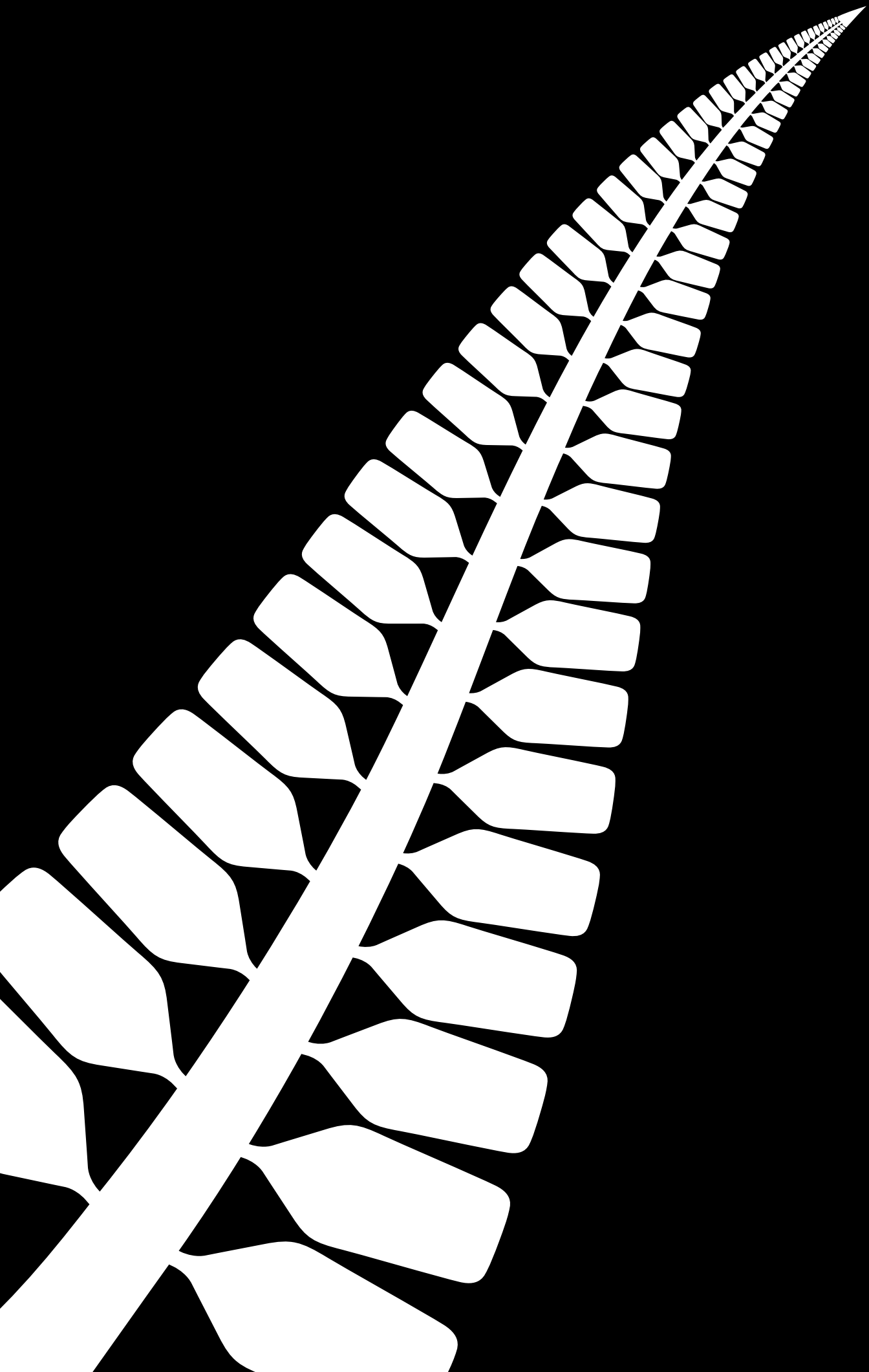


NZ CANOE POLO UPDATE

DEC
2010



New Zealand Paddle Blacks and Paddle Ferns



NZ Squad at the Opening Ceremony of the World Championships L-R: Freya Sonneland, James Sewell, Anthony Barendsen, Thomas Neilson, Ali McCrae, Nick Burnett, Julie Bolton, Carl Duncan, Erin Bolton, Hamish Dugdale, Michael Taylor, Olivia Spencer-Bower, Jimmy Sewell, Paris Pidduck, Jed Graham, Alison Perrett (Absent: Tania Perrett)

