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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
FESTIVAL 2022

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WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to Nottingham for the 2022 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships, in partnership with Direct Business Solutions.

The global pandemic caused a delay for the World Championships so it is particularly pleasing to be able to welcome our elite freestyle athletes to these championships. We are absolutely delighted at the number of countries represented and the number of athletes entered.

The delays and frustration have simply raised our determination to make these a Championships to remember. We have taken the opportunity to make this a festival of paddling with the World Championships at the centre. Our local community partners have given us their support to ensure that it will be a fitting setting for our athletes so I would like to thank Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council and Serco.

The new feature will be a testing setting for the competition and will bring out the best in our competitors. It is a fitting addition on this 50th anniversary of the park. It was built during 1970 and 1971 and hosted its first world championships in 1972.

British Canoeing Events Ltd, our delivery subsidiary, has managed the whole process and deserve our

commendation along with our staff, organising committee and volunteer community for bringing this to fruition. I would also like to thank our sponsors.

This championship is part of our commitment to host more international events on behalf of the global paddling community through the International Canoe Federation (ICF). These championships will also be our first under the new President of the ICF, Thomas Konietzko. We extend a warm welcome to Thomas and look forward to working with him as he shapes our sport's future.

The centre of our attention for this week will be the athletes and we wish them every success, and leave Nottingham with fond memories of a great Championships.

Very best wishes and good luck to you all.

Prof John Coyne CBE
British Canoeing Chair



COMPETITION SCHEDULE

MONDAY 27 JUNE

Prelims: Women's Squirt, Men's Squirt, Women's C1, Open Canoe, Junior Women's K1

TUESDAY 28 JUNE

Prelims: Men's K1
Semi Finals: Women's C1, Women's Squirt, Men's Squirt

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE

Prelims: Men's C1, Women's K1
Semi Finals: Open Canoe
Finals: Women's Squirt, Men's Squirt

THURSDAY 30 JUNE

Prelims: Junior Men's K1
Quarter Finals: Women's K1, Men's K1
Finals: Open Canoe
Masters World Championships

FRIDAY 1 JULY

Semi Finals: Men's C1, Women's K1, Men's K1, Junior Women's K1, Junior Men's K1
Finals: Women's C1, Men's C1
Masters World Championships

SATURDAY 2 JULY

Finals: Junior Women's K1, Junior Men's K1, Women's K1, Men's K1
Masters World Championships
Closing Ceremony & Party

FESTIVAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY 28 - WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE • Flatwater Freestyle

FRIDAY 1 JULY • World's Biggest Loop

SATURDAY 2 JULY • Syncro Freestyle

SATURDAY 2 JULY • Rough Waters SUP

VENUE MAP



SPECTATOR SEATING



SPECTATOR INFORMATION & FESTIVAL REGISTRATION



PADDLER TOILETS & CHANGING ROOMS



LOST CHILD



PUBLIC TOILETS & CHANGING ROOMS



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FIRST AID

MEET THE BRITISH TEAM

A 28-strong British squad is competing in Nottingham across nine events, find out who's representing GB freestyle this World Championships.

SENIOR MEN'S

James Bebbington
Toby Marlow
Robert Crowe
Harry Price
Gav Barker



JUNIOR MEN'S

Ben Higson
James Ward
Timmy Hill



SENIOR WOMEN'S

Ottilie Robinson Shaw
Emma Witherford
Jennifer Leal
Lowri Davies
Heidi Walsh
Kim Aldred



JUNIOR WOMEN'S

Niamh Macken
Poppy Ward
Issie Wormald



WOMEN'S SQUIRT

Ottilie Robinson-Shaw
Tamsyn McConchie
Layla Al-Riyami



MEN'S C1

Adam Ramadan
Matt Stephenson
James Ibbotson



MEN'S SQUIRT

Alex Edwards
Jamie Austen
Sam Wilson



OC1

Chris Noble
Connor Proud



WOMEN'S C1

Ottilie Robinson-Shaw
Tamsyn McConchie
Becky Green



Head to the Canoe Freestyle Official website to find full bios on the team!

britishcanoeingevents.org.uk/freestyle2022/meet-the-british-team/

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INTRODUCTION TO FREESTYLE

Freestyle is a discipline of whitewater kayaking or canoeing where the paddler performs various technical moves in one place (a stopper or wave), as opposed to downriver whitewater canoeing or kayaking where the objective is to travel the length of a section of river.

