

Sadly due to circumstances beyond the control of the Slalom community it hasn't been possible to run all the planned races in Wales during 2021. All the events that have been run have been well attended with a good spirit with attendees generally complying with the additional measures required during 2021.

This year we have again held the Canoe Wales Slalom Committee AGM virtually. The positions on the committee remain unchanged for 2021/22

Development work is continuing with the present proprietors of Mile End Mill with the development of the continuing as a Slalom venue (See later). Concern remains about constructing line supports on the far bank due to the continual erosion of the bank. Regular training sessions are run at the Mill for North Wales paddlers looking to develop their skills in the sport.

Several applications have been received from the committee to assist in funding various schemes/programmes around Wales. Due to the limited number of races that have been completed the finances are reduced, but the committee have been able to provide funding for all the schemes.

This year has seen the appointment of Alistair Dickson as Performance Manager and following further interviews the appointment of CEO of Canoe Wales. As a result Thomas Power has taken on the role Head coach and interim performance manager during 2021.

Canoe Wales announced various vacancies earlier in the year and these appointments will shortly be announced.

The Welsh Championships this year was split across two venues - Llandysul and due to the cancellation of the October premier race at the Tryweryn at Lee Valley. It is planned to follow the same format next year of using two venues.

North Wales Update

North Wales now has 5 training sites and 5 independent programs.

A number of the training sites have had a significant revamp in the last few months.

The newest training site is on the River Dee at Llangollen (Mile end mill) based at TNR Outdoors. After an absence of over 10 years, there are now 12 new slalom gates up and another 10 in the planning over the main river. Paddlers are already enjoying training sessions there.

The site at Plas y Brenin has had eight new gates and support poles, the Mold training site has a complete set of new gates and new gates and lines have gone up in Llanberis and at Tryweryn.

This has all been possible with funding from the Welsh Slalom committee and materials supplied by Plas y Brenin, TNR Outdoors and DMM.

North Wales has 46 paddlers on a structured pathway from grass-root level through to premier with a number of schools and clubs feeding into the programs.