


RAW

Rafting Around the World

October 2007



WORLD RAFTING Championships 2007



Ríos Tropicales

The River Specialists!

RAIN FOREST RAFTING
all year round!!

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RICA



Contents

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IRF *presidents report*

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The International Rafting Federation just held its 7th World Rafting Championship, and a most well attended Congress, in which I was proud to be elected unanimously by over 30 member countries. In the host country of South Korea, Inje County and Naricheon River many new experiences were learnt - Mother Nature continues to dictate the nature of our playground, and we must adapt to it; promises are only promises and lack of budget is bound to create some organizational sparks.

I personally had high hopes that our hosts would produce that technologically advanced World Championship that we lacked in the third world jungles of Ecuador. That didn't happen due to unforeseen economic and political reasons, which we couldn't control. Having lived and experienced the situation with most of the board members has lead us to aim to make our 2009 WRC in Bosnia & Herzegovina's, Vrbas River the best ever.

I do want to acknowledge all those board members, race directors, safety team, local staff, volunteers, interpreters, judges, team leaders, team captains and athletes, who became part of the solutions and not the problems on this complicated 'lost in translation' arena.

The future of the IRF is looking

as good as always, a highly motivated group of board members and committees are continuously communicating for the best outcome in important decisions that will mark our path. Pan American, European, Australasian committees are already preparing for 2008 continental bids and champs, with new member countries looking strong to provide new arenas.

The Marketing and Media Committee is working hard on getting our positive image out to more possible sponsors that may carry the passion of rafting and competition to larger populations around the world. Guide Training is that committee that never stops carrying the best standards to those who need to learn from them or adopt them. International Relations are working hard on making strategic alliances with those organizations that will only serve our purpose to succeed in our mission.

I will be proud to head the Conservation and Recreational Rafting Committee hoping to get a hard working group of volunteers from around the world to work on as many issues as are necessary to preserve our natural environment and share it with those who appreciate this in a safe and responsible manner.

Finally, I wish that all our country members continue to support our progress and take advantage that rafting happens around the world all year long, I invite the Northern hemisphere rafters that instead of going skiing, take advantage of the southern hemisphere and the tropics to go rafting with your new made friends after WRC 2007.

Rafael Gallo (President)

Rafael and wife Alexandra at the WRC





IRF *congress* 2007

28 June, Inje, South Korea

Our 2007 Congress was well attended with 30 of our 40 members sending delegates. Our last two Congresses have had to be virtual (email) based because of the difficulties of getting everyone together. So it was really good to have so many members together in one place.

The Board of Directors had one change to it, Steve Thomas of Scotland stepped down and will be more directly involved in Guide Training & Education – his preferred area of interest. Thanks for all your time and energy Steve! Shige Asano of Japan was voted on as a new member – welcome Shige!

What I felt was very evident at this Congress was the need for more meetings like this so that everyone can air their views to the BOD and to each other. Obviously this is very difficult. One way to do this is to make use of the IRF Forum which you can find on our website. If everyone used this it would be a lot easier to know what everyone's ideas and views on topics are which will help the committees and BOD in making policy decisions.

A discussion and vote on the future of R4 and R6 definitely showed us that the members want both in the future. The majority are keen to see R4 and R6 WRC in alternate years. This will cause clashes with Continental Champs – so will have to be planned carefully.



A group will also be taking a look at creating a new event based on artificial courses. The idea is that this event would be the one aimed at the Olympics. It would be designed to be as attractive as possible to spectators and to TV.

A new fee structure was voted in which is designed to increase membership numbers and to help the smaller federations. It will still need some refining to ensure fairness across the spectrum.

Race Rules as usual saw some good discussions. The Time Trial has been re-added for points and medals. What was also obvious is the need for more discussions on the rules. We'd like to encourage everyone to use the Forum for this – a section has been set up to discuss the changes people would like to see in the rules. It will also provide a place where explanations can be given as to why some rules are like they are.

Thanks must go to everyone for taking the time to attend and for traveling the distance. We hope to see you all again in BiH in 2009!

Sue Liell-Cock: IRF Secretary General



IRF *news & views*

Love rafting? Love people?

Great job opportunity at IRF

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - INTERNATIONAL RAFTING FEDERATION

The IRF is looking for someone with a proven track record in business, marketing and media relations, preferably for a sports organisation.

