

# CORDLESS CANOES 2016: THE RULES

*If the CCC ain't broke, don't fix it, they told the editor.*

*But surely he could tweak it... just a little?*

This was the nub of our 'mission statement' when we launched the first Cordless Canoe Challenge:

*Many will not take seriously electric propulsion afloat until the automotive industry comes up with affordable, light, compact, powerful, reliable and swiftly rechargeable batteries. Yet these are exactly the kind of batteries the power tool manufacturers have been selling us for several years.*

*Wouldn't it be great if the CCC stimulated the invention of a small boat... perhaps a tender... driven by an electric motor powered by one, two, even three, 18v cordless batteries, small enough to be slipped in a pocket to be recharged at home?*

That was 2011, so what's happened since? In the motor industry not a lot – yet. In the cordless world, however, batteries have come a long way. Pocket-sized Li-Ion batteries are now ubiquitous, able to be rapidly recharged to drive a vast variety of tools for much longer run-times, some as powerful as their mains-powered counterparts. Makita, our CCC's sponsors, have a range of over 100 different cordless workshop and garden tools powered by one or two 18 volt batteries. Neither Makita nor any other cordless tool manufacturer offers a cordless outboard motor yet but with our Cordless Canoe Challenges, we are working on them. Challenges, plural you'll notice, because there are now two different events to help us – and you – show the potential.

## THE CORDLESS TENDER CHALLENGE...

... is held on the Saturday of the Beale Park Boat Show – this year 5 June – with heats in the morning and the finals in the afternoon. Boats must be powered solely by conventional cordless tools – *first rule change alert* – but there are now no limits on their power or voltage. Hulls can be any shape or type but no longer than 10' (3.05m), not including any longtail rigs. They must be capable of carrying the pilot and an adult passenger – *second rule change alert* – who will be waiting on a pontoon near the start. Boats will race around a buoy, pick up the passenger and carry her – it's usually a her! – safely back to the start by the same route. Passengers are not allowed to assist progress. Buoyancy aids are compulsory!

## THE CORDLESS CANOE CHALLENGE...

... happens on Sunday 6 June, again with the heats in the morning and the finals in the afternoon. The rules, exactly the same as they were last year, decree that boats, of any shape or style – canoes are not compulsory – can be any length up to 16'3" (5m) and powered solely by any number of cordless tools with no limits on total power. The course will be sausage-shaped with three tight turns around the buoys.

## THE PRIZES...

...will be presented on Sunday afternoon, after the CCC Final. The outright winners of both the CTC and the CCC will receive sets of Makita cordless workshop tools each worth over £800. In addition, there will be two Special Prizes of Makita cordless tools, each worth over £250, for the Most Imaginative Entry and the Most Practical Entry in either contest, as chosen by Moray MacPhail and his tournament stewards.



*In the 2015 CTC, Simon Smith and his passenger in his cut-down pram Pagan had almost reached the Finish when suddenly... Photo: Kathy Mansfield.*

And the Special Prizes do not stop there. For 2016, we have made greater efforts to attract entries from crews of students of boat design, building, mechanical engineering... even PPE if they can bear the editor's political diatribes... and the creators of the best performing student entry will win Mr MacPhail's Classic

Marine Trophy. To encourage them even further, the entrants will get exhibitor passes and the Beale Park Boat Show organisers are offering a 40% discount on show admission – so £6, not £10 – to supporters with a valid NUS card or similar identification. Don't forget also that the organisers offer free parking and very reasonably priced overnight camping right on the Show site – to students and non-students alike.

## TO ENTER...

For a better idea of what's involved, watch the videos of all of our previous CCCs on [www.watercraft-magazine.com](http://www.watercraft-magazine.com) You can email us with queries at any time but be sure to send us your entry, with details of your boat and a picture or two, preferably underway, plus your contact details, no later than Monday 2 May to [ccc@watercraft-magazine.com](mailto:ccc@watercraft-magazine.com)