NZ Paddle Blacks

- 1 Carl Duncan (vc)
- 2 James Mitchell
- 3 Hamish Dugdale
- 4 Jed Graham
- 5 Jimmy Sewell
- 6 Thomas Neilson (c)
- 7 Michael Taylor
- 8 Anthony Barendsen

NZ Paddle Ferns

- 1 Erin Bolton
- 3 Freya Sonneland
- 4 Alison McCrae (c)
- 5 Tania Perrett (vc)
- 6 Olivia Spencer-Bower
- 8 Julie Bolton
- 10 Paris Pidduck



Paddle Blacks World Champs Report

After our success at the 2009 Oceania Championships, the 2010 Paddle Blacks were confident that they were well prepared for the World Championships in Milan, Italy. The selection for the team was possibly the toughest ever made, with a few really good players unlucky not to be selected for the tour. This was a good sign for things to come, and the same seven who won the Oceania title (Thomas Neilson, Carl Duncan, James Mitchell, Hamish Dugdale, Jed Graham, Jimmy Sewell and Anthony Barendsen), with the addition of Michael Taylor headed off to Europe with the goal of beating some of the top 6 sides in the world. An improvement on the 8th placing in Canada was a high priority for most guys, especially the ones that were on their 3rd, 4th, or even 5th Worlds campaigns.

The itinerary for the tour was a month long for the team, allowing ample time for preparation and acclimatisation, important components coming out of the middle of winter and the off season in New Zealand. The three tournaments which were chosen to give the best build up before Worlds were the London International, De Paddel (Belgium) and Le Rici (Italy). All of these competitions provided quality opposition with many of the European national team players either playing in club or national teams.

London International

The London International was a convenient place to start our tour, flying in on the Thursday morning before the weekend's competition allowing a couple of days to get things sorted and loosen up after the long flight. After much anticipation of warm summer weather arriving into London was somewhat of a letdown but the cooler weather at least eased us into what was going to follow when we headed to the mainland. The tournament started well for us on the Saturday and apart from a few rusty patches leading to some basic errors the results flowed nicely and left us unbeaten after the first day. The Sunday shaped up as more of a challenge and after three early morning games with only one game of duty in between, our lack of match play and cohesion had been showed up with two narrow losses to the top two Great Britain club teams and a win over another. This left us playing off for 5th and 6th with Australia who had also struggled initially. This playoff between the Oceania teams was the first chance we had of confirming our position as number one after Penrith in 2009 and a 4-0 win was a much happier way for us to leave London. Not entirely satisfied but happy we had taken another step towards our final goal.

De Paddel

De Paddel is one of the largest tournaments in Europe and is held just out of the small town of Ieper. This is one of the towns that was largely destroyed during the World Wars and has the Menin Gate memorial where the Last Post is played every night at 8pm. This was the second visit for the team as most of us had played in the same competition in 2006. We still however all went and paid our respects and enjoyed the inspiring ceremony before the tournament. This tournament provided us with another opportunity to prepare for Milan and although Australia were the only other quality

international team to front up, there was once again some really good club teams from around Europe. The first day of competition we won 4 out of our 5 games only losing to Agen which are a strongly ranked French team with a number of past international reps. This left us in a good position to challenge for semi and finals places on the Sunday. Well the positive play of Saturday was all undone going down to a strong Dutch club side and knocking us out of the main tournament. This left us with only a playoff for 7th and 8th where we brushed aside St Omar easily for 7th. Not really a good reflection of where we felt we could/should be but still only another stepping stone on the way to the big dance!

Le Rici

The Le Rici competition is definitely a favourite for the boys. After leaving the quiet countryside town in Belgium and flying from Brussels to Milan, it was just a 200km drive south towards the Mediterranean coast and the town of La Spezia. Here we found we were welcomed with open arms and the locals were great for entertainment and accommodating all of our needs. The Le Rici boys have got a lifestyle which would be envied by many in the polo community. Their court is located on a pristine blue watered, sheltered Mediterranean harbour. A far cry from training in Wellington during winter! Here we got to play a select group of 8 other teams including Germany, Australia, Brazil and Denmark. All teams we could possibly meet at Worlds. In this competition after a full round robin where we finally started to really play well we qualified 2nd for the final. Results include a narrow 2-1 loss to Germany, a 5-1 win over fancied Denmark, another nice 5-1 win over Australia and a narrow 4-3 win over Agen. Agen qualified first for the final after beating Germany, a good indication of their strength. The final played out in an entertaining fashion, well at least for the crowd. After trailing for most of the game right through to the final few minutes we finally came within 1 of Agen. With only seconds on the clock we managed to force enough pressure to turn the ball over and then Agen fouled us giving away a 6m free shot. Unfortunately this shot was missed on the buzzer and we lost by just the one. Still we had played well and were ready for the World Championships. Our touring had come to an end it was time to move to Milan and begin our final part of the journey.