The task is to raise rafting's profile, participation and revenue - all which are closely interrelated. Priority must initially be given to activities that generate revenue.

To qualify, the applicant must have/be:

- * An excellent command of English (written and spoken)
 - * Experience in presenting to large and small groups
 - * Competence in MS Office (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
 - * Willing to travel
 - * Passionate and knowledgeable about rafting
 - * Willing to risk a performance-based position
 - * Comfortable to work on their own with guidance from the Board
- Contact Sue (IRF Secretary) on devofficer@intraftfed.com Sue Liell-Cock (Ms)
International Rafting Federation - Secretary General www.IntRaftFed.com

Many of the WRC photographs in this publication of RAW were taken by YOUSUKE KASHIWAKURA.

A big thank you to Shigeto Asano of the Japanese Rafting Team for sending these photographs to RAW. A big thank you also to Yousuke for allowing us to publish them.





WRC KOREA 2007



IRF World Rafting Championships

Korea 2007

SCORE BOARD



Event

Sprint		Slalom			Downriver			Total		
30-Jun-07			01-Jul-07			02-Jul-07			02-Jul-07	
MEN			MEN			MEN			MEN	
Brazil	300	1	Germany	300	1	Czech Republic	400	1	Brazil	783
Japan	264	2	Czech Republic	264	2	Russia	352	2	Czech Republic	781
Slovakia	237	3	Russia	237	3	Japan	316	3	Japan	778
Italy	216	4	Slovakia	216	4	Slovakia	288	4	Russia	760
Germany	207	5	Brazil	207	5	Brazil	276	5	Germany	759
U S A	198	6	Japan	198	6	Italy	264	6	Slovakia	741
Bosnia-Herzegovina	189	7	Italy	189	7	Germany	252	7	Italy	669
Great Britain	180	8	Slovenia	180	8	U S A	240	8	Great Britain	549
Russia	171	9	Australia	171	9	Canada	228	9	U S A	546
Mexico	162	10	Canada	162	10	Great Britain	216	10	Australia	519
Indonesia	153	11	Great Britain	153	11	Australia	204	11	Canada	489
Australia	144	12	Netherlands	144	12	Indonesia	192	12	Indonesia	480
Hungary	135	13	Indonesia	135	13	Mexico	180	13	Mexico	459
Netherlands	126	14	Bosnia-Herzegovina	126	14	Slovenia	168	14	Slovenia	456
Czech Republic	117	15	Mexico	117	15	Netherlands	156	15	Bosnia-Herzegovina	435
Slovenia	108	16	U S A	108	16	Hungary	144	16	Netherlands	426
Canada	99	17	Hungary	99	17	South Africa	132	17	Hungary	378
South Africa	90	18	South Africa	90	18	Bosnia-Herzegovina	120	18	South Africa	312
Ecuador	84	19	India	84	19	India	112	19	India	244
Croatia	78	20	Korea	78	20	Croatia	104	20	Korea	226
Kazakhstan	72	21	Philippines	72	21	Austria	96	21	Austria	216
Argentina	66	22	Austria	66	22	Korea	88	22	Croatia	212
Korea	60	23	Serbia	60	23	Kazakhstan	80	23	Kazakhstan	194
Austria	54	24	Denmark	54	24	Argentina	72	24	Argentina	174
India	48	25	Ecuador	48	25	Serbia	64	25	Philippines	170
Philippines	42	26	Kazakhstan	42	26	Phillipines	56	26	Serbia	160
Serbia	36	27	Argentina	36	27	Denmark	48	27	Denmark	132
Denmark	30	28	Croatia	30	28	Ecuador	0	27	Ecuador	132
WOMEN			WOMEN			WOMEN			WOMEN	
Canada	300	1	Czech Republic	300	1	Czech Republic	400	1	Czech Republic	937
New Zealand	264	2	New Zealand	264	2	Canada	352	2	Canada	841
Czech Republic	237	3	Great Britain	237	3	Slovakia	316	3	New Zealand	804
Slovakia	216	4	U S A	216	4	U S A	288	4	Slovakia	730
Great Britain	207	5	Germany	207	5	New Zealand	276	5	Great Britain	708
Germany	198	6	Slovakia	198	6	Great Britain	264	6	U S A	666
Netherlands	189	7	Canada	189	7	Australia	252	7	Germany	633
Norway	180	8	Netherlands	180	8	Netherlands	240	8	Netherlands	609
Australia	171	9	Norway	171	9	Germany	228	9	Australia	576
U S A	162	10	South Africa	162	10	South Africa	216	10	Norway	555
Russia	153	11	Australia	153	11	Norway	204	11	South Africa	522
South Africa	144	12	Brazil	144	12	Russia	192	12	Russia	480
Brazil	135	13	Russia	135	13	Brazil	180	13	Brazil	459

