



BATCHAT

Volume 1, Issue 3
8th March 2005

Howdy y'all! This is the issue that was meant to come out at the end of last season, so some items are from a while ago. Thanks go to Lee for her wonderful saga of whitewater (plus piccys!). Also, I've included a weird little something that Steph and I wrote a while ago. Interstate Championship reports will come out next issue. Good luck for the new season!
~Adrienne Sullivan

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♪ The Polo goals are falling down, falling down... ♪

Melbourne Invitational Comp

On Saturday February 26 the Melbourne comp began. The lush grass surrounding the Yarra river soon became a trampled mess of discarded gear, towels, water bottles and eskies as the early games began in the crisp morning air.

Ah... I love the sound of polo in the morning. Provided, of course, that it is not *too* early in the morning. Some of my team have assured me that they do not become intelligible until at least ten. However, that Saturday was a bright, deceptively cool day and we quickly discovered the joys of seal-launching off the meter-high grassy banks surrounding the Yarra. The Yarra itself rivaled our own wonderfully attractive water-source, Mawson Lakes, with its rippling brown beauty. 'Mmmm...', commented one person upon seeing it, 'It's Yarra-licious!' The competition itself was a lot of fun, and people were very good-natured about helping the referees when river-side trees made it impossible for them to see. The Junior competition only had two teams, but nevertheless they faced off several times and some of the skill and improvement was great to see. I joined a New South Wales women's team along with Siobhan Goble and Jennie Chesters, and even though we never won a game it was great fun to play with new people and get to know some of the players from interstate.

Other activities were occurring further along the river, and we occasionally exchanged greetings with canoeists, fishermen and bushwalkers. It seemed that everyone was out for a fun and active weekend.

The next day the finals were held, as well as demonstration matches from the Australian men's and women's squads which were amazing to watch. There was a slight problem when one of the goals fell over, and for a while games had to continue with only one operating field. This just meant that there were more awed spectators to watch the Open semifinal shootout between the Lakers and ACT. For many of us it was the first penalty shootout we had ever seen, and the cheers and gasps after each shot and block showed how involved the crowd was.

In the end the Hotdogs won the Open division after a close game against Victoria. The Junior comp was won by the Flying Marios (Vic), the Thunderbirds won the Women's comp and Open B was taken out by Whatever (Vic). For details, see the Victorian canoe polo website, www.canoepolo.vic.asn.au.

It was a great weekend, thanks to the Victorian organizational committee and particularly Nathan and Sarah Moore for all their hard work.

Adrienne Sullivan



January 2005 Whitewater Trip

The Adelaide Canoe Club didn't make it to Childowlah NSW! Some inconsiderate employee of the Burrinjuck Dam turned off the water. Luckily Wayne got wind of this before our departure from Adelaide and plan B was hatched. He also had to cancel our day at the Penrith Olympic slalom course which was disappointing.

Nevertheless, Jan 3rd 2005, 15 individuals appeared at Eildon, Vic, and set up camp among the last of the New Years revellers at the Bluegum Caravan Park: Wayne and Libby, David and Margaret, David Mausolf, Lee, 19 yr old Siobhan (the only Goble), 14 yr old Tom and his parents Frank & Gill, Steve and Donna (non-paddler), Don (& family), 'Chooka' (Grant), 'Charlie' (Steve Ellis) and his visiting English buddy who was built like a rugby player with the unlikely name of 'Snake'. Now this Snake was spending 2 months in Oz, 6 months in NZ and then onto Asia to canoe as many of the water-ways as he could possibly handle. We gave him a good gentle start.

We were at Eildon 2 nights, practicing our forgotten skills in the currents and eddies of pumpkins adjacent to our campsite and getting used to our crafts. Those more skilled headed downstream 200m to the Grade 3 slalom waves and wowed us with their daring. It was here a few days later that Grant did a cowboy nose stand and smashed a hole, the size of a fist, in the very front tip of his plastic 3D.

