



# New Zealand Canoe Polo Quarterly Newsletter

## South Island Secondary School Champs

With 8 schools entering a total of 16 teams, the 2014 SISS championships was the biggest ever event since it started being run 5 years ago.

The sport has shown development over the past few years with more numbers competing especially in the junior open event. Tournament team members were given a letter informing them of people to contact in their area and events available to them to expand their participation in the sport. Schools currently not competing on the national scene were approached and interest gained ahead of summer and national competitions.

The SISS organizers would like to thank the Invercargill Licensing Trust and the Southland Canoe Club for sponsoring the event. Also thank you to Polomania and JC Polo for donating spot prizes for the event.

Full results can be found on the NZCPA facebook page and will soon be available on the website.

## Horowhenua u15 Tournament

HCP held their regular Novice tournament with 14 x U14 teams in Levin on 4th October. This tournament was set up a number of years ago to introduce younger kids to tournament play. The overriding idea behind the tournament is that they have fun doing it and want to do more. It was heart warming to talk to the Otaki girls team who didn't win a game in the whole day, at the end of the day they were still fizzing at the bung about it and wanted more. This year the behaviour of all kids and parents made it a pleasure to run. There were a number of opportunities where some could have spit the dummy and didn't so good on you all for behaving in the spirit of the day.

While winning is not the main goal but there were winners: Girls The Hurrikets ran out easy winners over Nua, 5 v 2. In the Open The Feilding Last Chance Boys beat last year's girls winners the Gaztecs, 6 v 3, after a draw in round robin.

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## Whistle stop tour of France

Hopefully everyone reading this will be aware of the recent World Championships in France. I'm sure you can find the results online and watch the games on youtube – every single one!

Andi Fear-Ross and I were lucky enough to be invited as referees. We joined pretty diverse group of about 30 other refs from around the world lead by Duncan Cochrane. They are a bunch of characters that are great to get to know.

Our initial duties included overseeing the equipment scrutineering. You'd be amazed at the contrast in the condition of teams gear. Some teams like GB sailed through effortlessly while others had an incredibly stressful experience replacing bumpers, facemasks, recovering boats (yes – they have to be the same colour....!) Not what you want the day before a major competition.

And then there were the boat issues. It became evident that some boats were pretty marginal with regard some of the dimensions (which are a bit beyond me). This led to a group of refs pretty intensely scrutineering the dimensions of models of all types of boats. The result was in one estimate that probably ~450 of the over 600 boats being technically illegal – whatever the actual number, expect to see a big shake-up very soon with regard boats. NZ manufacturers were certainly not immune to these issues.

On to the games – 5-6 games/day for 5 days, how hard can it be? Pretty blimmin tiring! Generally we'd leave for the venue ~7.30 am and return back well after 7pm (second day last games started 7.20pm!). That wasn't the end though as there would still be refs meetings and discussions or

controversies...!

We both got to ref some diverse games – the score in one I remember was 20 something to 4 or thereabouts. That's hard work, as to quote Duncan – to those teams, those games are just as important as the more fiercely contested ones – you still have to do a good job. We also both got far more challenging and high profile games to ref which was great – refing any game involving France in front of a vocal crowd of many many thousands of French supporters is really an experience – hard work trying to blow the whistle LOUD!!!!

Andi was great to be there with. When we decided something needed to change / happen we'd send her in to tell people how it was going to be (discussion not required!) and we'd be her backup – job done!

Refing at Worlds is a great experience. They are always wanting more good referees and there really are some fantastic people out there around the world. You'll need to get your ICF qualifications, which should be attainable by any decent experienced NZ regional referee. Then you'll need to work hard and get yourself known.

I believe there are some rule changes coming in for 2015 – I'm aware of some signal changes and also some restart after goal changes – don't know the details though – expect some announcements from ICF in the coming months. The days of the chicken-wing might be numbered!

Sean Thomson  
NZCPA Referee Director



## Central In-House Tournament

16 Girls and 26 Boys attended the In-House weekend this year, and while the players who had been to Worlds (and didn't they do well?) this year didn't attend don't for one moment think the intensity and passion was missing because believe me it wasn't. Along with the younger players, 8 vets joined in and all 8 coaches played. Many of the youth got to play with the adults.

The weekend started with drills and getting set into teams, each team being appointed a coach. The first round robin was each team played with their coach on the water with them. The second for the girls were we put a couple of lads in each team. The 3rd was the ranking RR and finals.

### Results

#### Guys

1st Team Carl  
2nd Team JD  
3rd Team Nevan  
4th Team Jayden  
5th Team Dusty

#### Girls

Team Frosty  
Team Robin/Max  
Team Pete

We were very please that Matt from Auckland came along as we had opened up the entry this year.

