

## Mini Slalom Series win for Stone Junior

A promising junior from the home club won the Mini Slalom Series hosted by Stafford & Stone Canoe Club. 13-year old Rosie Bate won the series by winning the ten-boat final at the end of the series.

The final race determined the winner of the three pre-season slaloms held on the river Trent, Westbridge Park, Stone over the past two months. Points from the three races are added together to find the top-ten paddlers. As the Mini Slalom series are handicapped, all abilities race together.

Division 1 paddler Rosie had everything to loose as she set off last, having come 3<sup>rd</sup> at the first and third race and 1<sup>st</sup> at the second race. However she didn't disappoint with a time that would have been respectable in the Premier Division, maintaining her first place. Her times over the three Mini Slaloms indicate that it should not take her long to get promoted into the Premier division once the ranking races start. The teenager who attends Alneyes already has a place on the World Class Development programme.

Eight of the top ten paddlers were from SSCC with Robin Vasey (K1 Premier) coming 2<sup>nd</sup>, Adam Burgess 3<sup>rd</sup> (J18 C1 Premier), Rob Neave 5<sup>th</sup> (K1 Premier), Joe Clarke 6<sup>th</sup> (J18 K1 Premier), Robert Holdway (K1 Premier) and Pete Willet (K1 Premier) coming equal 7<sup>th</sup> and Sam Miles 9<sup>th</sup> (J14 K1 Div 1).

Despite the name, the Mini Slaloms are anything but small, such is their popularity with paddlers from all over the country. 114 competitors took part in the third Mini Slalom with over 180 participants taking part in at least one of the three events, many doing all three.

The next event at Stone is a ranking Division 3/4 slalom on March 15<sup>th</sup>.



The Symes family present Rosie Bate with the Mini Slalom trophy. Boat builder Roger Symes, who died in 2007, used to be a loyal supporter of the club and the Mini Slalom Series cup is dedicated to him.