



**Wild Water Racing
ECA Cup Final and ICF Classic Ranking
Race @ Llangollen, Wales**

21/22 November 2026

Event Plan

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1. Introduction

The following document describes in detail the plans and activities planned for the Wild Water Racing ECA Cup final and the ICF Classic Ranking race being staged on the River Dee in Llangollen, Wales. The event is based on existing official guidance and good working practice guidelines and details the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the management and operations of the event.

This event is run in accordance with generic Paddle UK policies and procedures.

Paddle UK Policies: <https://paddleuk.org.uk/our-policies-and-procedures/>

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion: <https://paddleuk.org.uk/equality-diversity-inclusion/>

Anti-Doping: <https://paddleuk.org.uk/anti-doping-paddle-clean/>

Safeguarding: <https://paddleuk.org.uk/safeguarding-policies/>

Safety: <https://paddleuk.org.uk/category/safeguarding/>

Environment & Sustainability: <https://paddleuk.org.uk/environment-and-sustainability/>

2.Event Overview

Venue	River Dee, Chainbridge Hotel, Llangollen
Location	Llangollen
Event dates	21 & 22 November 2026
Headline schedule	Saturday 1 st Run 12.00, 2 nd Run 13.30, Team run 15.00 Sunday Classic K1 @ 10.30, C1 @ 11.30, Team @ 12.30
Competition Format	Wild Water Race
No. of athletes	~60
No. of Officials/Volunteers/staff	10
No. of spectators expected for the event	Only casual spectators – not being advertised locally
Event Objectives	Provide international competition opportunities for UK athletes and encourage competitors from Europe and overseas to UK waters.
Venue Use	Key areas of the venue to be used for the event, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● River Dee, Natural River – Course @ Serpents tail and the classic downstream to Llangollen Town ● Toilets – Chainbridge hotel & Horseshow falls car park. ● Catering @ Chainbridge Hotel ● Parking @ Horseshoe falls Car Park ● Gazebos
[Any other key areas of note]	Function Room at Chainbridge hotel to be used as event headquarters

3.Roles & Responsibilities

Role	Entity	Responsibilities
Event Organiser Rob Guest	PUK Wild Water Racing Committee]	Full competition delivery Health and safety of competition & associated activities Official/volunteer/participant management Water Safety provision First Aid provision Welfare provision
Discipline Committee	PUK Wild Water Racing Committee	Event Authorisation
	Paddle UK	PL Insurance Policies & Guidance
Venue HQ	Chainbridge Hotel Function Room	Used for: Organisers base Paddler Briefings and focal point Emergency triage centre – if required Paddler shelter if poor weather Results and notices Food and welfare facilities Prize Giving

4.Key Contacts

Role	Name	Contact Information	Details of When On Site
Event Organiser before event	Rob Guest	rob@k1-solutions.co.uk 07816 657 255	Duration of event
Event Lead on the day	Jamie Christie	07736 959 396	Duration of event
Safety Officer	Dan Marsland	07751 079 1229	Duration of event
Welfare/Safeguarding Officer	Helen Christie	07905 312 975	Duration of event
First Aid /Medical Lead	Dan Marsland	07751 079 1229	Duration of event
[Any other key roles such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discipline Committee contact ● Paddle UK contact ● Chief Official ● Timing/scoring lead ● Media lead 	Simon Wright PUK WWR Chair NA Jamie Christie Jamie Christie NA		

5. Headline Schedule

	Key Timing	Start	End
Saturday 22 November	Venue Opening (Function Room)	Sat 08.00	Sat 19.00
	Event Setup	Sat 08.00	Sat 19.00
	Competition	Sat 12.00	Sat 15.30
	Event Catering	Self-catering or food available at hotel	
	Prize Giving	Saturday 18.00	
Sunday 23 November	Venue Opening	Sunday 08.30	Sunday 14.00
	Event Setup	Sunday 08.30	Sunday 14.00
	Competition	Sunday 10.30	Sunday 13.00
	Event/Public Catering	Self-catering or food available at hotel	
	Event De-rig	Sunday 14.00	

6. Detailed Event Timetable

Saturday 22 November – ECA Sprint		
Activity/Facility	Start	End
Sprint Event Check-in	08.30	09.30
Free Practice on Serpents Tail	10.00	11.00
Competition Briefing (Function Room)	11.00	
1 st kayak runs	12.00	
2 nd kayak Runs	13.30	
Team Runs	15.00	
Prize giving (Function Room)	18.00	

Sunday 23 – ICF Classic		
Activity/Facility	Start	End
Classic Event Check-in	09.30	10.00
Competition Briefing (Function Room)	10.00	
K1 Classic Start	10.30	
Canoe runs	11.30	
Team Runs	12.30	
Prize giving (Function Room)	14.30	

7. Venue

The race will be held on the River Dee, Llangollen Wales.