Wednesday we moved 50km away to Big River and set up a bush camp, checked out the river and made plans for the next couple of days. The weather was mild and overcast but not unpleasant. Snake was already tired of the flies (what flies?). Big River is not so big at all. The valley walls are steep and closed with bush and undergrowth and slightly tinted water. The river has numerous small rapids and deadfall and at this time the river gauge hovered just under 0.6m - probably the minimum depth for kayaking. We did a car shuffle 2km upstream to a small slalom rapid and a practice run to our campsite. Then we car shuffled further upstream (Chaffes Ck) and headed down again to camp. We had divided into 2 groups as we had 5 very experienced white water leaders. One would scout the river and one would bring up the rear of each group. There were a few spills mostly due to inattention but nothing we couldn't laugh about. I should mention here that a slalom rapid loosely means a longer rapid with a few technical turns.

I tended to cruise in the middle of the pack but my observations at rapids were as such... The scout (usually Grant) would poise effortlessly at the top of a rapid looking for the best passage down. His kayak would drop over a 'step' and disappear with a deft stroke of his paddle, then his torso, followed by his head would vanish with only an occasional flash of a paddle. Young Tom mimicked it closely and carefully with ease. My technique was a little different. At the top of the rapid I would back-paddle furiously while casting my eyes about for those smooth text-book Vs (they're not often there!), then madly splash my paddle while I bumped, scraped and bounced off every rock within a metre of my kayak. However, I popped out the other end with a grin on my face wondering how I managed to survive.

(Continued on page 3)

*Steve Wild navigating the Snowy River >
Photo courtesy of Lee Bruland*





January 2005 Whitewater Trip (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

Friday we did a long shuffle up the valley to put in at Railway Ck and set off down the river once again. For five hrs we were on the water and 3rd time through that little slalom which was now no challenge at all! The last day at Big River was a short leisurely paddle, this time downstream from camp to Burnt Bridge, then we packed up and returned to Eildon (hot showers) for one night.

Next morning we parted company, some returning to Adelaide but 6 of us moving on to Jindabyne via the beautiful Alpine Way to paddle the pristine Snowy R. Now it was quite warm and the caravan park in Jindabyne reflected the busy little community on the shore of a large man-made lake. It was a daily 55km jaunt one way to the Snowy but the effort was well worth it. The Snowy R. is in an open alpine valley with new growth from the severe bushfires that had raged through here two springs ago. The rapids were less frequent, generally wide and gravelly, the water was clear, and the feature here was the beautifully picturesque sculptured bleached boulders and their reflections in the calmer waters.

This trip we put in at Halfway Camp to marvel at the scenery for 1.5 hrs before stopping for lunch at Pinch R. 1km downstream from here was a waterfall, immediately followed by a short narrow gorge which still had fast technical waters to negotiate. This would be way out of my league. We stopped to inspect above the waterfall.

There were 3 routes that the water took to drop some 4m. One had hardly any water and the middle route was the actual waterfall dropping into a confined pool. The best choice was an almost sheer-sided gushing L-shaped challenging drop (Grade 3 at this time) with an eddy just above the elbow, plus the assortment of rocks poking out of the froth that needed dodging. This was the path the group (minus me and David) would take. Even Siobhan had no hesitation. So throw lines were stationed, cameras readied and on came the fun. Actually there was no drama. The eddy was well placed. Siobhan did hit a rock at the top and flipped over but immediately rolled up with her famous sweeping wave and completed in style. Directly below the waterfall was a pool to recoup and this is where the 2 of us portaged after much heaving and sweating. The 'gorge' was still roaring but I felt I could handle it. And I did, but I shot out the chute at the end and fell over in the calm deep water below. There was no question of rolling up (should have, could have), I was mentally stressed and thankfully that little dunking cooled me off.

The plan was to do that bit again tomorrow and all night I went through the procedure in my mind. The repeat performance was a breeze next day. The water had dropped a couple of centimetres and the obstacles were easily seen. Tow lines and cameras again and this time I was the only one to portage the waterfall. I also kept upright through the entire gorge. Yippee, and well done to everyone.