The moves and tricks are often similar to those performed by snowboarders, surfers or skaters, where the athlete completes spins, flips, turns, etc. With modern freestyle kayaks it is possible to get the kayak and the paddler completely airborne while performing tricks.

YOUR GUIDE TO CANOE FREESTYLE MOVES

Whilst you're watching the World Championships, we thought we'd give you an insight into some of the canoe freestyle moves you're likely to see out on the Nottingham waters at the National Water Sports Centre in June 2022.

If you're new to the world of freestyle, you might be forgiven for thinking you'd misheard the commentator at the event. "Lunar Orbits and Tricky Woos did she say?"

So we asked GB Freestyler James Ibbotson to break down some of the featured canoe freestyle moves you can look out for at the 2022 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships.

CANOE FREESTYLE MOVES TO LOOK OUT FOR:

THE MCNASTY

The McNasty is a move that involves half a spin straight into a front flip (or loop), and is one of the staple moves that most freestyle paddlers can perform.

When done right it is far from nasty. This is a trick that offers up lots of points in a competition, and a strong sense of satisfaction when pulled off right.

LUNAR ORBIT

What on earth does the moon flying around have to do with freestyle kayaking? Well it is a trick that you see being thrown by many freestylers. Spinning around on the back of the boat, finishing with either a backflip or cartwheels.

The first half of the trick, the orbit, has been around for years. In my opinion, this trick looks the best in C1 discipline (using a one bladed paddle while sitting on your knees) but what doesn't?!

BLUNT

This one you do on a wave, bouncing into the air and turning the boat round to be pointing downstream.

This is easily one of the coolest looking moves when you go huge on a giant wave, or throwing it round on a smaller wave. One of the most powerful and explosive moves out there.

TRICKY WOO

Is it tricky? Does it make the crowd go woo? Well kind of. This trick is basically three cartwheel ends where you spin the boat around on each end.

This trick provided me with my favourite pieces of commentary at the Natural Games in France. The French commentator yelled out 'Triiicky WOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!'.
(Note: The original text contains a typo 'Triiicky' which has been corrected to 'Tricky' in this transcription.)

SASQUATCH

Illusive, mysterious, appears out of nowhere? That's the Sasquatch! Ride down the face of the wave, take a bounce and throw your weight back! Top marks if you get over vertical and wet your head!

The best Sasquatch are seen in the Canadian wilderness during stakeout season when the waves are at their biggest! One of the most fun moves to throw and see, they literally come out of nowhere!

These are some of the featured moves you're likely to see in July, but what makes freestyle kayaking so exciting to watch is the number of moves which can score you points during the competition.

Here are a few more moves you're likely to see and hear during the five days of competition:

- **Spin** – A flat 360 rotation. It looks a bit like spinning around on flat water
- **Shuvit** – A 180 spin one way and then 180 back the other way
- **Cartwheel** – A 360 spin with the boat on its end
- **Split wheel** – is half a cartwheel, then a 180 pirouette on the nose, then half a cartwheel on the other side
- **Loop** – is an easy one to identify, as it's a front flip
- **Back loop** – similar, but a backflip instead
- **Space Godzilla** – is a loop with a twist to one side. Like a wonky loop!
- **Phonics Monkey** – a 360 pirouette on the front into a loop



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OTTILIE ROBINSON-SHAW

Top British freestyler Otilie Robinson-Shaw burst onto the international scene as a junior, proving she is one of the best on the planet, winning junior World Championships titles in 2017 and 2019.

Fast forward three years and Otilie is lining up as a senior paddler for her first World Championships. After winning the European Championships in 2021, Otilie comes into the Worlds as British Champion in K1, C1 and squirt boat and is set to take on all three events on her home waters of Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

Otilie epitomises the progressive ladies freestyle movement. With massive moves, especially in the aerial realm, her explosive style, and heart-pounding approach has inspired the new generation of junior freestylers.

Making the step up to the seniors, we caught up with Otilie to see how excited she is to compete in front of a home crowd.



HOW EXCITED ARE YOU TO BE COMPETING ON HOME WATERS IN NOTTINGHAM?

