

January 2012

Kayaking legend Fischer targets London 2012 comeback at 50

Inside This Issue

- 1 Kayaking legend Fischer targets London 2012 comeback at 50
- 2 Peter Kauzer voted Slovenia Sportsman of the Year
- 2 John Schofield enjoying a stroke of fortune
- 4 Hank headlines Dusi qualifier
- 5 Szabó honour a tribute to work of club
- 6 Olympics: London to Offer Alternative Accommodation
- 7 Dawning of Dorney
- 8 Jackson Kayaks Introduces JKTV

*"I've got blisters all over my hands and feet, I'm giving my all but nothing beats competition."
- Birgit Fischer (GER)*

January 7 - German kayaking icon Birgit Fischer, who has won eight Olympic gold medals and an astonishing 28 World Championship titles, has targeted a comeback at London 2012 when she will be 50-years-old.

Fischer, who reaches half-a-century next month, holds the remarkable distinction of being both the youngest and oldest-ever Olympic kayaking champion after claiming her first gold medal at Moscow 1980 at 18-years-old and her last gold at Athens 2004 at 42-years-old. After both Seoul 1988 and Sydney 2000, Fischer announced her retirement only to return for the subsequent Games but it appears she could be about to make her most astonishing comeback for London 2012 having retired more than five years ago.

I want to test my limits," said Fischer.

"Why should I no longer set myself goals at the age of 50?"

"I've got blisters all over my hands and feet, I'm giving my all but nothing beats competition."

Her participation in the German Championships in April remains uncertain although she would almost certainly need to compete in the event and perform well in order to qualify for London 2012. However, Germany's canoeing kayaking head coach Reiner Kiessler feels that Fischer could make the grade and is certainly worthy of attempting a comeback at London 2012.

"I know that Birgit has fixed a deadline to decide on how well she's performing heading up to London 2012," said Kiessler.

"Everyone's free to test.

Should Fischer take part at London 2012, she would become the first German sportsperson to take part in seven Olympic Games. She twice represented East Germany in 1980 and 1988 but missed the Los Angeles 1984 Olympics after the country boycotted the event.

Fischer then went on to compete four times for the reunited Germany in 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2004.

Contact the writer of this story at tom.degun@insidethegames.biz

Peter Kauzer Voted 2011 Slovenian Sportsman of the Year

The 28-year old Peter Kauzer nicknamed “the Rocket from Hrastnik” won his second Men’s K1 World title in September at the 2011 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships in Bratislava, which also ensured him a place at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

In addition to the World title, Kauzer also won the overall ICF World Cup Standings and was European Champion in the team race together with Simon Brus and Jure Meglič. These results endeared him to the Slovenian sport reporters who voted for him to receive the award of Slovenian Sportsman of the year 2011.

He scored 287 points, while second placed athlete Primož Kozmus, who won a Bronze medal at last year’s IAAF World Championships in Daegu, received 186 points. Table tennis player Bojan Tokić who won two Bronze medals at the European Championships in Gdansk finished third in the final standings with 104 points.

By Nina Jelenc

Canoeing: Jon Schofield Enjoying a Stroke of Fortune

THE lake at Dorney is a tranquil place. The lagoon beside the Thames glints in the early morning winter sun, enjoyed by waterfowl and a few dog walkers, but little disturbs its still dark water.

Until the paddlers get to work, that is. Then this man-made, arrow-straight stretch of water becomes a churning, frantic sea of flashing blades and brightly coloured torpedoes.

This is the Olympic home of British flat-water canoeing and rowing where next summer medals will be expected on a daily basis. None more so than from the kayak pair of Jon Schofield and Liam Heath in the 200metres – the fastest sprint on water.

Their union came about almost by chance. Schofield, 26, from Clitheroe, was a former white-water canoe slalom world No1 who had failed to qualify for Beijing in the longer-distance sprint events. Heath, 27, from Guildford, put his paddling on hold to complete a degree in design and technology until three years ago when he decided to give London his best shot.

What brought the two together was the decision in 2009 to include the short 200m event in the Olympics for the first time at London, a distance made for both men.

The coaches at British canoeing tried various pairings to see which was best suited and, overnight, Heath (he sits in the front) and Schofield had a new lease of life.

In their first season together they won two World Cup events and also the European Championships. Last year they retained their European crown and took silver in the World Championships. This summer, the podium beckons.