The race administration will be at
The Chainbridge Hotel, Berwyn St, Llangollen LL20 8BS
What 3 words: ///stickler.blushes.maybe

The Car Park is the Horseshoe Falls car park above the hotel.
LL20 8BT (what 3 words “skirting.pursue.ruin”)

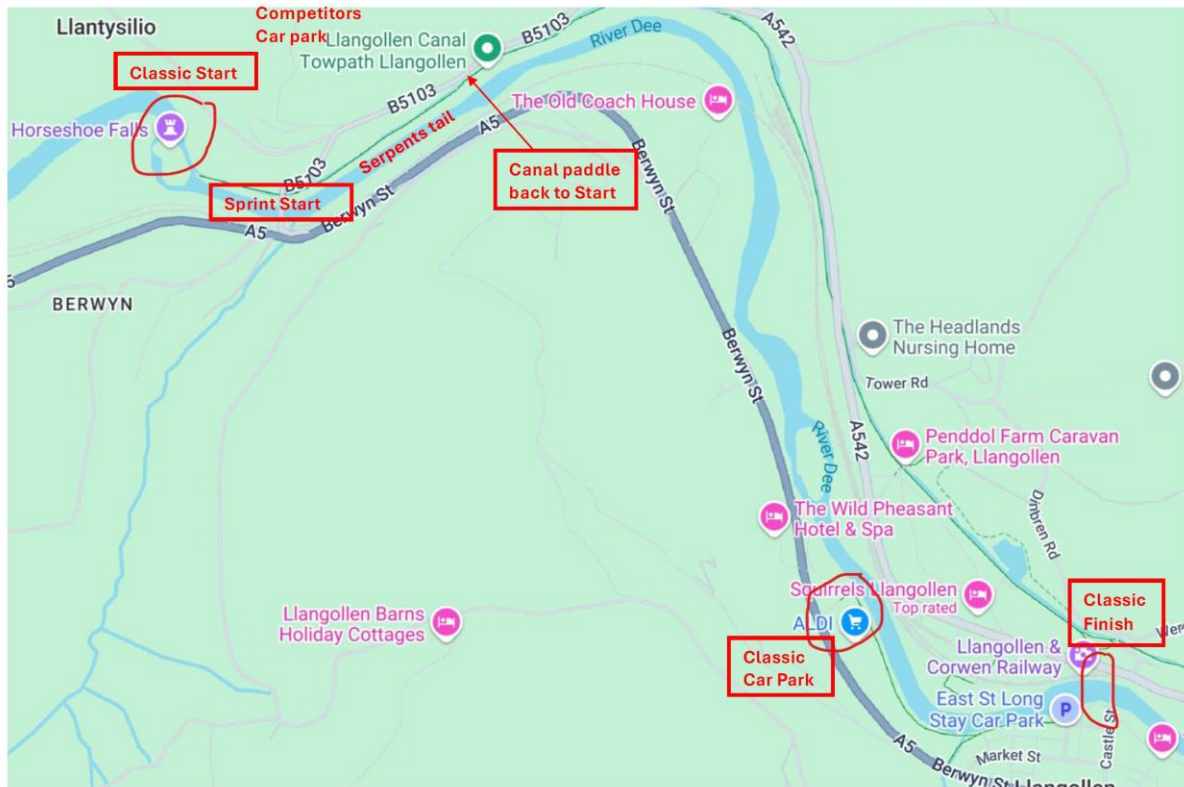
8. Event permissions

Not applicable for this event

9. Facility Requirements

Facility	Structure/Space	Location
Event Control	Chainbridge Hotel – Function Room	Adjacent to start
Timing & Scoring	WWR Committee equipment	
Volunteer & Competitor Welfare	Public toilets	Chainbridge Hotel and Horseshoe car park toilets
Boat Storage	Public areas	Along course on the bank above the Chainbridge but not on footpath or hotel car park
Car Parking	Public Car Parks	Chainbridge upper Car park Horseshoe falls car park – charges apply NO PARKING at Hotel Lower Car Park
Water Access	Public area	Launching steps above the Chainbridge Hotel
Water Egress	Sprint Bankside – Serpent tail Classic Bankside – Llangollen	Bottom of Serpents tail Steps above Town falls – River Right
Prize giving	Bank	Green Hut

10. Map



[Map of venue showing key locations]

11. Participant Details

Information relating to the paddler is gathered as part of the wild water entry system, including access to the course specific risk assessment.