"I'm so excited! I feel with Covid our preparation has been even longer but I feel really prepared and I can't wait to show everyone here what we can do!"

YOU COME INTO THE COMPETITION AS EUROPEAN CHAMPION, HOW SPECIAL DOES THAT MAKE THIS EVENT FOR YOU?

"It was awesome to make the step up into the seniors for the first time after all the junior events and prove that I can do it. I felt like I dominated the juniors for a number of years but now I'm really keen to do the same in the seniors so to win the European Championships has certainly filled me with confidence going into the World Championships."

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PUT DOWN THIS SENIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS?

"I think I am in a really strong position. I've trained so hard in the build up to this competition. I've poured my heart and soul into it to give myself the best chance so hopefully I can pull off the ride of my dreams.."

HOW HAS YOUR PREPARATION BEEN?

"It has been really good from my perspective. It was a hard, long winter but I have really enjoyed it and I have had so much motivation going into this competition."

HOW IS TWIN WAVE LOOKING?

"Twin Wave is looking amazing. We're so lucky to have this course hosting the World Championships and for us British athletes to have home advantage is really exciting. I think the British team is going to have a great Championships."

I actually moved up to Nottingham to get more time on the course in the build up to the Worlds. This was pretty essential for me. My whole life I had been driving three and a half hours each way to train and that just took up more and more time. So to be here constantly saves me loads of time and I love it here!

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT THE EVENT?

"I can't wait to just paddle in front of a home crowd. I really want to put down some awesome rides and hopefully I can get the result I want."

There's so much happening. It got an awesome festival feel to the competition and there is so much to see! It will be awesome for anyone who loves paddling or doesn't know too much about it!

It's really special to me. My family are from Nottingham so it's definitely my second home and I just can't wait."

SPECTATOR ACTIVITIES

As a spectator you'll be able to see the top paddlers in the world competing in the ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships on the course throughout the week, as well as taking part in a whole festival of other competitions and activities taking place for spectators to enjoy.

From junior events to flat water competitions and even a SUP race on the white water course, there really will be something for everyone.

WATER ACTIVITIES

If you want to be active on the water yourself, there are a number of opportunities for you to get involved.

FESTIVAL

If you are a paddler, why not check out the festival events and take part in one of the competitions taking place throughout the week.

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

Schools and community groups can book a session on the water from Monday 27 June – Fri 1 July.



GO PADDLING

On Saturday 2 July, if you like what you see and fancy having a go yourself then head to the lagoon to jump in a kayak or canoe, or have a go on a stand-up paddle board!

The sessions are led by an instructor and participants will be provided with a boat, paddle and buoyancy aid.

We advise people to bring spare clothes with the possibility of getting wet.

If you are keen to take part it is recommended you wear a long sleeve t-shirt or light sweatshirt, lightweight trousers or leggings, and closed toe shoes (no sandals or flip flops). Please note that the minimum age to participate on the water is 8 years old and that all participants are required to remove watches and jewellery, including earrings and nose piercings.

Booking in advance is not required so turn up and have a go!

LAGOON WIPEOUT

It's not paddling but it's still great fun! This is an inflatable obstacle course with slides, climbing walls, balancing beams, demolition balls, humps, basher walls and much more! Take the challenge and race your friends and family! Visit the Holme Pierrepont Country Park Website to book your session.

 <https://www.nwscotts.com/>

LAND ACTIVITIES

At Holme Pierrepont Country Park there are so many activities available for the family to enjoy. These are all available during the event

The activities available include:

- **Sky Trail/Sky Tikes** – This Dual-level adventure high ropes course goes all the way up to 24ft for those with a head for heights and has a special Sky Tykes course at 2ft so spectators of all ages can get involved.
- **Climbing Wall** – Another great activity for people who enjoy heights! Give it a go and climb to the top!
- **Mini Golf** – Challenge the rest of your family, or a group of friends on our 9-hole Mini Golf course.
- **Segway** – Learn how to ride a segway and then take on the course to have a go and explore.
- **Playground** – There's a playground on site so kids can play. There's even a café close by so the grown-ups can enjoy a drink whilst they watch.
- **Country Park** – The whole site is 270 acres so there's plenty of space to enjoy a walk, make the most of the scenery and look for wildlife.