I have been involved in Central for many years now and what keeps me involved is everyone's willingness to share their expertise with our up and coming players and each other. I know when most people return from Worlds the last thing they want to do is get into a boat so soon (2 weeks) yet Carl, Nevan and Dusty did just that and shared their experiences with the youth along with Jayden and JD who have represented NZ in the recent past. These 5 senior men are a awesome coaching presence.

Nor did the girls miss out as Frosty, Robin and Pete were their coaches and all of whom had been representatives and brought a wealth of polo experience and passion to the event.

Many thanks must go to Lynne and to Donna and Anita who were there and the later two didn't have a relative involved - that is dedication!

Michael Beauchamp who set up the pool on the Friday before shooting up to Palmy to help Robin (his son) move; to be back by 4 to supplement the refing, keep the clock going and generally doing what Michael does best, support polo and it's players.

This year we also had many parents come and stay to watch their children play and all offered support, the attached photo's were taken by Ainsley Massrotto. Russel Bacon, refed and found time to design the tournament team certificate. Both Polo Mania and JC Polo were represented and the players got to try boats and paddles etc.

I had a great time, my thanks to all involved.  
Penny - CCPA Squad Manager

## Paddle Ferns



The New Zealand Women's Canoe Polo team the Paddle Ferns have just returned home from their 2014 World Championships campaign in France where they finished in 4th place.

The team set off on tour at the start of September competing in three lead up competitions in the Netherlands, France and Belgium where they placed 3rd, 1st and 1st respectively.

The 2014 Canoe Polo World Championships were held from the 24 – 28 September in Thury-Harcourt in the Normandy region of France. The Paddle Ferns world championships competition started with some tough pool games against Denmark, Italy and Poland with the team successfully coming through 1st in their pool.



Round two resulted in a draw to the Netherlands, a win against Switzerland and a loss to Great Britain, leaving the Paddle Ferns tied on points with the Dutch. As the teams were also equal on goals for and against a re-match was needed to decide on who would get the semi-final position, a rare situation! Cheered on by the many New Zealand supporters the team secured the last semi-final spot beating the Dutch 4-2.

This meant a Germany New Zealand semi-final. The Paddle Ferns played a disciplined game taking the lead in the second half however the Germans showed their experience equalising the game in the final minutes to take the game into golden goal extra time, where the Germans came away with the win.



The team's final game was against the French, who played strongly in front of a very large home crowd with a final score of 6-3 to the French.

Although disappointed with the end result the team played well to maintain their 4th standing in the world in a very tight competition.

The Men's team the Paddle Blacks finished 7th a fantastic result in such a tough men's division. Both under 21 teams performed strongly with the men placing 4th and the women gaining a spot on the podium taking home bronze.

Tania Dugdale – NZ Paddle Ferns Captain

## Women's World Championship Campaign

After 9 months of anticipation, 4 training camps, a New Zealand National League competition, selection of players to the New Zealand Women's Teams, 2 more training camps, team building exercises and lots of organising behind the scenes, the New Zealand Paddle Ferns and the New Zealand Under 21 Women's Team were ready to head to Europe on a 3 week build up to the Canoe Polo World Championships at Thury-Harcourt France.

Leaving New Zealand on the 2nd of September we arrived in the Netherlands on the 3rd September, ready for our first build up competition, the ECA Cup at Groningen on the 6th & 7th. Despite having just travelled half way around the world and being jetlagged the Paddle Ferns finished with a credible 3rd place, we looked forward to our next competition a week later - the Breizh Cup in Acigne France, results were awesome with the Paddle Ferns finishing in 1st Place and the U21s taking out 2nd place, an outstanding result and a very proud moment for Nick and I to see our 2 teams on the podium. Heading to Belgium to play at the Poppies Pre World Tournament a week later, once again the results were outstanding with the Paddle Ferns once again taking out the top honors and the U21s placed 2nd. During this time both teams focused on team combinations, team morale and building a positive team culture. We were amped and ready heading to Thury-Harcourt for the World Champs. As expected the World Championships were huge, the people of Thury-Harcourt had certainly promoted the competition well and the stadium was filled to capacity most days (a cutoff point of 10 thousand people allowed in to the venue), with mainly parochial flag waving, chanting French supporters, followed closely by the Germans and Polish. In all it was a tough round robin process for both teams, in particular the Paddle Ferns had to fight hard to work their way to play offs with an extra game against a very strong Netherlands team that was even with us on points. The Under 21 Team eventually played off for 3rd and 4th Place against the Great Britain Team - winning to take out the Bronze Medal in their grade, the fine coaching skills of Nick Burnett and the confidence and cool demeanor of the U21s certainly came to the fore, my congratulations to the "Team" for their great result. The Paddle Ferns played Germany the 2013 World Champs to see who would go through to the final play-offs. At full-time in this hard fought game the score was a draw, unfortunately in extra time golden goal, the Germans scored first, leaving us to face the French Team for the 3rd and 4th play off, this was always going to be a big ask, having to play the French and the capacity crowd of mainly French supporters, leaving us with a very credible 4th place out of the 20 countries competing in the woman's grade for the 2014 World Championship competition.

