

International Teams Report: Heather Williams Performance Manager – Canoe Sprint



Sprint

2017 has been a year of considerable change within Canoe Sprint, both internationally and within British Canoeing. The alterations to the Olympic Programme have created new opportunities with the inclusion of women’s canoe and the switch from MK4 1000m to MK500m, but at the expense of MK2 200m, in which Great Britain has excelled over the last two Olympic cycles. The impact of these changes is already evident with a noticeable increase in quality and size of fields in the new Olympic events, particularly at senior International competitions.

There have also been substantial changes within our International teams, with a number of athletes and staff retiring and other leaving, having represented Great Britain and British Canoeing over many years. These include 2012 Olympic Champion Ed McKeever and two time Olympian Louisa Gurski along with John Anderson, Alan Williams, Trevor Hunter, Alex Nikonorov and Miklos Simon. My thanks to them all for the significant contribution they have made to our sport.

Throughout this period of change our athletes have continued to progress and build on our 2016 Olympic, U23 & Junior successes, winning medals, achieving “A” finals and personal best performances in every international competition we have attended.

Event	Olympic Events	Non-Olympic Events
Senior World Championships	1 gold, 1 X A final (9 th)	3 bronze, 1 X 7 th
Senior European Championships	1 gold, 2 ‘A’ finals	1 bronze, 1 ‘A’ final (4 th)
U23 World Championships	1 bronze,	3 X ‘A’ final (5 th , 7 th , 7 th)

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	2 'A' finals (7 th ,8 th)	
U23 European Championship	3 A finals	1 gold, 2 'A' finals
Junior World Championships	1 gold, 2 'A' finals (7 th ,9 th)	
Junior European Championships	1 gold, 1 'A' final (6 th)	

Table 1 2017 Summary of Medal and Final A championship performances (see Appendix 1 for full GB results).

At senior level, Liam Heath has continued where he left off in Rio, adding European and World titles to his Olympic title as well as achieving a world's best time at the European Championships. A truly magnificent achievement and testament to his dedication and commitment day in day out.

We currently have a very young and relatively inexperienced senior team, with many still competing at U23 level. It was the first senior world championship experience for 13 of our 23 strong team. Consequently, the focus for 2017, year one of the Olympic cycle, has been on development, gain international racing experience and laying foundations for later in the cycle.

The Senior World Championships provided an excellent benchmark, and while there is much work to do to close the gap to the podium in the Olympic events, there were some very encouraging results and the majority of athletes delivered to their current level. It was particularly pleasing to see our senior women on the podium in three events and for our new K4 women's squad to reach the A final in the K4 500m. Congratulations to Rachel Cawthorn (K1 1000m bronze), Hannah Brown & Angela Hannah (K2 200m bronze) and Lani Belcher (5K bronze).

Our Junior & U23 teams have also enjoyed success. The highlight was Ieuan James becoming a European and World Junior Champion in the K1 200m, the first British canoe sprint athlete to win a world junior title since Tim Brabants and Paul Darby Dowman 22 years ago.

We also sent representative teams to the Piestany International Regatta, the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) in Gyor and are due to confirm the team for the Olympic Hopes International Regatta next week. In particular the EYOF provided a valuable multi- sport games experience for six U16 athletes with a mix of competition and educational activities. Our athletes acquitted themselves well on and off the water, the highlight being a bronze medal in the mixed K2 200m (Enya Dale, Zoe Clark, Ed Nightingale, Alex Greaves) and Enya Dale winning a bronze in her individual K1 200m event.

In total 29 clubs have been represented across our international championship teams this year. My thanks to everyone who has supported our athletes this year, particularly their families, club coaches and all our volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

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UK Sport continue to provide the majority of funding our International teams along with the Home Nation sports councils who provide some support to our development teams to supplement athlete contributions. In addition, the Sprint Racing Committee provided funding to support a number of athletes to compete in non-Olympic events and men's canoe events at Senior World Cups and Championships, events which cannot be supported by UK Sport lottery funding.