Pumped!

Naerinchon River

By Sue Liell-Cock



Weather is a popular topic these days with extreme weather seeming to be affecting everyone – and so it was with the IRF 2007 World Rafting Champs held in South Korea from the 27 June to 3 July.



Teams that arrived early for extra training found themselves faced with no option but to enjoy the local offerings or to do flat water training as the rivers selected for the WRC had no water. As the official training days approached and more teams arrived so did a little rain, but still not enough. Teams training on the official days on the Sprint section were hard pushed to find lines which did not catch on rocks; even some boulder moving took place to try and create better lines.

The Opening Ceremony held at the stadium in the local town, Inje, was spectacular with a display from a university Taekwondo team leaving everyone stunned at their incredible agility, accuracy and team work.

Day One began and to the relief of everyone, nature had joined in by supplying just enough rain to ensure a reasonable line through the Sprint course. Lane choice became vital as it became evident that the left lane was slightly faster and whoever managed to get to the start of the rapid first could dominate the rest of the race. Immediately it was evident which teams were going to be in contention for the title of World Champs.

The Canadian womens team threw down the gauntlet by winning the event with NZ and Czech following. USA was very disappointed with their bad luck in getting briefly, but crucially, stuck on a submerged rock. The interesting stand-up style of the

Indonesians' men's team caught everyone's attention but it was the cheerleader of the Brazilian's whose method really worked as he risked life and limb while he sprinted over the rocky terrain on the shore screaming at his team to go – go – go, batman cape keeping him upright! The Brazilians won with the a strong looking Japanese team coming second followed by Slovakia. Although the Czechs had a fast time, a penalty caused them to drop to 15th place.



Most of the teams were accommodated in an Athletes Village in a valley about half an hour away from the event location. Evenings were spent having a good dinner and socializing. But with the pressures on the teams they were off early to bed and left the Judges and BOD members tasting local beers.

Day Two once again had seen the river rise a little and this produced a technical and challenging Slalom course. The teams enjoyed the course as it tested all their skills. It was a perfect location for spectators as they could get really close to the rafts and gates and see the action from up close. A sneaky slot between gate 10 and 11 saw some great action with 4 flips and 3 wraps on the rock ensuring this was where most of the spectators sat and where some of the teams had their greatest surprises. Croatia got their boat thoroughly wrapped and received great cheers from the crowd after their cheerful acceptance of this and hard work getting it off, showing great team spirit. The Canadian men over shot the slot and found themselves heading straight for some shallow rocks. With team work that made it look like they'd practiced it they portaged over the rocks and took the next gate so fast that it looked faster than the conventional route!

The Czech women dominated this day by showing their superb raft control, a pleasure to watch. New Zealand women showed the reason they have often been World Champs by also producing a fine performance. The British women were delighted with their performance and their 3rd place – their hard work paying off. The USA and Slovakia were less than a second behind them. The happiest team of the day was the German men's team who moved in incredible synchronization to win the event, closely followed by Czech and then Russia.

The lack of water was putting huge stress on everyone as the choices were limited. It was looking like the Downriver would have to be run on the sections where the Sprint and Slalom were done which were pretty flat, boring and no challenge to world class rafters! This was not what a world champs rafting event was about! Rain dancers were being done with renewed vigor!

Day Three dawned with the happy sight of rain falling – but was it enough! Then Mark Joffe announced that the river was coming up and the event would be held on the exciting upper tributary! After a longish drive, teams got onto the river for their practice run of the Downriver. They were all getting off the river stoked by the river and the rapids! After lunch the final event of the WRC began.