A huge thank you to those that helped the New Zealand Paddle Ferns and New Zealand U21 Women's Team to the Canoe Polo World Championships at Thury-Harcourt France, this includes all of those that got involved at a squad level, helpers, managers, trainers, specialist coaches, supporters, parents, partners, and sponsors. Special thanks to Nick Burnett and Nichole Saunders and a very big thank you to our Head Manager Jane Bertelsen who has been quietly working behind the scenes for the past 9 months to make sure that we were all well looked after.

## Rolling lessons with Sarah

Christchurch is an area where Canoe polo is growing quickly amongst the schools. There is great access to an outdoor venue of two courts. However, after the earthquakes it has been difficult to find any indoor venue to play in. This has resulted in the many of school players never learning to roll as it was difficult to teach in the lake.

South Island School champs was not far away so I decided that teaching them how to roll would be really beneficial to their on water confidence and ongoing development in the sport.

My world campaign was also not far off and I was struggling to fund it at this point so it was a great way to fundraise and help the school kids.

There was a lot of interest from the children and their families to get involved, the spots were booked out within two days of releasing the information so I had to hire the pool for longer to fit everyone who was interested in.

There was 35 participants that were involved in up to four water sessions at Wharenui Pool. They received 1 on 1 time with an experienced Canoe polo player. I was supported by a great team of talented volunteers who gave up a lot of their time and effort to help and would not have been possible without them. Because of them 20 of the children successfully rolled and for those who didn't were very close and now have the knowledge to continue to practice and learn.

NZCPA supported me by covering the cost of the pool hire which made a big difference to my fundraising. Mainland Canoe Polo Club also gave me a discount in the gear hire and was very supportive in supplying a trailer. This initiative was very good for the development of Canoe polo in Christchurch and I hope to be involved in many more.

Sarah Ralton  
NZ u21 Women's Team



## Sophie Winton

### What was your most memorable moment on the water?

Probably getting on the pitch for the third and fourth final and being gittery and getting my paddle stuck on the bridge and then seeing how many people were watching and hoping that nobody noticed haha

### What about off the water?

The first time seeing Thury Harcourt and seeing how much effort and support this little town was giving our sport! They had kayaks hanging up everywhere and goals attached to houses. It was just cool.

### Leading up to the World Champs, how much time did you spend training per week?

I aimed to be training at least 14 hours a week. Two trainings a day comprised of x fit, long paddle, sprints, run, polo games, skills and yoga.

### Quote from the ICF Interview:

"My girls started the competition as the underdogs, said Sophie Winton, captain of the kiwis. "We're a new team and being here in these surroundings in France, winning the bronze medal, with so much pressure, is just amazing. The crowd was so loud I kept telling myself, there is no sound, it's alright. We're happy we played our best game today, it was the game that counted. In Europe the teams have so many tournaments throughout the year compared to us, we've got less than five. In the end it was a great experience."



## New Zealand Canoe Polo Association

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*"To promote and encourage all aspects of Canoe Polo in New Zealand for the future of the sport and its participants"*

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## NZCPA Website

Back in June the NZCPA website ran into a few issues. It crashed and had some 'technical difficulties'. NZCPA would like to thank Mike Taylor (Blossom) for his tireless efforts in getting the website back up and running. Mike worked on this for months before he went to the World Championships in France to fulfill his coaching duties.

Mike designed the new look of the NZCPA website and does all the behind the scenes maintenance, and it is purely on a voluntary basis. So thank you Mike.

Unfortunately with this crash the website seems to have lost most of the current information. We will be working on getting this up to date in the coming weeks, so please be patient.

As a reminder the website will hold news items, as well as all of the official documents. So the website will be the place to go if you are after any of this information. The facebook page is a 'nice to have' where we can include interesting information but any official information will be housed on the website and linked from the facebook page.

If you ever have any feedback or ideas on how to improve the NZCPA communications please feel free to contact our communications director Brenda Clayton on [BrendaClayton009@gmail.com](mailto:BrendaClayton009@gmail.com)

## Oceania 2015

The 2015 Oceania Canoe Polo Championships (April 9-11) will be held at the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre, Nagambie, Victoria.

The Nagambie Lake Regatta Centre was established in 2000, with the aim of becoming the premier water sports venue in Victoria.

Categories include men's and women's under 15, under 18, under 21, senior, over 35 and over 45.

With the Julian Carter cup being lost to Australia for the first time in 4 years I am sure that the NZ teams will be training and playing hard to get it back.

Before long your clubs will receive information on Oceania including trials, this information will also be available on the NZCPA website and facebook page. In the meantime make use of this stunning spring weather and get paddling!



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