

**CANOE WALES REPORT FOR ACM**  
**30<sup>th</sup> November 2019**



During the year a wide 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 with development taking place in all areas. A large part of this is due to development groups and the dedication of all those in the sport helping to make this to happen.

Like many other areas of the UK within Wales during 2019 we have been forced to cancel races mainly due to excess water. We would like to thank all competitors and their families for their support in these difficult situations which were beyond our control.

Following the Division 1 race at Llandysul in October the AGM for the Canoe Wales Slalom Committee took place. Due to the resignation of the Chair, the Vice Chair Richard Bramley has agreed to take over as Chair of the Slalom Committee. Work is taking place to recruit new members 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, 21 Division 1 paddlers, 24 Division 2 paddlers and 51 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 2019 :

Ciaran Lee Edwards, Tom Abbott, Megan Hamer Evans, William Coney and Etienne Chappell who were selected for the GB senior World cup team.

Gabbi Ridge and Megan Hamer Evans were selected for the GB under 23 championship teams.

Etienne Chappell selected for GB junior championship team.

Several paddlers were also selected to compete in Extreme Slalom in 2019 – Etienne Chappell, Aaron White and Emily Davies.

Congratulations to Etienne Chappell who gained various medals during 2019 in both Extreme slalom and in Kayak and Thomas Abbott who became the British Open C1 champion.

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 Bala Tryweryn. 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 squad training camps are taking place.

Investment is taking place with the Wales timing system over the Winter due to equipment failures at the end of the season.