EXPO AREA & COMMUNITY MARKET

Throughout the week, the Expo Area will offer spectators an opportunity to get interact with a number of event partners including charities, sponsors and suppliers.

Saturday 2 July will also see a market with a range of stalls for all the family to enjoy.



THE FEATURE

Rory O'Reilly from Kayak IQ has been reviewing the feature for the World Championship as part of his blog and here's what he found...

IT'S FRIENDLY

Historically, Twin has been known as a powerful, rowdy feature that, if you weren't paying attention, was more than happy to dish out a rough ride. The current configuration is not like that. It has a more mellow character. You don't have to wrestle with it to get where you want to go.

IT HAS GREAT EDDY SERVICE

There is a large eddy downstream on river right with another, smaller one on river left. Both give straight forward access to the hole. Typically, people use the river right eddy for access as you won't catch the other if you flush.

IT'S REALLY DEEP

There is absolutely no way you are going to bottom-out anywhere in this hole. This is one of my favourite aspects of the feature. You can put absolutely everything you've got into a plug and not be worried about damaging your precious, precious carbon. When you get it just right, it serves up some huge air.

THERE'S A PUSH FROM RIGHT TO LEFT

In the pit and in the foam pile, there is a notable push from surfer's right to left. This has become more pronounced as the river level has dropped. It's one of the more unique characteristics of this feature and I believe it will have a significant impact on the type and sequence of tricks people choose for their competition rides come.

WATER LEVEL HAS AN IMPACT

The best reference for the river level on the whitewater course is the Colwick gauge. You can also find it on RiverApp. I first paddled the feature at around the 2 metres mark on this gauge. For context, the course closes to the public at 2.2 metres but it is not uncommon for the river to surpass 3 metres during winter. The level has been dropping daily since my first session and its quality seems to have improved accordingly. The left lateral in particular feels more well-defined and the foam pile seems more consistent. Currently, the level is sitting around 1.3 metres.

EVERY TRICK IS POSSIBLE

By now, I have seen pretty much every trick successfully performed in the Worlds feature. I think most would agree, right-hand moves are easier to set up and stick than left.

IT HAS A RELATIVELY FLAT RAMP

There's not too much else to say about this part. It makes lunar orbit variations quite fun to do. For those who are familiar with Europe's best playspots, it's steeper than Plattling but flatter than Millau.

Having spent the last year travelling around Europe in my van, sampling the best playspots on offer, I can confidently say that this is a world-class feature. It has everything you need to produce spectacular rides. The only question remains, will we see a 2000-point ride happen?

Enjoy your time on the water!




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DANE JACKSON

The Jackson family has established itself as one of the biggest forces in freestyle kayaking. With Eric paving the way through the 90's and 00's, claiming four World Championship titles, founding a boat manufacturer and helping develop some of the sports fundamentals.

His children Emily and Dane followed his lead, taking freestyle by storm as juniors and continuing their prowess into the senior category. Even Emily's husband, Nick Troutman is a World Champion freestyle kayaker. With more medals and trophies that you can shake a leg at, they are definitely a family worth keeping an eye on at this World Championships.

The Jackson that most will be watching is Dane, who with eight gold medals to his name, is one of the hot favourites at any event he turns up to. Also a well accomplished whitewater creek racer, there is not much he cannot do. Dane Jackson has formed his own legacy, becoming one of the kayakers pushing the realms of possibility. Away from freestyle, Dane is opening up many rivers and rapids with his first descents, and breaking records. In 2020 Dane became the first person to kayak off a 134ft waterfall in Chile, attracting the attention of media all around the world.

Focusing back on freestyle, the ICF World Championships are the pinnacle of the freestyle calendar and an event every freestyle kayaker dreams of winning. But with so many titles already under his belt, we caught up with Dane to find out if he is still driven to take more, and what it is he loves about kayaking in Nottingham.

VERY BRIEFLY, WHAT IS YOUR HISTORY WITH THE ICF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS?

"I have been going to the World Championships since 2005, and it's always been an awesome time, win or lose. I have won Men's K1 3 times, Junior Men's K1 1 time, C1 3 times, and Squirt 1 time. I have 9 other medals, my first of which was 3rd place Junior Men in 2007."

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU PADDLED AT NOTTINGHAM BEFORE?

"Just one time! Super stoked to go back, paddle with everyone, and see what kind of feature we are dealing with."

