing at several events. Good results and PBs were achieved by many along with several podium places. Congratulations to all paddlers.

The Welsh Championships this year was split across two venues - Bala Mill and Llandysul. It is planned to follow the same format next year with work continuing to identify missing trophies and to add additional trophies.

Winter training plans have been developed and squads selected. Names have been finalised and initial squad training camps have taken place.

Investment is required with the Wales timing system over the Winter due to equipment failures at the end of the season. The new system to replace Tutti for use at races will hopefully be rolled out next year.