World Championships

On arrival in Milan, after making ourselves acquainted with the venue that was the local rowing course (previous host to a number of different international water sport events), we got all our gear through the compulsory checks and left to get some rest at our hotel. The following day we had a chance to have a light training session on the official pitches and get used to the conditions. Apart from some particularly hot weather that we were still adjusting to, the place was well set up and we looked forward to five days of competition. The World Championships are held from Wednesday to Sunday, with pool play Wednesday and Thursday, followed by a second round Friday and Saturday and the final placing games and finals on Sunday.

Pool Play

Our first game was against the U.S.A who was yet to secure a win at any previous Worlds. We weren't about to let them get an upset win and comfortably beat them 11-1. Our second game was up against Japan. Traditionally Japan hasn't been a very strong team on the world stage but then again neither have New Zealand. This has lead to tight battles in previous tournaments in the past. Although we expected this game to be a win we were soon in real trouble with Japan making the most of some poor play on our part. Going into the half time break we were down 4-0 and in the past this would have spelt disaster. A real sign of just how far this team had progressed came with a terrific fight back and a 5-5 draw. Not the win we were after but one point was better than nothing. Two games was all for us on the Wednesday and we got a chance to put our feet up that night and enjoy the official opening ceremony and fireworks. On day two we faced the defending champions the Netherlands first up. Our last game was a 4-7 loss but we felt this year we were a better team. The game was a tight affair and after going down by one early we equalised soon after. The score stayed at 1-1 until close to full time when the Dutch were given a controversial free shot. Video replays would show no foul was committed. However that's polo and we went down 2-1. The second game of the day was against the Swiss. Having never beaten them we were confident that the time was right to repay them for three previous losses. Playing really well we comfortably came away with the win 6-2. Our final game of the day was against Canada who like us is steadily improving though possibly they are a year or two behind in development. After a slow start and Canada scoring first we came back to lead 2-1 at half time. In the second half we consolidated our lead and went on to win 3-1. This was enough to qualify second in our pool and go through as one of the top three for the second round.

Second Round

Also through in our pool (one side of the top 12 play off), was Italy, Denmark, Australia, Sweden and France. Our first game was up against Italy, a team we believed to be not playing well and ready for the taking. It was a tight game and ended up 2-2. Neither team really had a good opportunity to win so was a deserved result. Second game was against Denmark and although we had beaten them easily in Le Rici they were a better team than that. This was apparent after we got up to a 3-1 lead late in the second half only for them to come back and equalise 3-3, a disappointing draw for us in the circumstances. On the Saturday we had three make or break games for us to get into the semi finals. First up was France, who after winning most European tournaments was favoured to win this competition. Although we fought hard and gave it our best we were beaten 3-1. Next up was Sweden in a must win game to keep a top four hope alive. This was a solid game for us and we came out 4-2 winners after controlling the tempo of the entire game. Finally our last second round game was against Australia. A win in this game could put either team into the semi final play offs but this could only happen if Sweden were to upset Italy in the game on the court next to us. Luckily for us the game between Italy and Sweden started just before us so we had an idea of what was going on. This game wasn't going to be as open and free scoring as other games on

this tour between Australia and us and mid way through the second half we were tied up at 2-2. At this point Italy had beaten Sweden so we knew that the best we could finish was 3rd in our pool, good enough for the 5th and 6th playoff. Much to our surprise Australia didn't push hard for the win so we played out the draw and progressed through to the playoff. A win for them would have secured them the playoff. Spain were the other qualifiers for the playoff as defending champions the Netherlands had crashed to 4th in their pool. Our game against Spain was a closely fought battle although it seemed both teams just wanted to score goals. In a game of many wasted opportunities we came out victorious 1-0 and claimed our best finish at a World Championships. This was a good culmination of a few years hard work and a fitting send off to some of the senior players that are contemplating retirement.