As the river had continued to rise, it was now a foot more than during their practice run it was still full of unknowns for the teams – they seemed to relish this! Once again the river was perfectly positioned next to a road allowing spectators to watch the teams coming down and to cheer them on enthusiastically. A great tussle was witnessed at one of these points between Brasil and Germany at the base of a rapid where Brasil found some super energy and surged past. New Zealand women cursed a hidden rock that slowed them fractionally – enough to have possibly cost them second place over all.

In the end the top 7 men's teams were less than a second apart – amazing after 42 minutes of paddling. But it was the Czechs who won in fine style. Not only did their men's team win but their women's team convincingly beat the determined Canadians and Slovaks. Russia and Japan's incredible efforts were not enough to beat the Czech men.



For the first time ever the results were kept a secret until the final prize giving later that afternoon. This kept the suspense up, particularly as far as the winning men's teams, the positions and times were so close that no predictions could be made without the facts. As the Downriver medals were handed out the expectations rose. The Czech women came to get their very well deserved gold medals for overall position and were crowned the new women's World Rafting Champs, with Canada getting silver and New Zealand bronze. The excitement was high and then the Brazilian camp broke into screams, cheers and dances of delight – they had spotted their flag being positioned on the pole for the winning team! A very exuberant Brazilian team came forward

for their hard fought gold medals and to be crowned men's World Rafting Champs! The Czechs claimed the silver and a very happy Japanese team claimed bronze.

This event definitely goes down as the closest fought amongst the men as they were a mere 5 points apart (Japan -778, Czech – 781, Brasil – 783). It's also the first time a Pan American team has lifted the men's crown and that 3 continents have been represented in the men's final. This all bodes well for the future of raft racing and shows the growth and increased competitiveness it has experienced the last few years.

At last the teams could relax and party – and this they did in fine style, as usual, back at the Athletes Village.

WORLD RAFTING *Championships*

RAW: Your overall impression of the event

HJ: the event was fine.

RAW: Communicating with International teams:

HJ: Communicating with International teams is easy, but we don't have enough opportunity for meeting with them (our team was living in another village AV2 than the others teams AV 3).

RAW: How you trained for the event:

HJ: We trained from October twice a week (in a gym, on the raft on flat water), from spring 2007 we were paddling three times a week, we had training weeks when we trained twice a day.

RAW: Travelling to the event:

HJ: travelling was very easy, our flight from Prague to Seoul took 9 hours.

RAW: How your team got together

HJ: We took off Czech rafting races on R4 raft, before Euro-pean Championship 2003 we started to go on R6 raft together, our team is with small changes the same.

RAW: Your impression of South Korea

HJ: It is a pity, than level of water in the Naerincheon river was very low, the river was beautiful and we wanted to go on it more times.

Did you travel after the event? Where? What was your experience?

HJ: Most of our team return home 2 days after ending, only 2

girls travelled one week around parks and see banks

Your impression of the river

HJ: The river was very nice and wild with a lot of water, without water there was a lot of stones.

Food you ate, people you met at the event and surrounding areas?

HJ: We liked Korean food, rice, vegetables, grilled meat. People were very friendly with us, but communication was difficult..

Any funny or unusual experience

HJ: our driver found for us "qutreleaf" for good luck and he incredibly cared for us all the time. We would like to tell him "thanks" again.



Czechoslovakia—Hájková Jaroslava

WORLD RAFTING *Championships*



Croatia—Zdeslav Karlovac

For us the most memorable moment, was the downriver race. That is why we went to Korea - to try new white-water.

This year was not good for rafting; low water almost everywhere and we understand that organizer could not do anything about that. We also had the same problem with our race.

Overall impressions were very good. There are some things that could have been better (it was not easy to send an e-mail or be in contact with our country) but overall it was very good. We really enjoyed being in Korea and meeting rafters from around the world.

We mostly communicated with teams from Europe that we meet during the Eurocup races.

We trained as much as we could since most of us have jobs that are not related to rafting. It was certainly

not as much as most of the teams, but it was our maximum with all things considered.

Our flight was from Zagreb to Paris and then to Seoul. It took us almost 24 hours to get to Inje.