Paracanoe

2017 has been very much a build year with the established athletes taking a step back to focus on elements of their performance that will make them more resilient athletes through the remainder of the four year cycle. At the same time we are working to recruit new athletes to strengthen the squad for both 2020 and beyond. We still need more athletes and it is possible that there are athletes already in the system/clubs that would classify in Paracanoe.

The British Paracanoe team remained top of the medal table at the European Championships with seven medal. Six out of the seven medals were in current Paralympic events with the other medal coming in the VL3 men's event.

At the World Championships, Great Britain won the most medals again with six, with Australia closest behind with four medals. In the current six Paralympic events we won two gold a silver and a bronze medal despite not contesting in two of the events, KL3 Women due to Anne Dickins retirement and Nick Beighton KL2 who stayed at home due to the imminent arrival of his second child.

Special mention needs to go to Jeanette Chippington and Emma Wiggs who both now hold the grand slam of Paralympic, World and European Champions and also to Jonny Young who won gold in VL3 men and bronze in KL3 men events.

September 2nd

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Appendix 1

2017 Paracanoe International Results		
Name	Event	Place
Paracanoe World Championships 13th -15th July, Plovdiv, Bulgaria		
Jeanette Chippington	KL1 W 200	1st
Emma Wiggs	KL2 W 200	1st
Jonathan Young	VL3 M 200	1st
Ian Marsden	KL1 M 200	2nd
Charlotte Henshaw	KL2 W 200	2nd
Robert Oliver	KL3 M 200	2nd
Nicholas Beighton	KL2 M 200	3rd
Jonathon Young	KL3 M 200	5th
Paracanoe World Championships, 23rd - 27th August, Racice, CZE		
Emma Wiggs	KL2 W 200	1st
Jonathan Young	VL3 M 200	1st
Jeanette Chippington	KL1 W 200	1st
Nicola Paterson	KL2 W 200	2nd
Lindsay Thorpe	VL3 W 200	3rd
Martin Tweedie	VL3 M 200	3rd
Jonathan Young	KL3 M 200	3rd
Ian Marsden	KL1 M 200	4th
Robert Oliver	KL3 M 200	6th
Charlotte Henshaw	VL2 W 200	8th

