



Scottish Canoe Association

Caledonia House
South Gyle
EDINBURGH
EH12 9DQ

Telephone : 0131 317 7314
Fax : 0131 317 7319
www.canoescotland.com
stuart.smith@canoescotland.com

Consultation Paper
Scottish Government
Area 2 – F(S)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

7th May 2008

Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland

Response by the Scottish Canoe Association

Introduction

The Scottish Canoe Association welcomes this consultation and the opportunity to contribute to the Legacy Plan for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The Scottish Canoe Association is the national governing body for the sport with over 2,500 individual members with a further 3,500 members of 85 affiliated clubs across Scotland. We are volunteer led and support canoeing and kayaking in all its forms whether top slalom athletes heading for Beijing this summer or someone exploring the Scottish countryside as pure recreation.

The awarding of the Commonwealth Games to Glasgow in 2014 provides an opportunity for Scotland to create a step change in the sporting landscape within Scotland. It is crucial that the planning and action to ensure that the Games are a success starts now and is driven by clear political leadership and a will to make it happen.

It is extremely sad and regrettable that the Olympic canoeing disciplines of Canoe Slalom and Sprint Racing will not be included in the 2014. At a time when 100% of the British Olympic Canoe Slalom team are Scots (Campbell Walsh in mens kayak, Fiona Pennie in ladies kayak and David Florence in mens canoe class) it is a missed opportunity that these top athletes will be denied the chance to win gold on home water in 2014. Also regrettable is the fact that the purpose built Strathclyde Park regatta facility will not be used in 2014 for the flat water Sprint Racing.

Key issues

The key areas that the Scottish Canoe Association considers to be priorities as far as the overall sporting legacy is concerned are:

- **Supporting volunteers, including volunteer coaches**
- **Developing better physical education and sport in schools – to prepare pupils to take up sports like canoeing**
- **Facility access and provision – including the development of artificial white water courses in Scotland as well as better parking/changing/storage facilities for clubs/groups**

The SCA is volunteer led and all canoeing clubs are volunteer led. Each technical discipline within canoeing and kayaking is run by a committee of volunteers and coaching within clubs and specific



Scottish Canoe Association

Caledonia House
South Gyle
EDINBURGH
EH12 9DQ

Telephone : 0131 317 7314
Fax : 0131 317 7319
www.canoescotland.com
stuart.smith@canoescotland.com

disciplines is delivered by volunteer coaches. Therefore support and the development of volunteers are key to the future increase in participation and performance in the sport.

We are also concerned that children learn generic fundamental skills in school and that regular participation in sport is seen as the norm rather than the exception in youngsters.

Due to the work of the SCA on Access over past decades and the inclusion of access to water within the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 canoeists and kayakers enjoy unprecedented access to take to the water in Scotland. The difficulties we encounter in access to water relate to clubs who struggle to find changing/parking/storage facilities and the long term plans involving developing artificial white water courses in Scotland (including one at Strathclyde Park) in order to provide white water access close to where people live.

Performance

Despite the fact that Canoeing is not included in the 2014 games, success at Beijing and London 2012 by the top Scottish paddlers will provide the inspiration to the next generation of Scots. We welcome the opportunity to host events linked to 2014 to showcase Scottish canoeing talent including a flat water racing spring regatta at Strathclyde Park.

Investment

Investment in 2014 games and the sports associated with them must not be at the expense of level of investment to Olympic sports in which Scottish athletes excel – such as canoeing.

The role of governing bodies

As a volunteer led, membership organisation the SCA will work to increase participation in and performance of canoeing through 2008, 2012, 2014 and beyond.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Smith

Chief Executive Officer of the Scottish Canoe Association