12. Participant Communication

Communication to the event is through the web site or social media channels. The format for the event is well established and any new or novice paddlers can be recognised from the start list.

13. Workforce Requirements

This event is run using approximately 10 people

Starters – Dan Marsland, Richard Troop, Dawn Troop
Finish - Jamie Christie, Helen Christie, Nick Taylor Billy Blackman
First Aid – Jamie Christie, Helen Christie, Nicky Cresser, Dan Marsland
Boat Check – Sally Atkonson, Dawn Troop
Bib Administration - Louise Maloney, Emily Lansborough
Results – Jamie Christie – on-line live results
Competition Judge – Jamie Christie / Nicky Cresser
Technical Support – Carl Foody
Mini-bus shuttle drivers (practice & Race day) - TBA

14. Ticketing & Crowd Management

Not applicable for this event

15. Communications

This event is on the natural River Dee, along the Serpents Tail section of the river with reasonable visibility along the technical and most difficult section of the course. Communication between start and finish is via radios and WhatsApp messaging. Intermediate bankside safety cover is provided at the start and finish and in the middle of the course

16. Water Safety

First Aid – Jamie Christie, Helen Christie, Nicky Cresser, Hannah Brown, Dan Marsland Who will be providing safety cover?

Water Safety – Dan Marsland (Fire Service), Jamie Christie (SSRT), Nicky Cresser (SSRT) Kevin Bowerbank (2 day WW SRT)

Water safety is via bankside & throwlines. Paddlers are instructed that they must not leave the water after their race unless at least 2 other paddlers are on the water. This is mentioned at the race briefing and is standard practice with experienced WWR paddlers.

If water levels rise above to the point where the backchannel at the start Point (bridge support pier on far bank to the hotel) becomes flooded, this will force a review of racing conditions. If it continues to fill, cutting off the start, this will force the cancellation of the race.

The prevailing weather conditions in the week prior to the event or during the event itself (heavy rain or snow) will be monitored by the organisers and the river gauges at Cowen and at Dee Bridge to see the trend in the water levels. The rate of rise will give an early indication of the likely conditions to reach Llangollen some 2 hours later.

The upstream water gauges at Bala and Corwen will be used to monitor the water levels with both the height and rate of rise being a key consideration. The November 2024 event saw a rapid increase in water levels, though water flowing in the back channel around the Chainbridge support pier is a positive indicator local to the event. The river levels at the upstream gauge for the Dee at Corwen will be monitored and an alarm raised if this gauge reaches between 0.7 and 1.0mts.

The organisers will reassess the water conditions for both safety of the paddlers and the viability of running the event. The event is an all-inclusive event so if the water conditions deteriorate to an extent where less competent paddlers are able to compete safely then racing will be postponed or cancelled.

17. Medical

First Aid

First Aid – Jamie Christie, Helen Christie, Nicky Cresser, Hannah Brown, Dan Marsland, Kevin Bowerbank.

For emergencies the event safety plan will apply.

Local Hospitals

Wrexham Maelor Hospital 24 hour A&E
Croesnewydd Road, Wrexham, LL13 7TD
The hospital is 19KM from Llangollen, approximately 20 minutes by car.

Oswestry Health Centre (10.2 miles from Llangollen)
Open 08:30 - 18:00. Open 8:30 - 13:00 Saturday and Sunday

Community Hospital Non-24h
Thomas Savin Road
Off Gobowen Road
Oswestry
SY11 1GA

18. Transport & Parking

Local Traffic Impact

There will be no impact to local traffic, however paddlers must not park on the local roads

Shuttle Bus

Mini Busses and canoe trainers will be provided to transport paddlers between the Chainbridge and the finish (Aldi Carpark) during practicing the classic course on Saturday and the classic race event.

