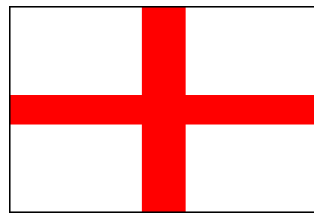


Statement Regarding English Coaching Structure within Canoe Slalom

Canoe England Coach Programme



A Joint Statement By

Andy Maddock

Nottingham High Performance Centre Manager

And

Mark Shaw

Canoe England Slalom Committee Chairman

Introduction:

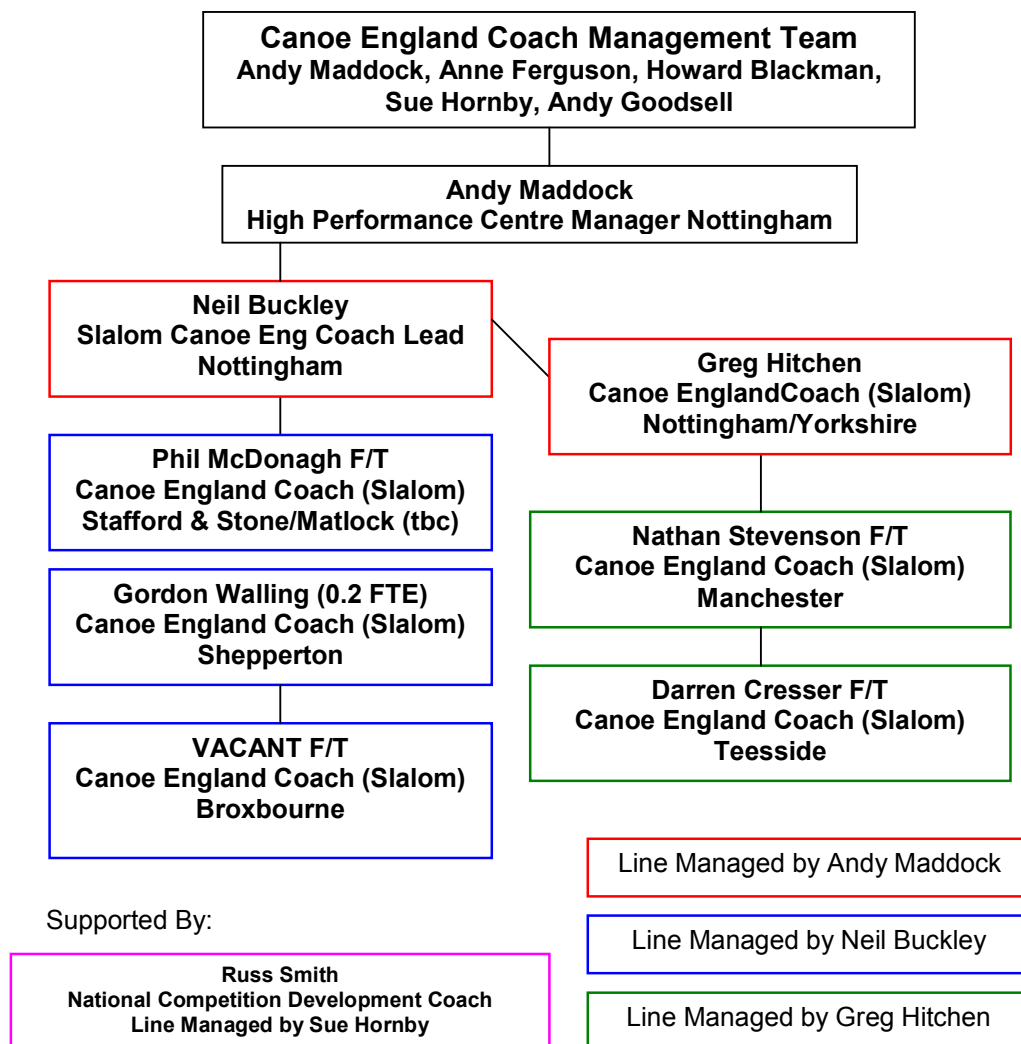
In May 2009 GB Canoeing ceased its provision of the Junior Development Programme for English athletes of 16 years and under. The background behind this was a redistribution of funding support within GB Canoeing and the promise of a review by Canoe England of the role of the club coach programme in relation to the competition pathway.

We are pleased to report that the Canoe England review has now been completed and the outcome of the review is a very positive step to developing Canoe Slalom in England with the allocation of 6.2 full-time equivalent posts to support the development pathway.