Our team is a mostly group of ex-guides who started to work something else full time and did not want to stop rafting. Only one of us makes a living working as a guide. Most of us did not want to work with tourists any more and we wanted to try other rivers, so forming a competition team was logical. The team started to form some 4-5 years ago, but this group that was in Korea have been together over last 3 years.

South Korea was great - very nice people, hospitable, always smiling. We really felt great there and made some new friends we hope to see again. Country is also beautiful, we took a tour through Seoul and visited

Traditional Korean Village and Seoraksan National Park. It was worth a trip, we saw much and found out a lot about Korea.

Unfortunately after the event we had to go straight home, back to work.

River was interesting, it is bad luck that water level was so low. But downriver was great!

We tried many Korean specialties and they were very different than food we usually eat, more spicy, but everyone found something he liked. We meet a lot of new people from all over the world and we hope we'll see them again. We kept in touch with many of them.

We had a great time in Korea, it was great to be there, see Korea, meet rafters from all over the world, hang out and party with them. We hope to do it again in 2 years

WORLD RAFTING *Championships*



Canada—Annie Bergevin

RAW: What was your team's most memorable moment at the WRC 2007?

South Korea 2007 was such an amazing and unforgettable experience for all the members of the Canadian Womens Rafting Team. After our third participation at the Worlds, so many hours of training, sponsorship seeking, not much races in between to see where you stand, winning the sprint the first day made our Worlds. It gave us an outstanding energy for the next 2 days. Big thanks to our sponsors that contribute to our fantastic journey: WRSI helmets and Stohlquist.

RAW: Your overall impression of the event .

Well organized with all teams being in the same village just increased the added value of the race! The lack of rain was a pain for everyone but the organizing committee worked hard to make it better.

RAW: Communicating with International teams:

There was a big lack in the pre-organization having to set up everything for airport shuttles, pre-event hotels and being told after all to do it over because... no real reason...

RAW: How did you train for the event:

The last 5 years... 3 times a week all summer... This spring, we had 3

days in the gym combined with 3 days on the river for about 2 months and a half. Last summer, we did different rivers to increase our ability to react quickly and read well!

RAW: Travelling to the event?

Long!!!! Almost 34 hours of traveling by bus, plane, and shuttles! It's exhausting but worth it!

RAW: How did your team get together?

We met mostly on the Jacques Cartier, guiding for either one of the 2 companies. We also recruited 2 girls from flat water canoeing. We added two new members this year to join 5 girls that were in Ecuador in 2005.

RAW: Your experience of one of the races

The downriver this year was magical. Having a scouting run in the morning was exhausting but all the teams were pretty much on the same token. One time seeing and you are on for a downriver of 42 minutes!!! Great rapids, good water level, great challenge... that was real white water rafting!!!

RAW: Your impression of South Korea

Awesome country with an incredible culture! People were being nice to us even if most of the time, there was a huge language barrier!!!

RAW: Did you travel after the event?

Half of the men and women team traveled for an extra week in Seoul. It was great to visit the museums, Olympic park, palaces, prisons, sightseeing, and more Korean food!!! This country has a huge history, many political issues to learn about in order to amplify the value of the our participation at the Worlds.

RAW: Your impression of the river

The lack of water was a desolating aspect of the Worlds but what can we do about it... the sprint section was technical because of a low level... if you could win the start... you were pretty much set. The slalom section was well done and the downriver was excellent! A good increase of water during the previous night and all day just made it awesome!

RAW: Food you ate, people you met at the event and surrounding areas?

Being at the Worlds is about rafting first but you get the chance to meet amazing people from all over the world that share the same passion!! It's a wonderful experience that we will remember all our life!

WORLD RAFTING *Championships*

Brazil—Jean Claude Razel



RAW: When did you start paddling and what was your motivation?

JCR: Working as a rafting guide in Brotas

RAW: Most memorable/gnarly/happy paddling moment?

JCR: The gold at IRF WRC 2007 of course !!!!

RAW: Favourite river and why?

JCR: Jacaré PEpira river in Brotas where we learned, work and fight to preserv !!!

RAW: When you're not paddling you like to.....?

JCR: As all Brazilian, the time left is for soccer and samba. But there is little time left ultimately...

RAW: What next?

JCR: Maintain competitive team for IRF WRC 2009 in Bosnia

RAW: changes would you like to see in competitive rafting?

