

THE CANOE ASSOCIATION of NORTHERN IRELAND



Unit 2 River's Edge
13 – 15 Ravenhill Road
Belfast
BT6 8DN
(O) 02890738884
(W) www.cani.org.uk

25th May 2016

To WSKA committee members, country representatives and athletes

As you are aware, The Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI) submitted a bid to host the 2017 World Surf Kayak Championships, which was accepted at the 2015 World Championships. The past year has presented challenges for the World Surf Kayaking Community and these challenges have had an impact on CANI's decision to host the 2017 championships.

In October 2015 CANI put its planning on hold, awaiting confirmation that the WSKA was united and that there was sufficient structures in place to ensure that the event in Northern Ireland will be the official World Championships.

I am pleased to let you know that following a recent correspondence from the interim chair John Watson, there is confidence that the WSKA is united and is in the position to sanction the Northern Ireland World Championships and that the majority of countries have indicated that they will be attending.

Planning for the event will commence again. However, as we have lost a lot of time and missed out on major funding for the event, we would like to let you know that what we had hoped to provide may be scaled down. We will do our best to ensure that we present a great event, and provide you with both a great competition and social and tourism activities.

CANI will be working closely with your interim Chairperson to ensure that we are preparing for the Championships as best we can. We will be setting up a website which will have all the information, and will be sending updates to the WSKA committee and the Country Representatives between now and the Championships.

We are delighted to be hosting the event and are looking forward to welcoming you all to Northern Ireland in October 2017. The date will be confirmed shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ashley Hunter'.

Ashley Hunter
Development Manager, CANI



News, 25th May 2016

The World Surf Kayak Association is back together as one organisation. The people offering their time as volunteers have shown overwhelming support to working together to meet the goals of the WSKA, which are to:

- Promote goodwill and cultural interchange among people who surf kayaks in different countries in the world.
- Provide a world organization to help guide the development of surf kayaking.
- Share ideas about boat design and surfing moves, and expand the skill level of people involved in surf kayaking.
- Increase the number of people and countries involved in surf kayaking.
- Increase the number of juniors and women involved in surf kayaking.
- Promote friendly competition among surf kayakers.
- Hold a world championship of surf kayaking every two years.

Here's a summary of how we are organised:

The **WSKA Chairman** has the responsibility of organising volunteers to meet the goals of the WSKA. With agreement from the countries and people involved over the past year, **John Watson** has taken on the role of **WSKA Interim Chairman**. At the next World Championships 2017, there will be an **election for WSKA Chairman**.

The **WSKA Committee** is the collection of volunteers who have offered their time to help contribute to the organisation and development of surf kayaking worldwide. In confirming the committee recently, invitations were open to everyone who has had involvement in any aspect of the WSKA over the last year. This committee includes people who have contributed significantly to the success of World Championships over many years, as well as six people who have joined recently. These people are active in discussing and shaping any topics and ideas. They are asked to fulfill their duties on behalf of all the members and countries of WSKA, and not specifically their own nationality. Joining John Watson on the WSKA Committee are: **Darren Bason, Denzil Pearce, Edu Etxeberria, Joey Hall, Jose Pineiro, Malcolm Pearcey, Mat Hoff, Neil Baxter, Peter Blenkinsop, Rusty Sage, Stuart McGlinchey, Tim Thomas and Xabi Olano.**

Ashley Hunter also joins the committee as a representative of CANI, the organisers of the 2017 World Championships. Ashley's main role is to focus on good communication and delivery of the 2017 event.

A **WSKA Country Representative** is appointed by each interested country. This is as a communication channel between the surf kayakers of that country, and the WSKA. In addition, when there is a significant decision to be made within WSKA, this is done by voting of the countries with the most involvement in the sport - currently described as those which have entered a Team at any of the last three World Championships.

What happens next?

First, we have spent time bringing people together in agreement. We have also been in discussion with CANI (the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland) about the 2017 World Championships.

Next, we shall organise ourselves to run WSKA effectively, now and in the future. This will include looking at how we ensure Long-boat and Short-boat classes are managed to reward and promote skill development, looking at the Team event, a review of the WSKA structure and documents, and other topics to help bring us together for enjoyable, fair and competitive World Championships.

Finally, the best news: you will see from the other half of this shared information release that CANI confirm their offer to host the **2017 World Championships in Northern Ireland**. We thank CANI for their patience recently, and are delighted at their decision. I know the people of Northern Ireland will give a very warm welcome to surf kayakers of all nationalities. Please look forward and talk in your country about how you can bring a Team and individual athletes to this event next year. We're excited about meeting everyone there for our next World Championships!

John Watson, WSKA Interim Chairman