Parking Protocol

Parking is at Llantysilio Green car park (also known as Horseshoe Falls Car Park) and walk down to the Chainbridge Hotel to access the water. The car park & toilet post code is LL20 8BT (what 3 words “skirting.pursue.ruin”)

There is no overnight parking and camping is not permitted. Charges will apply to the car park, up to 2 hours: £2.00 and All day: £5.00.

Free Parking for National Trust members displaying valid Trust membership card / sticker clearly in car window.

No parking at the Chainbridge Lower car park as this is required for Emergency Access

19. Incident Reporting

Any incident, no matter how big, small or a near miss should be reported to Jamie Christie & Dan Marsland where incident report forms will be available. Incidents will then be logged through the [Paddle UK Incident Report System](#)

20. Lost & Found

All lost property, found or missing will be logged via the social media & WhatsApp group.

21. Safeguarding & Welfare

Helen Christie is the event safe guarding officer

22. Photography & Media

The PUK WWC do not have any organised photography, however volunteer photographers from within the sport are welcome to attend the event. All those who are intending on providing Photography via PUK must attend the event briefing at the start of each day.

Photography is generally from the banks, and as this is a natural river some hazard may be encountered. It is advised that anyone from within the sport familiarises themselves with the hazards around the area that they wish to take photographs, seeking the advice of other members of the PUK Wild Water team.

The event organisers must be made aware of anyone who has been asked by PUK to provide photography services or any other services where access to the water is required.

23. Catering

All catering is via self-catering or purchased from the Chain Bridge hotel.

24. Branding & Signage

PUK flags have been requested for the prize giving

25. Noise Management

Not applicable to this event

26. Waste Management

All event derived waste must be removed from site.

Social media posts and the briefing will be used to notify paddlers to keep their areas tidy.

27. Accessibility

The banks of the River Dee are generally open to members of the public, however there are considerable accessibility issues for those who wish to access the water edge along the Serpents tail section of the river. Access is not recommended for those who have restricted mobility and will be discouraged.

The organisers will assess the condition of access and egress to the Serpents Tail prior to the start of the event.

The event will not be publicly advertised, and notices will be provided at the access points to the Serpents tail advising general members of the public that there are hazards for which the organisers of the event cannot be held responsible for any damage or injury.

Paddlers are to access the water via the launch steps above the Chainbridge hotel. Canoes and equipment must not be left on the footpath or on the road adjacent to the canal near to the Chainbridge hotel. This will be briefed in social media posts before the event and again at the briefing.

The egress area at the Serpents Tail will be after the finish line and will require paddlers to navigate across the rocks. Paddlers will be encouraged to help each other across the rocks.

The egress for the Classic race will be the steps above town falls on the river right. A Marshall will be posted at the steps to help paddlers to disembark and they will walk to the Aldi Car Park.

28. Contingency Planning

In the event where the water conditions are too high to run the race safely, then the only viable option is to run a sprint or classic event on the adjacent local canal. Other boat traffic on the canal at that time of year is low, though it is possible that the local tourist barge company may still be operating. The organisers will assess the use of the canal by other users before commencing such an event.

29. Emergency Procedures

Dan Marsland, Jamie Christie and Nicky Cresser will be positioned at the start, finish and mid-way along the course to monitor the safety on the course, supported by others mentioned in 16.

In the event of a significant emergency Dan Marsland (ex Fire & Rescue) will coordinate the incident.

Any emergency incident will be notified directly to the key personnel who will immediately put in place the emergency procedures in accordance with the emergency plan.

In the event of an incident of a serious nature (Hospitalisation or significant injury, loss of life to anyone in the vicinity, be they participants, volunteers or public) the event organiser will contact the Paddle UK Major Incident Management Team on 0115 6971600 following the guidance within the major incident planning guidance

30. Insurance

If the event is delivered by a Paddle UK affiliated Club or discipline committee, the event & Its Organisers and Volunteers are insured within the [Paddle UK insurance policy](#).

Event Participants have insurance through Individual on the Water Membership, being a Club Associate or purchasing a Single Event Membership, as defined within the Discipline Rules.

31. Anti-Doping

As an affiliated event, UK Anti-Doping may attend the event to conduct testing. In the event of their attendance, they should be directed to event control where the event organiser will be informed and will liaise with them to ensure compliance.

The NWSC WWC administration building will then be utilised for the testing process.