Below Running Waters picnic area the Snowy became a sluggish flat-water pond, so we didn't continue. Back at camp we prepared to all depart for our separate ways the next morning, which was well timed as a strong wind was pushing over tents by 8am. It was a long drive back to Adelaide for Siobhan and me and at our evening camp on the shores of Lake Boga she had me doing a few Eskimo rolls!



Lee Bruland

< Siobhan Goble, having a blast down the Snowy River. Check out the white water!

Photo courtesy of Lee Bruland



REFEREE'S CORNER

When can you 'push tackle' a player?

"The ball was on the water between two players from opposing teams. Both had a hand on the ball trying to take clean possession, another player came along and pushed the opposition over when clearly both players had shared possession." **Is this allowed?**

If you read the latest ICF Canoe Polo Rules Version 6.00 (Issued 1 January 2005), there is no mention of the old term 'sole possession' (where one player has more possession than another), and simply states in rule 32.1 "any hand-tackle where the tackled player does not have possession of the ball" is illegal. This obviously means it is legal to push tackle **anyone** who has 'possession of the ball'.

What is meant by 'possession of the ball'?

Possession of the ball is defined in rule 31 as:-

"A player is in possession of the ball when they have the ball in their hand or are in a position to reach the ball with their hand, the ball being on the water and not in the air. A player balancing the ball on their paddle will also be considered to be in possession".

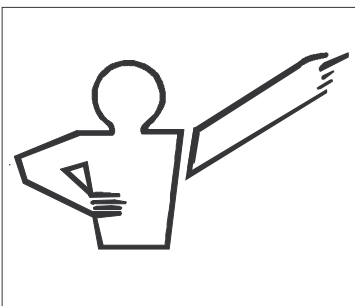
Therefore both players had possession and both could be push tackled.

Refer to rule definition and referee signals below, taken from ICF Canoe Polo Rules Version 6.00 (Issued 1 January 2005).

32. ILLEGAL HAND TACKLE

Signals 10 and 15 apply. A Hand-Tackle is a player, with one open hand, pushing an opponent's back, upper arm or side. The following hand-tackles are illegal.

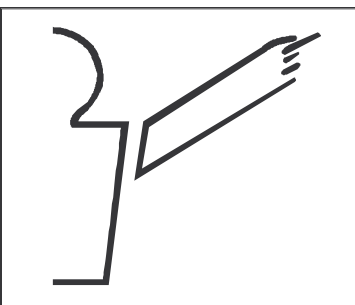
- 32.1. Any hand-tackle where the tackled player does not have possession of the ball.
- 32.2. Any body contact other than an open hand to the back, upper arm or side.
- 32.3. Any hand-tackle, which endangers the tackled player.
- 32.4. A player may not fend off a tackle with the hand or forearm or with the movement of the elbow towards the hand-tackler.



10. ILLEGAL TACKLE

Hold clenched fist against hip for the period of 2 seconds, and then point at the position where the free shot has to be taken.

Other arm showing direction of play.



15. FREE SHOT

Arm extended, index finger pointing at goal in direction of attack. Other arm showing offence signal (9, 10, 11 or 12).

Ricky Belisle



This an alphabetical list of our observations, created after an entire weekend of polo and no TV. We hope that no one finds any of the content insulting, but please keep in mind that our statements are very generalised and no personal offence is meant. We are just weird.

Please enjoy...

The A – Z of Canoe Polo

By Adrienne and Stephanie Sullivan

THIS ISSUE: A—G

A-Grader: Player who believes that they know infinitely more about the game than anyone else, including the referee, and are willing to argue this at every available opportunity.

B-Grader: Player who has moved up from C-Grade because of strength rather than skill and is now stuffed, or older A-Grader who has finally acknowledged that he/she is no longer in the prime of his/her youth. Usually the former.

