

29-4 World Championships, Siracusa

DRAGON BOAT RACING

May

- 1 Crosby, N
- 8 Chester
- 15 Portsmouth
- 22 Himley
- 29 Stockton, N
- 29 Chatham
- 30 Sherborne

June

- 4 L Lomond
- 5 Leith
- 5 Preston
- 5 Taunton
- 11 Grafham
- 11 Pangbourne
- 12 Wraysbury, N
- 12 Chicester
- 12 Scarborough
- 19 Eastleigh
- 25 Leeds
- 26 Swindon

July

- 1-3 Auronzo
- 2 St Neots, N
- 2 Llanberis
- 2 Wirral
- 3 Shrewsbury
- 3 Woking
- 10 Fairlop
- 10 Poole
- 10 York

- 17 London, N
- 17 Kingston
- 24 Winchester
- 29-31 12th European Nations Championships, Roma**

- 31 Sunderland
- 31 Warrington

August

- 6 Bath
- 14 Nottingham, N
- 14 Falmouth
- 27 Arundel
- 28 Shoreham
- 29 Chipstead

September

- 3 Bristol
- 3 Largs
- 4 Abingdon
- 4 Tilgate
- 8-11 ICF Club Crew World Championships, Moskva
- 10 Bewl
- 11 Worcester, N
- 11 Stratford-upon-Avon
- 11 Tonbridge
- 15 Bliss, London
- 17 Europe Corporate Cup, Stoke-on-Trent**

- 17 Jersey
- 24/25 National Cup Finals, Nottingham**

- 25 Exeter

October

- 1 Plymouth
- 2 Brighton

OUTRIGGER

May

- 5-15 World Sp, L Kanawa**

June

- 24-26 Orofero Challenge

July

- 1/2 Mauritius, WC**

- 8-10 Portugal, WC**

- 15/16 La Porquerollaise, Toulon

September

- 11 Ioannideia, Limassol
- 23-25 Ohana Mana Cup, Cagliari
- 29-1 Tahiti, WC**

October

- 1 Dutch Coast, Castricum aan Zee
- 21-23 Breizh, Quiberon

MISCELLANEOUS

May

- 19-22 Keswick Mountain Festival
- 20-22 Poole Harbour Boat Show
- 28-30 Crick Boat Show
- 28-5 National Go Canoeing Week, Scotland

June

- 3-5 Beale Park Boat & Outdoor Show
- 9-11 All Wales Boat Show, Conwy

July

- 15-17 Thames Traditional Boat Festival
- 27-29 IWA Festival of Water, Pelsall

September

- 16-25 Southampton Boat Show

February

- 16-19 Telegraph Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show, London

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Governing body enquiries

Canoeist is the not for profit magazine of Paddlers International and the International Sea Kayak Association. Enquiries to governing bodies and associations should be addressed to them.



Cover: Lucy Perry of Falcon Canoe Club paddling C1 in the Devizes to Westminster Race. She was not to make it beyond Shepperton on what was to prove to be the final day of the race.

Editorial The date of Easter

The proposal of the Church of England to fix the date of Easter for the world has implications for those using tidal waters.

Since the 664 Synod of Whitby Easter has been determined by the phase of the moon, for no obvious religious reason. Hence, tides at Easter have been similar each year, which will no longer be the case if the date is related to the calendar rather than the tides.

One activity which would be hit is Britain's largest canoeing event, the Devizes to Westminster Race, running for nearly 70 years. Senior doubles pick their own start times to try to arrive at Teddington to catch the tide at its optimum. Get it wrong and they might as well walk the tideway, as has been done. Typically, crews leave Devizes during the day on Saturday, lose the light lower down the Kennet & Avon Canal, run the Thames at night when conditions are quiet and hit the tideway at dawn, when they are most tired but the daylight raises morale and makes it safer on the most exposed section of the course. In future, they might meet heavy washes on the Thames from powered craft during daytime, not least the large washes from the Clipper ferries on the tideway when exhaustion is at its highest, and powered craft will need to watch out for hundreds of racing paddlers.

The singles and juniors take four days in stages, running the last two hours on the tideway on the Monday at dawn and then having most of the day to drive home, perhaps to distant parts of Britain or abroad. The police tend to take a relaxed attitude at that time of day to the hundreds of support vehicles, including their own, which stop on double yellow lines on London bridges as they follow the crews down. Spectators running across bridges as competitors pass under could become much more of a safety issue in the afternoon than it is at breakfast time on Easter Sunday or Monday. Finally, there is the parking at Westminster, not easy at the best of times but likely to be a nightmare with the tourists out in force on a sunny afternoon.

When the university boat race takes place at Easter it avoids all the top canoeing crews, who have already gone past. In future its timing or date might need to be changed to get maximum spectator coverage with the right tidal flows.

A fixed Easter early in April would help set everything from school term lengths to the start of the serious house buying season so we are relatively unimportant but we will be affected.

Stuart Fisher