

Report on Scottish Canoe Slalom for the 2019 BC Slalom ACM

A full calendar of slaloms, from premier to division 4, has run in Scotland this year. Many thanks to all the clubs and individuals who have put immense effort into running these events. Aberdeen Kayak club ran a successful new div 2/3 slalom at Persley on the River Don in Aberdeen. Strathallan are in the process of developing their new site at Bridge of Earn.

There has been lots of good racing from Scottish paddlers, at home and internationally, in the last twelve months.

Bradley Forbes Cryans won the Olympic Selection in K1M and will represent Team GB in Tokyo 2020, with David Florence (C1M) and Fiona Pennie (K1W) named reserves.

In terms of British teams Scotland have been well represented by Bradley Forbes Cryans (K1M) David Florence (C1M), Fiona Pennie (K1W) and Sophie Ogilvie (C1W) in the senior team this year with Stuart Gerrie, (K1M) Sophie Ogilvie (K1W and C1W), Lois Leaver (K1W) and Amber Maslen (K1W) named reserves. Sophie Ogilvie (C1W), Lois Leaver (K1W) and Peter Linksted (C1M) have represented GB at U23 with Duncan Edwards (K1M), Sophie Ogilvie (K1W) and Ailsa Gourlay (C1W) named reserves. At J18 Lois Leaver (K1W) and Ailsa Gourlay(C1W) paddled in the Junior team with Vittorio Pezzaioli (C1M) and Michael Denvir (C1M) reserves.

There were numerous Scottish trips abroad for our young paddlers this summer with both a Performance Squad trip and volunteer organised trips.

Four Scots have been named 2019 British National Champions:

Fiona Pennie K1W, Jane Gibson K1W Vet, Lois Leaver K1W J18 and Sam Leaver K1M J16. Catie Thompson is the highest ranked C1W in Div 1.

Jon Schofield is now in place as Head of Performance and Pathways. Sam Miles has been employed jointly by SCA and Breadalbane Canoe Club as a Performance Coach.

The SCA squad for 2019-2020 has 10 paddlers from J16 to U23. Central Squads, a voluntary led group, has 48 prem to div 2 paddlers from every club in Scotland.

Slalom Inspires, conceived and run by Eilidh Gibson, held a successful weekend for div 2/3 paddlers at Grandtully in August and many Scottish prem and div 1 paddlers attended the second Slalom Inspires weekend at Lee valley in November.

The SCA slalom ACM was held after the Scottish champs and was well attended. The SCA slalom committee for next year are Tony Leaver, Bill Gerrie, Gary Gibson, Calum McDiarmid, Maddy Jennings and Will Fotheringham. Fraser Glasgow has agreed to represent Scotland on the BC Slalom Committee on the occasions that Chris Baillie cannot manage to get to meetings. Veronica Milne continues as Scottish Pan Celtic team manager for 2020.

In closing, I'd like to thank all volunteers working in Scottish slalom at club and national level, at grass roots and performance. Many thanks to you all.

Chris Baillie November 2019