Current Men’s K1 world Champion Peter Kauzer (SLO) is Slovenia’s Sportsman of the Year.

"I was lucky enough to find a K2 partner who was in exactly the same position as myself and within two years we have really crept up the world rankings and tried to make the boat our own."

The other kayak events over 500m and 1,000m are a pleasure you are barely able to breathe for the first 50m as the resistance is so high, breathing is like lifting a weight," said Schofield.

"The synchronicity in a team is gold dust, that is what we have as a pair and that makes life a lot easier."

-Jon Schofield (GBR)

"You just want to maintain good tension through your body to get the boat up and running. After that you get into a rhythm, but basically you just go as hard as you can from the start and in the last 50m you are just holding on. The person who slows down the least wins. I was feeling quite ill after the World Championships because I had a really big oxygen debt.

"The synchronicity in a team is gold dust, that is what we have as a pair and that makes life a lot easier.

"We are equal partners and similar characters, but Liam is in front so I follow what he does and he is an incredibly consistent sort of character, which is what you need. You don't want things to be changing.

"The one at the front sets the pace and the one behind copies. It would go downhill fast if the one behind tried to lead, you can't do it. You have to have faith that the one in the front is doing the right thing." By finishing second in the World Championships, Heath and Schofield qualified the boat for the Olympics, but now they have to make sure they are the pair sitting in it by winning the trials in April.

Barring injury, that should be a formality, but there will be no let-up in the exhaustive training schedules at Dorney, a 2,200m lake created at a cost of £17million by Eton College, but widely used by rowers from less privileged backgrounds.

"We come down here in all conditions; a lot of wet, windy, cold days," said Schofield.

"Sometimes we have not been able to get out because the lake is frozen so we go running instead. We come down two times in the morning and again in the afternoon. It is a fairly tough regime.

"Like all competitors, we like the sun on our backs, but if the weather is not great for the Olympics it will not bother us. It might even upset a few of our competitors – our friends from Down Under might be a bit perturbed. For us it would just be water off a duck's back." The ducks down at Lake Dorney would not disagree.

By Colin Bateman
Olympics Correspondent

Hank headlines Dusi qualifier



Hank McGregor will head up a powerful entry for Gauteng's major Dusi qualifier.

"For the first time, the much talked about pairing of Hank McGregor and Len Jenkins will be seen in action, combining the current world champion and double Dusi title holder with the enigmatic Jenkins, who still holds two Dusi stage records."

- Hank McGregor (RSA)

Centurion - With just a month to go to the Unlimited Dusi canoe marathon, world marathon champion Hank McGregor will head up a powerful entry for Gauteng's major Dusi qualifier, the Best 4 Healthcare Rietvlei Rumble, now the regions richest one-day paddling race.

As Dusi fever begins to sweep into every corner of the country, some of the country's best paddlers have entered the Best 4 Healthcare Rietvlei Rumble which will be staged in a unique format that intersperses fast dam racing with some tough portages through the pristine grasslands on the banks of the dam.

For the first time, the much talked about pairing of Hank McGregor and Len Jenkins will be seen in action, combining the current world champion and double Dusi title holder with the enigmatic Jenkins, who still holds two Dusi stage records.

Also on the start line will be fellow team-mates in the new pro outfit Team Best 4 Kayak Centre, Dusi defending champions Andy Birkett and Jason Graham, the livewire Under 23 giant-killers Kwanda Mhlope and Lance Kime and former Under 23 world champ Brandon van der Walt with his partner Clinton Cook, and the local rising star Gavin Shuter with his Gauteng colleague Alex Roberts.

Topping the women's field will be season-pace-setters from Howick, the twins Abby and Alex Adie who are being touted as hot favourites to scoop the Dusi title in February, despite pressure from the recently announced pairing of Robyn Kime and Abbey Ulansky.

The 30km race starts at 7am on Saturday morning and will consist of three fast laps totalling 10km, followed by a 6,3km portage through the Rietvlei reserve on road and mountainbike trails, then two laps covering 6,6km on the dam that leads to the second 3,5km portage that climbs to the top of the nearby hill before returning to Rietvlei dam for the final 3,3km paddle to the finish.

The organisers at Centurion Canoe Club have committed to a cut-off of 130 paddlers, ensuring compliance with the agreement for the use of the ecologically sensitive Rietvlei Reserve area. In addition, participants will be obliged to ensure that there is no waste from discarded drinking bottles and energy gel sachets.