AFTER A LENGTHY BREAK FROM THE ICF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, HOW EXCITED ARE YOU TO GET TO NOTTINGHAM FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT?

"I am very excited, this is going to be a bit different than I have done in the past as I will only be getting a few days beforehand. But in the end I am just excited to get over there and paddle with so many people that I haven't seen in years."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GET TO COMPETE ALONGSIDE YOUR DAD, SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW? AND WHICH ONE IS MOST LIKELY TO BEAT YOU?

"Any of them could pull something out on a given day. My Dad would love nothing more as it's been a few years since he last got the best of me, and Nick has been training super hard so he is paddling really well. I take nothing for granted and we will just have to see what happens."

WHAT WERE YOUR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM LAST TIME YOU CAME?

"I didn't get to do much exploring last time I was there as I only had like 2 days. But I look forward to checking some things out after the event for a day or two. However, I do remember delicious pints and fish and chips, so there's always that!"

WHAT IS THE TOP THING YOU WANT TO DO IN NOTTINGHAM THIS TIME ROUND?

"Win."

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF COMPETING AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS UNTIL YOU SURPASS YOUR DAD'S RECORD OF GOLD MEDALS?

"I'm hoping this will be the one I tie it up, but in the end I won't be stopping competing in the World Championships for a very long time. We shall have to see where we stand at the end."

WHEN YOU AREN'T IN YOUR FREESTYLE BOAT WHAT ARE YOU USUALLY DOING?

"Falling off waterfalls, racing, joy laps of a river, wherever seems best to be at that time."

OFF THE WATER, WHAT DO YOU GET UP TO?

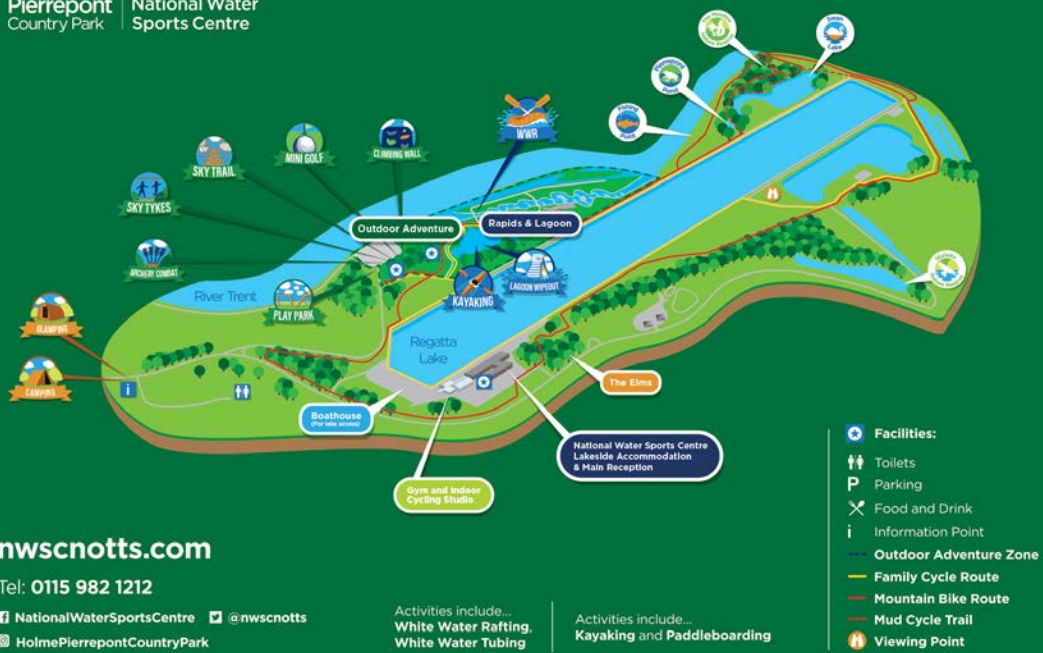
"Usually editing, watching TV shows, or moving onto the next spot to be on the water."

FINALLY, IF I GAVE YOU AN ELEPHANT AND YOU COULDN'T SELL OR GIVEAWAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT?

"Teach it to spray the spectators after each of my rides."

Dane will be competing in the K1 senior men and C1 men's events, so keep an eye out for him Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning as he takes to the water for his prelims."





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