

April Volunteer Focus

Across the country, volunteers are making outstanding commitments to Paddlesport. Without the coaches, officials, committee members, administrators and helpers the sport could not exist as it does today. A special thanks goes to all volunteers and this section provides the opportunity for clubs, centres and committees to say a special thanks to their volunteers.

Local awards presentations have been taking place throughout the country giving the opportunity for clubs and centres to honour those volunteers in Paddlesport who deserve additional recognition. For Kathrin Weber, her award was not only deserved, but kept a big secret right until the presentation by her fellow club members.

Her dedication and big surprise was revealed at the Salford Sports Awards, where Kathrin was honoured with Volunteer of the Year for the district in recognition of her coaching in the outdoor pursuits section. Receiving her award from Mark Dutton, chairman of Salford Sports Council, Kathrin is now being put forward to represent Salford in the Greater Manchester awards.

Kathrin's outstanding work as a volunteer at Oakwood Youth Club in Greater Manchester, is increasingly worthy of recognition through the sessions she provides for children with physical and learning disabilities.

Not only does Kathrin coach individuals of all abilities on the lake at the weekly sessions, she helps fellow club coach Stephen Swallow with river trips and visits throughout the year across the region.

Her dedication doesn't stop there – Kathrin supports the young members on many events from bellboat to sprint racing competitions and helps coach young people through the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme on residential weekends to the Lake District. Her main passion is water polo where Kathrin coaches the junior team who reached the final of the annual North West Christmas event.

Her ultimate commitment to the club showed when supporting the clubs work towards gaining the BCU community Top Club award last year, and did not go unnoticed by fellow club member and coach, Stephen Swallow: "Kathrin's support in making this award achievable for the club was immeasurable."

Many thanks to all the volunteers in Paddlesport. Let Canoe England know about volunteers in your area for the chance for them to be recognised in Canoe Focus and receive a special gift of thanks. Email volunteers@bcu.org.uk or write to the Volunteer Coordinator, British Canoe Union, 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottingham NG13 8AP.