

25TH LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL CANOE POLO TOURNAMENT 2014

This year was going to be special. This was the 25th Canoe Polo Tournament the club has hosted and it was time to celebrate this milestone. Planning started late 2013 with meetings with Liverpool Leisure Services and Landowners working together to help make the Waterfront Festival the best ever. The planning was overseen by the competition committee with an ambition to have 5 pitches, inclusion of all abilities in canoe polo and provision for the wellbeing of the paddlers and their supporters over the weekend. A special Anniversary trophy would also be sourced.

Those in the know with up to date technology predicted a rainy weekend - How wrong technology can be- we had a scorcher and some scorched more than others!!!

The week started with Mike, Kartik and Graham setting up the pitches in the Dukes dock. Some hilarity about how this was to be done and within what timescale was challenged with more crew arriving on the Friday to ensure all was ship shape. No relaxing then they had promised Neil (who was sunning himself in Palma) the pitch signs would be ready. So at 6pm there was a rush down to Collingwood to apply the signage, even that turned into a competition more so when Neil was spotted coming to inspect the work. While this was going on the campers were arriving at SFX and thanks to Ruth and Shivan they were given a warm welcome.

The Saturday started for the club at 5.30 to be down at the dockside for 6.30 for a lesson in rapid tent erection. With the good teams we had all tents were up by 7 and the refreshment tent up and running by 7.30. A team of non-paddlers have to be applauded the way they catered and

provided for all eventualities - ice packs to homemade cakes, lost property to cheerleading. The games all started on time thanks to FOA referees taking the whistle on all pitches. Mark, Linsey and Ian were at the ready to collect, process and display updated scores throughout the weekend.

The FOACC teams included 2 teams under 18, a Boys team and a Girls team in Class 4, and 2 teams in Class 1. The day brought about many emotions and characteristics not witnessed before!! And certainly not off the pitch - what happens to them when they get in that boat with the Liverbird on !!!!?

With our own club and specially Class 1 revelling in the use of our Shot Clock it is fair to say not all saw it as a benefit - but fair play was the game. As usual referring decisions were challenged and discussed until the sun went down. Thanks must go to Ian and Keith for their knowledge and design expertise the first Shot Clock owned by a British Club and envied by many other clubs.

Saturday night saw a close at a reasonable time which then saw the Tournament team disassemble the event only to re-erect the following morning. The paddlers on the campsite were provided with TV coverage of the England team game from the club house, a ploy many were hoping for some overindulgence to start at an advantage on the Sunday morning, no way they all appeared full of fight and flight down those pitches. The Waterfront crowds joined in and enthusiastically tried to learn the game on the spot.

With many paddlers and supporters praising the work of the preparation and provision for this year's tournament being the best it all seemed well worth it. The paddlers from the 5 pitches graciously awaited the trophy ceremony in front of the Echo arena and Wheel on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The Club were proud to have the Liverpool's Cabinet Minister of Culture and Tourism Wendy Simon to present the awards this year.

The Youth trophy was presented to FOACC under 18 Boys Team,

The Ladies trophy presented to FOACC under 18 Girls Team.

The first Anniversary trophy was awarded to Dragon after a thrilling performance in Division 1.

Some got trophies but we were all winners with a lovely weekend and many many thanks to the Waterfront events Team and Landowners for supporting the 25th Liverpool International. A Special and Sincere Thanks must go to the FOACC Volunteers who have worked for months to prepare and many hours to deliver the best yet



Ladies Trophy
Winners 2014
FOACC Girls





FOACC Class 1
Teams A and B



Youth Trophy
Winners 2014



FOACC Boys