This fantastic opportunity taking effect from November 1st 2009, will provide these positions for a period of 3 years subject to the achievement of the overall Canoe England objectives.

These objectives place an emphasis on both increasing/retaining the number of paddlers taking up Canoe Slalom and also on focussing on the minority classes of women/girls and the canoe class.

Canoe England Coach Structure from November 2009 (Slalom)



England Coach Roles and Responsibilities

The roles will be to support a two pronged National approach to Canoe Slalom and remaining time will be spent supporting activity in their designated club and region.

A key principle behind the programme is to support activity rather than run activity, as a key objective of the programme is to develop a sustainable structure that will support the development of all levels of the Canoe Slalom pathway long into the future.

The table below outlines some of the broad key areas that we aspire to support:

National (Train to Perform)	Providing Support to U16 junior athletes identified as confident enough on whitewater to need specific canoe slalom coaching at identified National camps and races. (principally Train to Perform level (Div 1 and Premier level)) Also supporting identified races to assist the transfer of training skill into race performance.
National (Train to Train)	Support to junior athletes 'transitioning to whitewater' by supporting identified races and by supporting identified national camps at identified facilities to develop athlete whitewater skills and confidence. (principally Train to Train phase (Div 2/3 and entry level Div 1 level)) Also supporting identified races to assist the transfer of training skill into race performance.
Local/Regional	Support to identified club or hub centre paddlers or regions at the hub site or appropriate whitewater facility Also supporting identified races to assist the transfer of training skill into race performance.

The programme also aims to enlist the skills of National Competition Development Coach – Russ Smith in some of the National activity in order to run coach development courses in parallel with Canoe Slalom activity taking place.

Why a primary focus on a national programme?

Access to whitewater facilities are such an important component in Canoe Slalom development that the programme will identify an annual programme where a variety of venues would be used for both levels of National programme. This would rotate around the country and provide a stimulus for regional activity. There will however be a focus on key whitewater venues that will provide appropriate water for all levels and currently Nottingham provides the most consistent year round venue for activity.

The delivery of coach education opportunities for club coaches and volunteers is easier to facilitate effectively on a National/regional basis.

What Now?

It is the aspiration that this Canoe England coach programme could work in partnership with the volunteers within England Canoe Slalom to create a lasting legacy for the sport in England. By working together, we stand the best chance of creating a sustainable structure that really supports a wide spectrum of athletes within England and feed into the GB Canoeing programmes for those with the aspiration and talent to perform at the highest level.

With the final Canoe England review decisions only completing in September, time has been tight to roll out a full programme with full consultation with all parties interested in being involved. It is for this reason that no firm structural plans have been put in place yet although some initiatives have been put in place to address a short term need whilst a fuller structure is agreed.

Mark Shaw, Greg Hitchen and Neil Buckley wish to now engage with clubs and volunteers to establish a way of delivering this programme on a National basis and at the same time being able to increase the number of paddlers that the programme is able to support. Examples of small initiatives that have been put in place as pilot projects are the October half term opportunities and the U16 winter programme.

The aspirations of the Canoe England Coach programme are the same as that of Canoe England Slalom Committee and it is for this reason that dialogue has been ongoing between Canoe England and the Slalom Committee on how a development structure can be set up to provide a focussed group of volunteers and the England Coach programme to develop England Canoe Slalom into a sustainable structure able to achieve the following:

- Improve England identity and pride
- Develop a meaningful England Championships that covers all levels
- Develop England success Internationally and domestically through the pan Celtic cup
- Provide a structure to develop English coaches

What is the Timeline?

It is realistic to look to set up a new structure for May 2010, perhaps with the first opportunity taking place around May half term, then focussing on The England Champs/Pan Celtic in May and summer holiday support and race support over the season. A full structure could be in place for October 2010 to start in October half term and run at identified weekends throughout the winter.

How can you help?

Expressions of interest would be welcomed from coaches, parents or any volunteers who are keen to see a progressive England Canoe Slalom structure that supports athletes across all parts of the pathway. There are all sorts of ways that people can help, not just coaching so please contact the people below to discuss how you could help. This also provides your opportunity to share ideas with the group on how to structure the programme going forward – let's hear your views.

Contact Details:

Mark Shaw (Chairman CESC)
mark_shaw@tiscali.co.uk

Sue Martin (Secretary CESC)
dsa3@daveandsue.freemove.co.uk

Neil Buckley
neil.buckley@canoe-england.org.uk

Greg Hitchen
greg.hitchen@canoe-england.org.uk

Andy Maddock
andy.maddock@gbcanoeing.org.uk

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