*Carl Duncan
NZ Paddle Blacks Vice Captain*

Results

NZ v	SCORE		GOAL SCORERS
Pool			
U.S.A	11-1	W	James 3, Tom 2, Anthony 2, Carl 2, Michael 2
Japan	5-5	D	James 2, Tom 2, Jed
Netherlands	1-2	L	Carl
Switzerland	6-2	W	James 2, Hamish, Tom, Carl, Anthony
Canada	3-1	W	Carl, Tom, Jimmy

Second Round

Italy	2-2	D	Carl 2
Denmark	3-3	D	James 2, Carl
France	1-3	L	Thomas
Sweden	4-2	W	Thomas 3, Jimmy
Australia	2-2	D	Carl 2
Spain	1-0	W	Carl

Final Placing 5th



World Champs Photo Album

WORLD CHAMPS MILAN ITALIA



Paddle Ferns World Champs Report

The NZ Paddle Ferns placed fourth at the recent Canoe Polo World Championships in Milan. This was a credible placing, although slightly below the high expectations the team had set for themselves.

The team left for Europe in August to embark on a three week tour to Belgium and Italy. The first competition was held at a lake just outside Ieper, Belgium. We stayed in big army tents along side the lake which certainly helped with team bonding. The De Paddel competition was a great way to improve our team game and work specific tactics whilst playing against a mixture of international and domestic teams. We finished with a silver medal after losing to the Australian ladies in the final. A good start to the tour considering we had only been in Europe several days.

After De Paddel, the team flew from Charleroi down to Bologna, Italy. Our manager and coach drove our van and kayaks on the 13 hour trip through Luxembourg, Germany and Switzerland. We spent a week in Bologna, and as well as enjoying the warm temperatures and Italian cuisine, we spent a bit of time taking in the amazing history and architecture.

The Bologna competition was held on a man-made stretch of water used to farm fish. There were several run-ins with the fish including accidentally whacking them with paddles and a few jumping up onto boats. This gave us a bit of entertainment but didn't detract from the job of improved performances at the competition. We ended up with a third placing in Bologna after a loss to Germany in the semi final.

Following Bologna, we moved onto Milan to prepare for the World Champs. The competition was held over five days at

a rowing regatta venue. We began well with first round wins against Hungary, Australia and Switzerland. Our second round resulted in wins against the Netherlands and Spain and a loss to Great Britain. This was enough to progress us to the semi finals where we met Germany. After dominating the majority of the game as the team stepped up to the challenge of a world championship semi final, several key errors led to a heart breaking loss. We then went on to finish fourth after a final loss to France.

Although this is the third 4th placing in a row for the Paddle Ferns at major international events, I believe the 2010 team had the ability to obtain a top two placing on its own merits. In prior years, although disappointing to place fourth, the team was outplayed by better teams. This year this was not the case.

On a more positive note, our three World Championship new caps grew from strength to strength throughout the tour finishing with some outstanding and selfless play. I loved being pushed by these new comers and it was awesome to see them developing into world class players. I challenge you to build on this base as you head towards the next major challenge of the 2012 Worlds Championships and look forward to the results that will follow.

Special thanks to our coach, Nick Burnett and manager, Alison Perrett, for tirelessly supporting us through the campaign. Dealing with the trials of a mixed bunch of women can be a struggle but you were both fantastic and it was a real pleasure to tour with you both.

Alison McCrae
NZ Paddle Ferns Captain

Results

NZ v SCORE GOAL SCORERS

Pool

Hungary	9-0	W	Erin 4, Ali 2, Olivia, Freya, Paris
Australia	3-1	W	Alison 2, Freya
Switzerland	7-2	W	Julie 3, Freya 4

Second Round

Spain	6-3	W	Olivia 2, Erin, Alison, Tania, Freya
Great Britain	4-5	L	Julie 2, Alison 2
Netherlands	6-2	W	Erin 3, Freya 2, Alison

Semi Final

Germany	3-4	L	Alison 2, Erin
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Bronze Medal Playoff

France	2-3	L	Olivia 2
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Final Placing 4th

WORLD CHAMPS MILAN ITALIA



World Champs Photo Album

WORLD CHAMPS MILAN ITALIA



Inter-Regional Championships

The thought of hosting the 2010 competition started back in August 2009, with meetings, emails and quotations to put together to show the NZCPA board it was possible to run the competition in the deep south. While I missed an extra Christmas present in the form of a nod, the green light was given near the end of January and it was game on to finalise prices and pull together as much support for travelling regions as possible.

The final month flew by. Walking into the pool two weeks prior to the competition really set the heart pounding when I saw the sashes still hadn't been hung for the new goal locations — these went up two days before the competition and thankfully, nothing went wrong in the setting up of the pool to host the first ever, official, national Canoe Polo competition in Invercargill. Taking one last look at the pool on Friday night before heading home gave me a surreal feeling; a full 50m pool set up with two lone goals hanging so far from the ends-(no cramped up pitch in a 24m area).