JCR: Good judges and fair competitions which is not always the case in South America...



WORLD RAFTING *Championships*



Germany –Linda Linus

RAW: What was your team's most memorable moment at the WRC 2007?

When we got third after the first run of the slalom. Unfortunately we just got 5th after the second run L

RAW: Your overall impression of the event :

Bad luck with the water! But nevertheless a great event with a lot of interesting people from all over the world.

RAW: Communicating with International teams:

Awesome accommodation in the Mirinae Camp with all teams on the same spot. We met a lot of interesting people and had a great time with the other teams in the camp.

RAW: How you trained for the event :

At home we tried to have training with the whole team twice a week, and on the weekends we went on several rivers in Europe, like Austria, Switzerland, south of Bavaria to have different downriver experiences.

RAW:How your team got together :

Every year in Augsburg is the German Masters of Rafting. Some of us living in Augsburg are slalom kajakers and so some day we started to try our best in rafting. We completed our team with 2 friends of us that are raft guides.

RAW: Your experience of one of the races:

The downriver race was super!!!! Good that the rain came, big waves we don't have at home in Germany.

RAW: Your impression of South Korea:

Friendly country, where you can play jigsaw puzzle with the signs of the towns. Who finds the right word on the bus?

RAW: Your impression of the river :

Low water level L Looks like a good spot, when water is there. It's unusual and nice to have warm water in the river.

RAW: Food you ate, people you met at the event and surrounding areas?

Thank you Outdoor Family!!! Rice, rice everywhere and hot kimchi. We ate rice with bananas and jam for breakfast, rice with butter and vegetables for lunch and rice with everything that was left for dinner. And we still like rice!

RAW: Any funny or unusual experience:

People swimming at the beach with there usual clothes on. We call it the "telephone joker": friendly Korean people discovered when we where lost in the streets, they asked us if they can help, but there English was to poor to communicate with us, so they called with there mobile phone some friends and gave us the phone to talk to them. And we never knew who is on the other end of the line and what he or she will tell us. Great challenge.

We thank our Sponsors: Artistic for equipment, Kober for the paddles and RMW for the financial support.

WORLD RAFTING *Championships*



WRC 2009—Event Director: Aleksandar Pastir

Bosnia & Herzegovina

18 - 24 May

2009

Ecoflag

Eco flag flew for the first time at the WRC.

Sue Liell-Cock said "Rafters are keen environmentalists and strive to maintain free flowing rivers. The IRF and GSA have similar aims."

The IRF and Global Sports Alliance (GSA) are busy collaborating to help raise environmental awareness through the sport of rafting. The Ecoflag symbolizes the commitment to the environment of sports-lovers and everyone who knows the importance and irreplaceable nature of the water, air and greenery that surrounds us.

Although tackling the environmental impact of sport can be an overwhelming challenge, the IRF has recognised the nature of its relationships with the environment and is taking positive steps to reduce the impact and promote a new 'sustainable sport' ethic.

The main focus of the IRF's environmental activities will be to introduce and encourage good environmental practice in all of the events under the IRF banner and to increase environmental awareness through its members and community and environmental groups.

The Ecoflag will act as a symbol of sustainable sport and encourage the development of a strategy to minimise environmental impact.

More information on the Ecoflag movement can be found at:

www.ecoflag.com



WANTED

Fanatically accurate multi-tasking computing machine with no interest in rafting or rafters to sit with other equally unsociable characters on uncomfortable rocks deep in baking hot gorges for days without end, and stare at stopwatch faces. Must have detailed in-depth knowledge of 24 pages of constantly changing Race Rules and IRF Statutes and be willing to apply these without exception or favouritism.

REWARD

Unlimited rewards and compensation. Ideal position for person studying fluid dynamics

A mythical advert?

By Bruce Waters—IRF Judge Extraordinaire

Perhaps, but one not far removed from the reality of judging whitewater rafting races. A judge certainly needs to be fanatically accurate and the reasons for that are perhaps obvious. (A lesser known, but far more realistic justification is that each team now employs their own videographer, timer and full-time judge critic, ready and willing to jump on any miscalculation or misreading as proof positive of a nationalist bias.