Ball: Yellow, spherical, buoyant object. Used to shoot goals, provide support or inflict pain on deserving individuals. Will eventually lose all grip, providing a further challenge for anyone attempting to catch it.

Barbeque: Traditional way of ending a polo season. Regardless of weather, attendance or available resources, the polo barbeque will find a way to live on...

Boardies: Board shorts. Standard Polo attire. Can be acceptably worn in public, so hence is the greatest invention for polo players since the paddle. Your boardies are who you are – it is illegal to have the same boardies as someone else (*Steph's rule, circa 1998*).

Boat: Polo kayak, or anything approximating. We don't need to elaborate.

C-Grader: Rookie. Usually hapless spectator who has been coerced into playing by merciless older players. Known for no rolling ability and disappearing mysteriously after a few weeks.

Casual wear: Boardies. Also shirt usually obtained from a competition many years ago and probably not washed since. Also see 'Neat Casual', 'Formal'.

Coach: Older player who is more experienced and therefore believes that they know better. *Does not have to be mature.*

Drink bottle: An item owned by all. Regardless of whether it was considered to be in your possession beforehand, as soon as it touches the side of the pool it is public property. You can't *own* a drink bottle, you can simply nick off with it for a week or so.

Duck (1): Common water fowl. Hard to run down with a boat, but nevertheless stupid enough to walk onto a deck. Known for befouling any immediate area, usually where you can step in it.

Duck (2): Not yelled when someone fails to see the ball coming at the back of their head – that's what helmets are for. See 'helmet'.

Formal wear: Ironed boardies. You know that joke about the tuxedo on top and the boardies underneath? *We started it.*

Goals: Large red and white striped metal rectangles, elevated above the water. Are prone to move in sudden, mysterious winds. This definition is highly sought after since it is apparently not common knowledge.

Green card: Not really a card – don't let them trick you.

*Sorry, guys! This one's longer than I thought, so I'm going to do instalments.
See the next issue of Batchat for The A—Z of Canoe Polo: H—P. Don't miss it!
~Adrienne*



PLAYER PROFILE :

Matthew Goble

Hello, my name is Matt Goble. I am 15 and I enjoy many types of kayaking. I first started paddling when I was 6 which was a 5 day paddle down the Glenelg River with my family, since then I have done many recreational paddles.

These have included several trips along different parts of the Murray River, the Coorong and an eleven day expedition around the Whitsunday Islands. This was really good as we were camping on little Islands with lots of wildlife such as snakes, Dugongs, hopping mice, turtles and whilst crossing 7 km to the mainland a Humpback whale breached out of the rough sea in front of us.

When I was ten, I started playing canoe polo. At first this was playing C grade however now I play A grade. Since I've been playing canoe polo I've been on the S.A junior team five times and the youth team three times.. Last year I made the U18 Australian team for canoe polo, which we lost to New Zealand, two games to one. I've really enjoyed playing in competitions in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and will be going over to New Zealand this year to compete in the U21's I hope.

I started sprint kayaking when I was 12. I have found it fun and a challenge to keep improving, however with Peter Petho the Hungarian coaching guru, I am improving much faster now! Last year I competed in the U16 and U18 nationals at Sydney winning three medals. This year at the Sydney Nationals I nominated for the Australian Junior Team which is competing in Hungary during August, so had to compete against the under 18's to be selected. I succeeded in making some A grade finals in K1's and winning Gold in the K4 and this was sufficient to make the Australian team. My parents now have to come up with lots of money for the trip to happen! Winning the U16 Australian championship in the 500m K1 was also a good result, making the ten training sessions per week worthwhile!

I've given marathon paddling a go, having completed three Murray 100Km's and may be doing it again this year. I didn't do too badly at the Sydney marathon Nationals, however could have done better with more training and a good nights sleep before the event would have probably helped!! Anyway there's always next year!