The first hurdle hit us two hours before the games were to start on the Friday night- half of the North Island players had missed their flight! (I was told that the hot dogs in Otaki were worth it). With the help of technology, the Dunedin based Southern players travelling south, jiggled the draw to allow a 10am start for the late comers on Saturday morning. The rest of the day's competition ran smoothly, with some interesting results in the Men's grade and some great competition in the junior and youth Men's grades. Michael Beauchamp did a great job of stalking qualified referees to get them to referee games and rolled out an awesome computer programme to assist with score keeping (even fixing the programme when idiots pushed the wrong buttons and closed everything, sorry Michael).

Having 16 teams, meant games ran from 6am until 9pm on the Saturday — a welcome relief to everyone who

had played the previous 6am-midnight competitions in Wellington. Sunday saw games step up a level as teams tried to add to their wins from Saturday to secure their spots in the finals. Both Southern Women's teams were too strong for the Mainland teams, and took the honours in their finals, while the North Island players — some of whom were playing in three teams — just scraped past the Mainland Junior Men's team for the gold. In a very close game, Southern Youth Men's came off second best to the North Island players, setting the score for the NZCPA IR trophy, two a piece. While the competition lacked some top New Zealand players, the final of the Men's grade still provided some action and it can be said, that no matter where in the country, a competition is held, there is sure to be golden time. James Mitchell was out for a clean sweep for his North Island contingent but Mainland once again pounced on a mistake to put the ball into the goal for the title. Mainland also housed the only Veterans team, who played in the Youth Men's grade for the tournament.

Unlike past Inter Regional Competitions, the owners of the NZCPA Inter Regional trophy was a puzzle to all, with many people trying to mentally add their regions wins over the weekend. On 107 points, Southern lifted the trophy! This sets us a massive challenge ahead of next year's competition with some serious training and development set to take place in the far south to attempt to challenge and retain the trophy.

A massive thank you has to be given to; James Mitchell for supporting me in applying to host the competition, to the Invercargill Licensing Trust for making it financially possible for the North Island players to come down and to Mainland for their support.

Nichole Clark



Inaugural South Island School Champs A Big Hit

The inaugural South Island Schools Champs was keenly anticipated by players. We were lucky to have this competition the weekend BEFORE the earthquake....

It was awesome to see far more teams than expected competing and enjoying their games.

The Senior Boys competition was the tightest competition with 11 teams and the top 5 teams looking very competitive. The grade was eventually dominated by Christchurch teams, with Middleton Grange taking it out over Rangiora HS in a hard played final.

Senior Girls teams saw Rangiora feature in the final, but unable to stop a young Mt Aspiring team from winning. The Junior grades were a bit more sedate, with Middleton Grange taking both Girls & Open titles.

For most players this was their first tournament experience and well worthwhile travelling for. Well done to the Invercargill and Nelson players who travelled the furthest – they left fired up about next years tournament as did all the players.

It was also great to see many of these players feature in the recent Inter-regional tournament in Invercargill.

Thanks to NZCPA for their support and funding. This tournament will be a regular on the calendar from now on.

Kris Claman



1st Senior Girls: Mt Aspiring College



1st Open: Middleton High School



2nd Senior Girls: Rangiora High School



2nd Open: Rangiora High School



3rd Senior Girls: Middleton High School



3rd Open: Shirley Boys' High School

Calendar

December 2010

11-12 South Island Championships
Lake Roto Kohatu, Christchurch

January 2011

22-23 Auckland Invitational Tournament
Auckland

February

5-6 Atahua Cup
Centennial Lagoon, Palmerston North

15 New Zealand Canoe Polo Board Meeting

19-20 Art Deco
Hawkes Bay

March

14 National League Team Registration Due

31 National League Team Lists Due

April

1-3 NZ Canoe Polo Schools Championships
Fielding

Funding Acknowledged

The following organisations and Trusts are acknowledged and thanked for their support:

New Zealand Canoe Polo

New Zealand Community Trust \$5,000
Pool Hire for the National League Championships

Mainland Foundation \$1,000
Pool Hire for the National League Championships

The Southern Trust \$5,984
Pool Hire for the Inter-Regional Championships

Pub Charity \$5,000
Kayak Transport to the Inter-Regional Championships

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Squad Notices

Congratulations to the following people who have been appointed as New Zealand team coaches for 2011

Paddle Blacks: Steve Hunt

Paddle Ferns: Nick Burnett

U21 Men: Richard Morrison and Jason Dalziel

U21 Women: Peter Housiaux and Kate Bolton

Over 45's: Peter Bolton