The “no interest in rafting or rafters” should raise a few eyebrows.... The reality however is that a judge is so focused on a small bit of river that he or she is driven to forget that there is white water, rafts, and excitement both above and below the judging position. And it is a law of judging that all the flips, spills, grounding, barging, ramming and pure brutalisation of other competitors always happens on someone else’s judging position.... Unless of course you are too busy recording your own observations to see the chaos right in front of you.

Again – there is a wonderful theory that every boat will sooner or later come past so waving at friends and acknowledging your rafting heroes can be done at some point, but alas a judge is so busy hastily writing down your observations in the correct box of a myriad of possible places on the judges sheet, that you miss the opportunity and only see a helmet and a paddle or six disappearing from view. “Too late” the cry.....

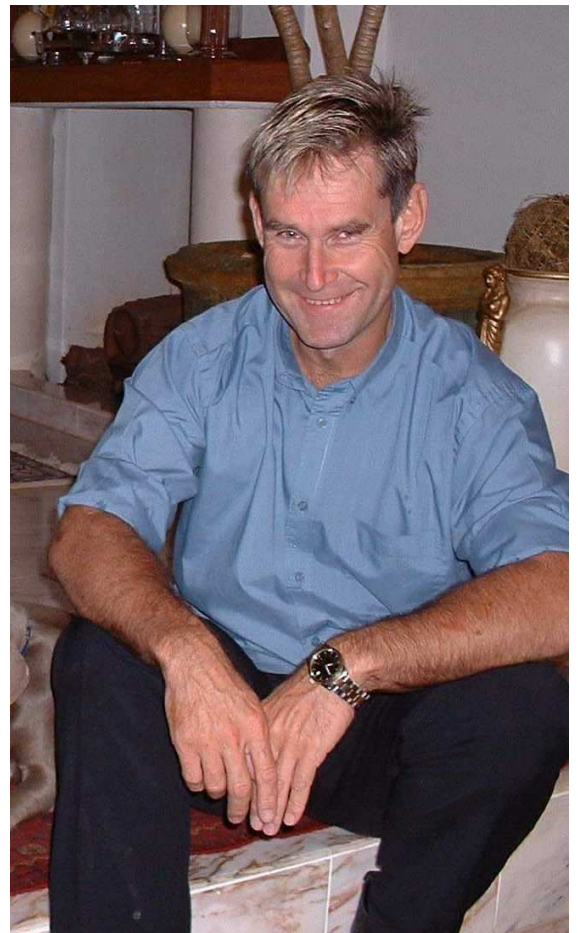
The Race Rule part of that advert? Now THERE’s a sore point..... Not even the people that calculatedly formulated them in the most obscure, arcane and confusing language possible (and, by the way I definitely isn’t english...) know them.

But everyone else has to – not least again because the teams do. I suspect the probable reason for being required to know the rules is so that interesting conversation times at breakfast and dinner about which of the lady (or guy) rafters is hot or not can be sidetracked into arcane and esoteric debate on the specific application of, and circumstantial variations to, the second bullet point of phrase iv of clause 3 of paragraph A in section 5) in chapter Q.

Of course on the subject of the aforementioned nationalist biases, favouritism occasionally does come into play, at which point the principal occupation of judge changes from defending what you saw into the far more motivational role of attacking other judges for not seeing the same thing – especially when they happen to share a flag with the erring team.....

Which brings me to the general obnoxious personalities of fellow judges. Your penchant for accuracy becomes in colleagues a religious fervour,,, your calmness and focus manifests in them as laziness and sleeping on the job.... And your occasional mis-judgement translates to a litany of deliberate biases as soon as it appears in a fellow of the panel.

The reward for all of this is not measurable in cash. It is measured in appreciation, usually communicated, sometimes unspoken, but always sincere from teams, competitors and colleagues.



It is measured in opportunities to travel to the most awe-inspiring natural settings, located in unspoilt parts of the world. It is measured in the companionship exuded in bucketloads by fellow rafters. And it is measured in the memories of events past that stay with you always, people that you never forget, and some of the happiest times in your life.

.....The reward for all of this is not measurable in cash. It is measured in appreciation, usually communicated, sometimes unspoken, but always sincere from teams, competitors and colleagues.....