This race is one of three races designed to give Gauteng Dusi hopefuls plenty of opportunity to secure a good seeding for the three day race that starts in Pietermaritzburg on 16 February.

The influx of Dusi stars this week will have added spin-offs for the local Dusi hopefuls, as they will hold a special pre-Dusi seminar and question-and-answer session at the Rietvlei clubhouse after their weekly Thursday time trial, which is open to all registered paddlers. Participation in the time trial requires paddlers to wear lifejackets.

Szab ó honour a tribute to work of club

POVERTY Bay Kayaking Club coach and national K2 coach András Szab ó says his Hungarian person of the month award is a huge honour not only for himself but the club and Gisborne.

"I am the one with a brick with my name on it in Magyar Millennium Park in Wellington but it's more a recognition of what everyone at the club has achieved rather than an individual award," said Szab ó , coach of Gisborne's Olympic kayaking hopeful, Darryl Fitzgerald.

All those at the club — coaches, paddlers supporters and sponsors — had worked hard to make it one of the strongest kayaking clubs in the country, he said.

That said a lot, considering the size of the population.

"At last year's nationals we had 95 placings, including national and Oceania champions — Darryl, in the K2 1000 metres with Steven Ferguson, and Jasper Bats, in the under-23 K1 1000m.

"Darryl is off to Auckland this weekend for a week's training camp with Steven.

"I'll be there for the first day, then I am off to Australia for two days before returning.

"After this camp we have another one before the nationals in Rotorua in the middle of February.

"In March, two weeks after the nationals, we're off to the Oceania champs in Australia — where hopefully Darryl and Steven will qualify for the London Olympics."

Szab ó, 35, said he felt honoured that his own efforts had been recognised.

"To come 18,000 kilometres from home and be recognised for helping — along with many others — my adopted community Gisborne is very special," said Szab ó , who will be featured in this month's issue of the Hungarian Word.

"It's a bilingual paper that lets Hungarians living in New Zealand know about their countrymen and women and how they have integrated with New Zealanders and other nationalities.

"The award is organised by the Hungarian consulate, who are very supportive of Hungarians living here.

By John Hill
January 06, 2012



András Szab ó is a Hungarian Kiwi and proud of it. Szab ó was named Hungarian person of the month in New Zealand

OLYMPICS: LONDON TO OFFER ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

The city hotels offer plenty of rooms, yet the number of visitors will likely climb much higher. For that reason, several clever alternatives have been introduced which will hopefully cater for all.

Homestay accommodation will provide a unique chance to properly feel local color and perhaps have a different insider's London experience. An interesting option is the Campinmygarden initiative; Londoner's who own gardens simply offer their land for reasonable rent.

The Camping and Caravanning Club will also open several provisional sites, some of which will in fact be only 10 minutes away from the Olympic village. The company London Wicked Campervans also features motorhomes for rent which are both an ideal means of transport and a place to stay. These represent the cost-effective options which will hopefully appeal to many visitors and complement the 100,000 hotel rooms available in the city.

Olympic fans that have not been fortunate enough as to get the tickets will not miss out on anything. A great number of cultural, artistic as well as sporting events will be taking place throughout the year.

Furthermore, Essex will host the mountain bike contest, football matches will be hosted in Coventry, Manchester and Newcastle, Weymouth will feature sailing events and the canoe slalom will lure fans to the Lee Valley. Also, big screens will be scattered all over the country to make sure no one misses the games.

Tourism Review.Com
January 9, 2012



The Camping and Caravanning Club will also open several provisional sites, some of which will in fact be only 10 minutes away from the Olympic village.

Dawning of Dorney

WITH just over six months to go until the Olympic Games, Dorney Lake is almost ready to host the rowing and canoe sprint competitions.

The 2,200m course, which belongs to Eton College, will see 798 athletes take part in 26 events between July 28 and August 11.

Many of the rowers will be members of Henley's Leander Club.

The eight-lane rowing course will also be the venue for the Paralympic Games rowing events, which will follow.

The venue has had to undergo major alterations to make it suitable for the London Olympics.

The cost of the work was estimated at £13million but this figure could reach £50 million just as the overall cost of the Games has risen from the original price tag of £2.5billion to £9.5billion.

The enhancements include the creation of a separate return lane and cut-throughs between the main lake and the return lake for competitors to move between the two and the installation of a 50m bridge over a widened entrance to the return lake for vehicles and pedestrians and a new bridge over one of the cut-throughs. To facilitate these works, the access road to the venue was upgraded.

