

Canoe Slalom Development Report.

It quite obvious participation is down and numbers are falling in Slalom.

There is a separate report for participation.

So I have been looking at ways to develop the sport so we get more paddlers back into Slalom.

I am a big believer in strength in depth and the sport needs more paddlers to keep the top strong.

So some Clubs have been very successful in getting paddlers into Slalom.

Probably the best example is Llandysul and if we look at how they achieve this it's from Coaches.

Llandysul have a good policy of training their paddlers to coach. They invest in coaching and from this they get lots of paddlers.

At say my own Club Wyedean we have 2 main coaches, fully committed but numbers are limited by the number of paddlers any one person can coach, we have a good Beginners program within the Club but getting paddler into Slalom is a challenge.

So looking up and down the country the Clubs with new paddlers coming into Slalom are the Clubs with Slalom Coaches.

There are also clubs which used to have a good Slalom background but now have No Slalom paddlers. This is because they don't have a Slalom coach at the Club.

So the easiest solution to get numbers into Slalom is to train Slalom coaches in Clubs Clubs.

The Slalom coach award is aimed at quite a high standard, this is not needed in a Club Slalom Coach, to get paddlers started we just need a set of gates and someone that can teach Slalom basics.

So if we want to develop Slalom we need to invest in training Club Slalom Coaches.

Help with gate set ups.

Look for funding for Club Slalom Boats and equipment.

There is a proposal at the ACM to start a Plastic Boat division, this will enable Clubs or Paddlers without a Slalom boat to have a go and maybe progress. Maybe even a way of developing Extreme Slalom.

We also probably need to sell the sport, a marketing manager. Someone that can look at sponsorship and publicity.

Anyone with any ideas please come and have a chat or contact me.

Mike Mitchell