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2017 Canoe Sprint International Results			2017 Canoe Sprint International Results			2017 Canoe Sprint International Results		
Name	Event	Place	Name	Event	Place	Name	Event	Place
Sprint World Championships, 23rd - 27th August, Racice, CZE			Sprint World Cup 1, 19th-21st May, Montemor-O-Velho, Portugal			Sprint Junior & Under 23 World Championships, 27th - 30th July, Pitesti, Romania		
Liam Heath	K1 M 200	1st	Bethany Gill	C2 W 200	1st	Ieuan James	K1 JNR M 200	1st
Rachel Cawthorn	K1 W 1000	3rd	Nia Tomos	C2 W 200	2nd	Rebeka Simon	K1 U23 W 500	3rd
Angela Hannah	K2 W 200	3rd	Lizzie Broughton	K1 W 1000	2nd	Rebeka Simon	K1 U23 W 1000	5th
Hannah Brown	K1 W 5000	3rd	Lizzie Broughton	K1 W 5000	3rd	Charles Smith	K1 JNR M 1000	7th
Lani Belcher	K1 M 5000	7th	Zygy Chmiel	K1 M 5000	3rd	Katie Reid	C1 U23 W 200	7th
Magnus Gregory	K1 M 5000	7th						
Rebeka Simon								
Deborah Kerr			Jon Boyton	K1 M 500	4th	Bethany Gill		
Emily Lewis			Katie Reid	C1 W 200	4th	Afton Fitzhenry	C2 U23 W 200	7th
Amy Turner	K4 W 500	9th				Thomas Lusty	K1 U23 M 500	7th
Katie Reid	C1 W 200	10th						
			Deborah Kerr					
			Emily Lewis			Bethany Gill		
			Amy Turner			Afton Fitzhenry	C2 U23 W 500	8th
Tom Lusty	K1 M 500	12th	Sam Rees-Clark	K4 W 500	5th			
			Daniel Johnson			Rachel Kneen		
			Lewis Fletcher			Renee Myburgh	K2 JNR W 500	9th
Rebeka Simon	K1 W 500	13th	Matthew Bowley			Mikolaj Marciniak	K1 JNR M 500	11th
Jess Walker	K1 W 200	15th	Matthew Robinson	K4 M 500	5th	Joseph Petersen		
			Jon Boyton	K1 M 1000	5th	Finn Cadell	K2 JNR M 1000	12th
			Daniel Johnson					
			Matthew Bowley	K2 M 1000	5th			
Sprint European Championships, 13th -15th July, Plovdiv, Bulgaria								
Liam Heath	K1 M 200	1st	Deborah Kerr			Tom Lusty	K1 U23 M 1000	12th
			Sam Rees-Clark	K2 W 500	6th	Stelian Naftanaila	K1 U23 M 200	12th
			Zygy Chmiel	K1 M 1000	6th			
						Sam Glover		
						Trevor Thomson		
Rachel Cawthorn	K1 W 1000	3rd	Jon Boyton	K1 M 500	7th	Stelian Naftanaila		
Hannah Brown						Noah Dembele	K4 U23 M 500	13th
Angela Hannah	K2 W 200	4th	Rebeka Simon	K1 W 500	7th	Matt Bowley		
			Joseph Beevers			Dan Johnson	K2 U23 M 1000	16th
Emily Lewis	K1 W 500	8th	Matthew Robinson	K2 M 500	7th			
Jon Boyton	K1 M 1000	8th	Stelian Naftanaila	K1 M 200	8th			
			Lewis Fletcher	K1 M 200	11th			
			Sprint World Cup 2, 26th-28th May, Szeged, Hungary			Sprint Junior & Under 23 European Championships, 23rd-25th June, Belgrade, Serbia		
			Liam Heath	K1 M 200	1st	Ieuan James	K1 J M 200	1st
			Rebeka Simon	K1 W 1000m	4th	Rebeka Simon	K1 U23 W 1000	1st
						Bethany Gill		
			Deborah Kerr	K2 W 500	6th	Afton Fitzhenry	C2 U23 W 200	4th
			Emily Lewis			Rebeka Simon	K1 U23 W 500	6th
						Sam Rees-Clark		
			Katie Reid	C1 W 200	7th	Deborah Kerr	K2 U23 W 1000	6th
			Afton Fitzhenry					
			Bethany Gill	C2 W 200	8th	Charlie Smith	K1 J M 1000	6th
			Jonathan Schofield	K1 M 200	9th	Tom Lusty	K1 U23 M 1000	7th
			Angela Hannah			Rachel Syme		
			Hannah Brown			Tanisha Clayton		
			Hayleigh Mason			Emma Ricketts		
			Lani Belcher	K4 W 500	9th	Lucy Lee-Smith	K4 U23 W 500	8th
			Bethany Gill			Trevor Thomson		
			Afton Fitzhenry	C2 W 500	14th	Noah Dembele	K2 U23 M 200	10th
			Nia Tomos			Stelian Naftanaila	K1 U23 M 200	11th
			Chloe Bracewell	C2 W 500	15th	Mikolaj Marciniak	K1 J M 500	14th
			Lani Belcher	K1 W 500	18th	Florence Duffield	K1 J W 500	15th
			Jess Walker	K1 W 200	19th	Renee Myburgh	K1 J W 500	16th
			Tom Lusty	K1 M 1000	20th			
			Jon Boyton	K1 M 1000	26th	Edward Nightingale		
						Spencer Armstrong	K2 J M 500	16th
			Sprint World Cup 3, 2nd-4th June,					
			Liam Heath	K1 M 200	2nd			
			Hannah Brown					
			Angela Hannah	K2 W 500	5th			
			Jess Walker	K1 W 200	6th			
			Hannah Brown					
			Angela Hannah	K2 W 500	13th			