Millions of pounds have been spent laying two sets of fibre optic communication cables instead of one in case there is a fault. One is linked to Maidenhead and the other to Burnham.

The construction of the spectator grandstands will begin in March.

One of the biggest challenges facing the organisers is getting 30,000 spectators on and off the site. The public grandstand will cater for 16,000 and there will be 10,000 "roving" tickets and 4,000 members of the "Olympic family" — athletes, their families, VIPs and members of the International Federation of Rowing Associations.

The lake, which is 25 miles from London and 15 miles from Henley, is in an isolated setting near a number of small villages.

Ivor Lloyd, managing director of Dorney Lake Services, said there was "no way" the crowds could access the lake by road, adding: "It's absolutely rural."

There will be no public transport to the site. All spectators will travel to Windsor racecourse on buses from a number of park-and-ride centres.

Security checks will be carried out before people are allowed to walk to the lake using a temporary bridge over the River Thames.

Henley Standard
January 17, 2011

To read full article visit
<http://www.henleystandard.co.uk/news/news.php?id=1034996>



The public grandstand will cater for 16,000 and there will be 10,000 "roving" tickets and 4,000 members of the "Olympic family"

Jackson Kayaks Introduces JKTV

JKTV is the latest in a long line of online productions from the first family of paddling. For decades Eric Jackson along with his wife Kristine, his daughter Emily and son Dane have inspired boaters on waterways throughout the country along the way boosting their company Jackson Kayak. Quick to pick up on emerging technology the Jacksons have always shared their adventures over the Internet.

"We have been doing YouTube videos for a long time," said Eric "EJ" Jackson in a recent email exchange. "And it works really well for us getting the message out on new products, for branding, and yes, developing an audience."

In kayaking the Jacksons are ambassadors of their sport. They've also worked at raising the level of enthusiasm among new paddlers and experts alike. Online videos are a big part of Jackson Kayak's brand development strategy. And EJ said JKTV is the next step in bringing his company's culture and character to a new group of viewers.

"JKTV was created to take advantage of our in-house capabilities with my son-in-law Nick Troutman and my son Dane," he said. Their filming, editing, and media skills have developed well beyond the "home video" style YouTube stuff."

It's the production value of JKTV that makes this program truly worthwhile. With live-action shot on location at exotic paddling spots the show has the feel of a travel log. Extremely well edited and scored with just the right mix of music it's a pleasure to watch despite plenty of product placements. Not to be confused for an infomercial JKTV is sparse on the sales pitch but rich in compelling content. The show offers a good combination of humor and practical instruction to inspire paddlers of all interests and abilities.

"It is all part of a broader picture being painted by Jackson Kayak, encompassing a variety of paddling styles (exploring, freestyle, river running, creeking, casual recreation, and kids)," EJ said. "A video magazine online is a big project, but will be a main tool for Jackson Kayak marketing going forward."

Watch JKTV Episode 1 on YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/embed/8UjEpAJPL0>



JKTV was created to take advantage of our in-house capabilities



We have been doing YouTube videos for a long time, and it works really well for us getting the message out on new products, for branding, and yes, developing an audience.

December ICF Athlete of the Month Cesar Ernesto de Cesare (ECU)



Athlete quote:

"This medal is the most important achievement of my career, and it means a lot, because I wanted to go to a Pan Am Games for almost 20 years. I felt this time that many people and institutions trusted my abilities and knew I was capable of winning a medal, so I had to respond."

- K1 200m Pan-American Games Champion Cesar Ernesto de Cesare (ECU)

Upcoming Events

2012 Canoe Slalom New Zealand Open (NZL)	28 –29 Jan
17th International Regatta of Pas de Calais (FRA)	29-29 Jan
2012 African Canoe Slalom Championships (RSA)	03-04 Feb
Int'l Judge Canoe Slalom (JCSL) Examination (RSA)	03-04 Feb
2012 Australian Canoe Slalom Open (AUS)	10-12 Feb
ACC Asian Dragon Boat Championships 2012 (THA)	12-15 Feb

Notice Board

YouTube Videos:

Canoe Sprint & Canoe Slalom season highlights:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwXuAL0rv4g&feature=channel_video_title

Funny season highlights:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGiQtxv2jpQ>

ICF Media thanks all the contributors to The-Hub. If you have an article that you would like to be included in upcoming editions please submit it to media@canoeicf.com.