



## Canoe Polo

### Report to ICF Congress – Rome 2008

#### Introduction

Since my election in Hong Kong 2007, and the appointment of four new committee members I'm pleased to advise Congress that all members of the committee have been working hard in their roles.

After Congress 2007 all of the proposed committee members accepted their positions.



Greg Smale      Duncan Cochrane    Joachim Schwarzrock    Andrea Donzelli    Eva Lindmark

Each member's role and specific responsibility can now be found at:

<http://www.canoeicf.com/default.asp?Page=1954&MenuID=Canoe%5FPolo%2Fc1024%2F1619%2CCommittee%2F1053%2F0>

We hope Continental Associations, National Federations and competitors are all finding the 'team' approachable, friendly and certainly willing to listen.

We will continue to make strong efforts to assist the continued development of Canoe Polo although as I'm sure many realise positive change does take time.

While writing I would like to note and thank President Feldhoff for his support to myself and committee members, and to ICF Secretary General - Simon Toulson and staff at ICF Headquarters for their support, patience during serious family illness in 2008, and with their assistance since my election.

For interest see following link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGPhAVD91xs>



## Canoe Polo

### Report to ICF Congress – Rome 2008

#### General activity

**May 2007** - With the strong development and competition within Europe I wrote to the ECA suggesting the development of a 'European Cup' for Canoe Polo. In 2009 I'm pleased to say there will be two 'test' competitions with a view to launching the cup in 2010. The idea behind this proposal is not to commit federations to any more expense but to focus national teams towards 2/3 specific competitions each season and to enable organisers to promote the competition and attract sponsorship if possible.

**May 2007** – Committee meeting Essen, Germany where consultation regarding rules and referee interpretations commenced.

**August 2007** – Proposal to ICF Executive to purchase a book specifically entitled Canoe Polo – Basic Skills and Tactics by Ian Beasley.

**September 2007** - all members of the committee were kindly invited/attended the European Canoe Polo Championships in Thury Harcourt, France with again focus towards rules and refereeing. The competition itself was excellent and an example by France how perhaps Canoe Polo can continue to develop at other venues in the future. Referee and officials examinations conducted.

**October 2007** at the ICF Board of Directors meeting in Guatemala several important proposals by the committee were accepted by the Board:

- From World Championships (WC) 2010 to reduce the available places for NF's in the Women's category from 24 down to 20.
- From WC 2010 to re-establish the U21 Women category for a total of 8 NF's.
- From WC 2010 as a 'special project' by the ICF Board in order to support both the U21 Women and developing NF's, to purchase 10 x Canoe Polo kayaks and sets of equipment for each of the WC's 2010, 2012, and 2014 , for the sole use of the U21 Women.
- After each of the three WC's to donate the 10 x Canoe Polo kayaks and sets of equipment to one developing NF chosen by the ICF Canoe Polo Committee in consultation with the ICF Executive.
- Book proposal accepted.



## Canoe Polo

### Report to ICF Congress – Rome 2008

With the re-introduction of the U21 Women in 2010 the qualification details for 2010 can be found at:

<http://www.canoeicf.com/site/canoeint/if/downloads/Disciplines/Canoe%20Polo/Rules/World%20Championship%20Qualification%202010+.pdf>

**December 2007** - together with Albert Woods I visited Madrid, Spain to inspect/hear proposals for the World Canoe Polo Championships 2012 and possibly other European competitions before 2012.

**January 2008** - A detailed Rule Interpretation Guidance document was issued to all ICF Qualified Referees and published on ICF web-site January 2008 and can be found at:

<http://www.canoeicf.com/site/canoeint/if/downloads/Disciplines/Canoe%20Polo/Officials/2008/Referee%20Rule%20Interpretation%20guidance%202008.pdf>

**January 2008** - Andrea Donzelli travelled to South Africa to provide coaching support. From a letter from Kevin Meier, South African Canoe Polo Chairman I note several lines: 'the results achieved from the training that Andrea conducted far surpassed our expectations' and 'Andrea was also able to transfer a vast amount of knowledge on coaching technique and digital information on the sport to myself for distribution to other coaches'.

**April 2008** - ICF Board of Directors, Madrid - General and Technical Rule proposals submitted by the Canoe Polo Committee. This was after lengthy consultation with players and coaches in particular (and great time commitment from Duncan Cochrane). All proposals were supported by the board, with the General Rule proposals for final consideration at Congress.

World Canoe Polo Championships 2012 awarded to Spain (4<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012), subject to the signing of a formal contract.

**May 2008** – ICF Canoe Polo Committee, Essen International – briefing and assessment of international referees.

**July 2008** – ICF Canoe Polo Committee meeting Canada. World Championships including referee briefing, examinations and practical assessments.



## Canoe Polo

### Report to ICF Congress – Rome 2008

#### **Continental Championships 2007**

These were successfully held in Asia, Oceania, Europe and America. Results can be found on the ICF website.

