

Report on Scottish Canoe Slalom for the 2021 BC Slalom ACM

Another unusual year as we emerged from national lockdown and varying levels of restrictions! Scotland manage to hold the first Div 3 race (in May) and the first Div. 1 race following recommencement of racing. We would like to thank all volunteers who made return to racing possible.

The Scottish Junior Championships were successfully run this year at Persely by Aberdeen Kayak Club. The Scottish Championships (J16 and older) were successfully run this year at Grandtully and it was good to see so many Scottish participants attend including Olympians Fiona Pennie and Bradley Forbes-Cryans.

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

Bradley Forbes Cryans raced at the Olympics in Tokyo and Scotland has been well represented within the British teams

The SCA slalom ACM was held after the Scottish champs and was well attended. Andrew Thomson continues as Scottish Pan Celtic team manager for 2022.

SCA Performance Programme - Slalom

The SCA Performance squad has yet to be formally announced with the selection process now concluded. Announcement will be made on the SCA website shortly.

Club participation

All Scottish clubs have seen a notable decline in participation, largely as a result of the pandemic and the resulting restrictions.

Most clubs have now resumed their training regimes and intake procedures with most reporting a healthy number of beginners starting this summer. However, there will be a resulting 'gap' in Prem, Div 1 and Div 2 paddler numbers across Scotland as a result of fewer participants returning to the sport once racing commenced.

On the plus side this has resulted in a cross-club approach to training opportunities and a sharing of resources not only in providing coached training opportunities but in supporting clubs run events.

A number of new coaches have qualified over the last year or so and it is good to see a new generation of young Slalom coaches. This is being encouraged and supported by clubs with coaching opportunities being provided for the younger coaches such as Maddy Jennings, Michael Brown, Morna Campbell, Andrew Douglas and Catie Thomson.

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 in this very difficult year.