The other type of Kayaking I enjoy is White water which I started when I was eleven at Eildon on the Goulburn River which has really good white water and I've been back four years in a row. I have also paddled the Penrith Olympic White Water course. Last school holidays I spent a week in Victoria on the Mitchell and Tambo River where there are some really good slalom rapids.

I look forward to much more Kayaking and much less school! Keep paddling everyone!

Matthew Goble.





WINTER SEASON 2005

This season we are again privileged to have the use of the North Adelaide Aquatic Centre Diving pool. It sure beats being out in the cold and wet, so please observe the rules and act appropriately.

Some issues that were raised during the last season at the Aquatic Centre are:

- **Seal-launching off the edge of the pool.**

Not only does this scratch up the bottom of your boat, but it wears down the sides of the pool. The personnel have requested that we not do this, so try to get in by placing your boat on the water and parallel to the edge of the pool. If you are unsure about the proper technique, ask a more experienced player for help and advice. This also applies when getting out!

- **Packing away gear.**

If you are using the Committee gear for your games, please make sure that it is put back in the cage at the end of the day. Be responsible for your own gear!

- **Proper care of the gear.**

We have to make this gear last as long as possible, and you are by no means the only person who will use it. Please do not tie knots in the spray-deck elastic cords to make them fit your boat—it damages the elastic and ruins the spray-deck. If your spray-deck is too big, get another spray-deck or another boat.

Team Fees

This season is 14 weeks to compensate for the extended break you just enjoyed. Therefore, the team fees are increased this season because of the extra weeks that we must rent the pool, pay referees, etc.

Team fees this season are **\$420 per team**, that's \$60 extra for another 4 weeks of polo! If you remember that the usual fees amount to \$36 per team per week (\$360 for 10 weeks), this is a bargain!

But wait, there's more! All team fees are to be given to Bernard Goble by Week 2, so that Wayne can finalize the draw. Team captains, make sure that your team is paid up.

Uniform

It is required for all teams to have team shirts from Week 1. There are sets of shirts that can be borrowed, but other teams use them too. Each team must be responsible for finding a set of shirts to wear, and returning the full set if they are borrowed. If this system is abused it may be made compulsory for each team to have an individual set.

Any teams interested in making their own set may wish to talk to Francis Goble, who can offer advice.

Have a great season, everyone!



CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED
2001 Vampire
Phone Matt G. on **84496602**

Polo Boat looking sick? Cracks, bumpers falling off, smashed nose etc???

Bernard will repair using carbon fibre or kevlar and all proceeds (apart from minor material costs) go to the Oceania S.A. Youth and Women's teams. Can arrange pick up or delivery.
Do your boat a favour & help support players going to N.Z.!!!

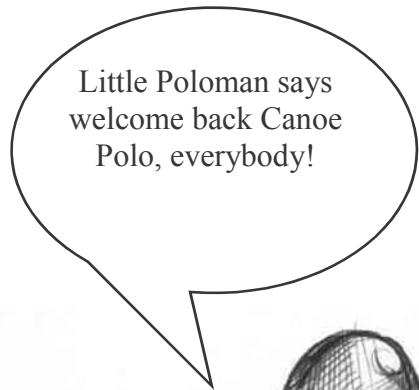
Ph. 84496602 or 0418828839.

History of Canoe Polo

Want to learn more about the history of Canoe Polo, dating back to 1875? There's currently a really cool essay on the origins of the sport we all love on the Victorian Canoe Polo Website. It's ideal for school reports or just for general interest.

Thanks go to the author, Ian Beasley.
Find it at www.canoepolo.vic.asn.au, or just go to www.canoepolo.com.au and link to the Vic website.

Send all complaints, articles, classifieds or even silly little pictures like Poloman to: hifromadi@tplex.com.au



Reminder About This Season:

- Season Start—May 21st*
- Team Fees due in—June 4th*
- No Polo—June 11th, July 9th, July 16th*
- Week 14—September 10th*
- Finals—September 17th*

Check out the Canoe Polo Website!
WWW.CANOEPOLO.COM.AU