#### **World Championships – Canada 2008**

Edmonton, Canada hosted the ‘final rounds’ of the World Canoe Polo Championships 2008 which are becoming increasingly close and competitive.

I’m pleased to advise Congress that all 5 continents were represented in the 3 categories of Men (29 National Federations), Women (23 National Federations) and Under 21 Men (21 National Federations).

World Canoe Polo Champions 2008 are Netherlands (Men) and Great Britain (Women and U21 Men) - a change in all categories from 2006.

The ‘final rounds’ saw all 3 categories with the highest participation for a World Canoe Polo Championships hosted outside of Europe.

Edmonton saw an exciting total of 1526 goals scored – an average of nearly 6 goals per game, with the top goal scorers coming from 3 different continents:

- Men - Anton Holmes – AUS with 19 goals.
- Women - Catherine O’Brien – CAN with 18 goals.
- U21 Men - Jakub Maslek – POL with 20 goals.

Sadly, Iran Men and U21 Men were unable to get Visa authorisation from the Canadian authorities in time to attend, however Iran Women did compete, finishing a creditable 9<sup>th</sup>, the highest Asian Women’s team. A special thanks for your efforts in attending.



## Canoe Polo

### Report to ICF Congress – Rome 2008

#### **World Games 2009**

Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei will host the World Games in July 2009.

From results at the World Championships 2008, 12 teams (6 Men and 6 Women) from 9 different National Federations and 3 different continents have already been invited.

At the time of writing this report entry is not closed. It is important for the continued development of canoeing in general and in particular Canoe Polo that the highest level of competition is achieved, and accordingly the 'best' teams do participate.

#### **World Masters Games 2009 – Penrith, Sydney, Australia 10-12th October 2009**

In December 2007 the organising committee of the 2009 World Masters Games announced that Canoe Polo has been added as a discipline of the Canoe Kayak Programme at the Sydney 2009 World Masters Games.

The World Masters Games is the biggest mass participation, multi-national, multi-sport festival in the world with over 30,000 athletes involved in 28 sports.

Canoe Polo will be held on two specially built Canoe Polo Fields at the Olympic Canoeing and Rowing Course at Penrith. Supporting the ideal that the games are more about participation than results there will be both social and competitive classes for ages 30 + and 45+ and also a female class, with the games being open to individual or team entries from around the world. Participants can enter individually or as team and once registered in the games individuals can participate in other sports or canoeing disciplines for a minimal extra charge. Flatwater Racing, Slalom and Marathon Canoeing will also be involved.

For any details of the WMG or 2009 Oceania Championships please contact Duncan Cochrane [duncan@kayaksplus.com.au](mailto:duncan@kayaksplus.com.au)

For all WMG information and pre-registration head to [www.2009worldmasters.com](http://www.2009worldmasters.com) and click on the green box that says "Sign up for e-news and pre-registration".



## Canoe Polo

### Report to ICF Congress – Rome 2008

#### Continental Championships 2009

- **AMERICA**

America has yet to fix Championships for 2009

- **ASIA**

The Asian Canoe-Polo Championships will be held in Hualien, Taiwan between 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Two of the ICF Canoe Polo Committee are planning to attend these championships to conduct coaching and referee courses and to generally enquire how to support Asia more in the future.

- **EUROPE**

The European Canoe Polo Championships will be held in Essen, Germany between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009.

- **OCEANIA**

The Oceania Canoe Polo Championships will be held at Penrith, Sydney, Australia between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009

This is the weekend before the World Masters Games at the same venue. Teams for the Masters will be allowed to enter as guests.

#### World Championships 2010

Milan, Italy will host the World Canoe Polo Championships between 1 – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010.



## Canoe Polo

### Report to ICF Congress – Rome 2008

#### **Youth Olympics 2010**

The International Olympic Committee's first Youth Olympic Games are to be held in Singapore in 2010.

Medals will be awarded to boys and girls in Canoe Sprint 'head to head' races and in an 'obstacle' Canoe Slalom race on flat-water (again, a head to head knockout format).

Canoe Polo will be 'showcased' at the conclusion of the Canoeing competitions in a one day spectacle at the Youth Olympic Games. The Canoe Polo format will include mixed gender teams of mixed nationalities and will hopefully provide great exposure of the discipline.

A total of 64 athletes will be selected by National Federations for the canoeing events at the Youth Olympic Games ranging between 16 and 17 years of age. Each National Federation will be allowed a maximum of 3 athletes to cover all Youth Olympic events. *Athletes must compete in all three Canoeing events at the Youth Olympic Games* and have good all round canoeing skills.

#### **Referees and Officials**

An electronic training package for referees was completed in the early summer of 2008. Frustratingly this has not been placed on the ICF website as I'm advised it will shortly undergo substantial change. As soon as possible this useful package will be posted and available for use.

#### **Coaching/development support**

Andrea Donzelli is gathering names of experienced Canoe Polo coaches who are willing to assist with development. We hope to be in a position to offer support by way of coaching in early 2009.