And then we come to the fluid dynamics... Now here is the real reason to become a judge. There is usually plenty of time before and between heats to sit by yourself at peace. Watching boils, eddies and currents, swirling in massive bodies of usually very pure water, as they gurgle and roar over obstacles generates a calmness and tranquillity that overcomes all the hassles. By its very nature, whitewater rafting goes to the most beautiful places on the planet, and judging it allows you the time to appreciate and enjoy them and the people that make it happen.

BACK *paddle*

results



The Australian Team with the India Cup

From left: Keto, Gusto, Matty, Jan, Darrel and Kevin. After hanging on to win the 1hr15min long down river event with the Army teams hot on our trail, we recieved gold medals for all 3 events and overall honours in the competition.



Campionati Italiani di Rafting Assoluti Villeneuve - 29 luglio 2007 Classifica sprint

Classifica generale		1^ manche	2^ manche	Totale	Classifica finale
Cat. Open Maschile					
	Rafting Sterzing/Vipiteno	02:12.02	02:11.56	04:23.58	1
	Grand Paradis Emotions/Anatre di Fiume	02:20.40	02:15.45	04:35.85	2
	Indomita Valtellina River 1	02:17.94	02:20.26	04:38.20	3
	No Work Merano	02:24.22	02:20.38	04:44.60	4
	Canoa Club Vicenza	02:23.73	02:21.25	04:44.98	5
	Betty Boys CK 90 FIGE	02:24.28	02:23.91	04:48.19	6
	Rafting Aventure Valle d'Aosta 1	02:26.78	02:24.51	04:51.29	7
	Tarzanelli d'Acqua dolce VDA	02:37.57	02:28.85	05:06.42	8
	Totem Adventure - Protezione Civile VDA	02:44.30	02:34.82	05:19.12	9
Turisti Maschile					
	Accadueo Valsesia	02:30.28	02:31.78	05:02.06	1
	Rafting Aventure 2 Mai Domi	02:28.56	02:36.09	05:04.65	2
	Croce Rossa Italiana	03:05.10	02:42.26	05:47.36	3
Open Femminile					
	Indomita Valtellina River 2	02:29.93	02:26.93	04:56.86	1
	Rafting Aventure Valle d'Aosta Donne	02:30.83	02:28.98	04:59.81	2

BACK *paddle* results

Euro Cup R6—Guarana—Tara 2007

	FINAL RESULTS EURO CUP R6 GUARANA – TARA 2007 Sćepan Polje (MNE)	
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Rank	St.no.	Team	Nationality	Slalom	Sprint	Downriver	TOTAL
MEN							
1	4	KANJON 1	BIH	264	300	400	964
2	3	MARIBOR	SLO	300	216	352	868
3	14	VIDRA	SLO	237	237	316	790
4	8	CETINA	CRO	216	264	288	768
5	18	LIMAN	SRB	198	207	276	681
6	12	PIVA	MNE	171	189	264	624
7	1	SOKO	MNE	207	198	204	609
8	20	VIDRA	CRO	180	144	252	576
9	13	GARDASEVIC	MNE	153	171	240	564
10	2	ADRENALIN	SRB	162	162	216	540
11	10	ALFA TIM 1	SRB	135	153	228	516
12	9	HIGHLANDER (ENCIJAN)	BIH	117	180	168	465
13	11	LIM LUCICE 1	SRB	144	126	180	450
14	17	OGULIN	CRO	108	135	192	435
15	6	EKO VIKING	BIH	90	117	156	363
16	15	LIM LUCICE 2	SRB	84	108	144	336
17	5	LIM LUCICE 3	SRB	99	90	132	321
18	19	TIFRAN	SRB	126	99	0	225
19	16	KANJON 2 MTEL	BIH	189	0	0	189
20	7	ALFA TIM 2	SRB	78	84	0	162
WOMEN							
1	24	LIMAN	SRB	300	264	400	964
2	25	ALFA TIM	SRB	264	300	316	880
3	22	MARIBOR	SLO	237	237	352	826
4	21	FENIX PODGORICA	MNE	216	207	0	423
5	23	TIFRAN	SRB	207	216	0	423

BACK *paddle*

results



Sunnysoft Czech Cup 2007

Parting Shot



Opening Ceremony —World Rafting Championships—South Korea 2007