

Report On 1st National Rafting Championship

4-5 April 2008, @ Bhotekoshi, Sidhupalchowk, Nepal



Proud to be part in making of Nepali National Team



Supported by:

Organized by: Himalayan River Guide Association (HRGAN) for the first time in the 4 decade long history of White Water Rafting in Nepal.....

Introduction:

On 4-5 April, 2008, first national rafting championship was organized by Himalayan River Guide Association Nepal (HRGAN). Championship was held on the world class Bhotekoshi, Baseri- 95 kilometers from Katmandu. Entire event was supported by yinyang restaurant, White Water Nepal, Paddle Nepal, Rapid Runner, Nepal association of Rafting Agents (NARA), Northfield café Restaurant, Yeti Airlines, Sungold Brewery of Chaudhary Group, Global Bank, Everest Bank, Nepal Mountaineering Association, The Last Resort, Jyoti Group, Sports Council, and Rafting and canoeing Association and Promoted by Nepal Tourism Board and facilitated by Nodan Club.

Objective of Championship:

In the history of the white water rafting in last 4 decades, many international rafters and kayakers have appreciated the white water of Nepal from all over. Many Nepali river guides have won the international prizes for taming the wild Himalayan Rivers, but we are not eligible to participate in International Rafting Competition until we got the National Team through National competition. Hence, the core objective of the championship was to build the National Team which will represent Nepal in Forthcoming international championship and encourage all the Nepalese raft guides . Another objective is to reveal the hidden treasure to Nepali people which could be achieved by promoting the Rafting as the source of attraction for Tourism and this also could be the rewarding career option for the Nepali youth.

Eligibility for the competitors:

1. All competitors must be the citizen of Nepal.
2. Competitors must be the registered member of HRGAN.
3. There must be 6 paddlers in a raft boat.
4. The raft size is 14 foot with definitely a safety line around the outside and a bow line in front and 10 D-rings.

Types of Competition:

There were two type of competition in whole event and set of laws for the competition were as that of the International Rafting Federation (IRF). First one was the down river race and it was the most demanding discipline and point system. This race starts from definite starting and only calculates the time at the end point. Next was the Slalom, this was the technical part of the competition and rather focused on the skills of the rafters also the faster run counts for points. There were 10 gates, some being upstream. These gates were distributed equally right and left approach to be snaked through and also in one gate boat should be flipped. And gates were with colours like red and green.

Participants:

Altogether there were 7 teams in the Championship. Each team consisted of the 6 paddlers as per the rule of international rafting federation. The lists of the team are given below

Team 1: Rapid Runners

- i. Dhan Bahadur Gurung(Team captain)
- ii. Dilip kumar Rai
- iii. Rajesh Lama
- iv. Saroj (Sano Babu Sunuwar)
- v. Naresh Kumar
- vi. Naresh Rai

Team 2: HRGAN

- i. Churamani Aryal(Team Captain)
- ii. Chandra Ale
- iii. Suresh Maharjan
- iv. Yub Raj Adhikari
- v. Prem Gurung
- vi. Bhupendra Raj Dhami

Team 3: Ultimate Rivers 'B'

- i. Anil Rai (Team captain)
- ii. Raj Tamang
- iii. Bishnu Gale
- iv. Kishwor Sherestha
- v. Rame Bhetwal
- vi. Rabin Sherestha

Team 4: Paddle Nepal

- i. Nim Bahadur Magar(Team Captain)
- ii. Santosh Bahadur Magar
- iii. Surya Bahadhur Magar
- iv. Binay Lama
- v. Som Bahadur Magar
- vi. Raju Thapa Magar

- iv. Hast Bahadur Thapa
- v. Tara bahadur paudel
- vi. Laxman suwyal

Team 5: Lost Paddle

- i. Bishnu Paudel(Team captain)
- ii. Basudev Kandel
- iii. Dhol Bahadur Gurung

Team 6: UD Nepal

- i. Daya Dangol(Team Captain)
- ii. Ishwor Thapa
- iii. Min Ale
- iv. Ran Pratap Sen
- v. Ashok Sen
- vi. Ramesh Thapa

Team 7: Ultimate Rivers 'A'

- i. Shayam Galan(Team captain)
- ii. Bam Dev Neupane
- iii. Dinesh Sherestha
- iv. Umesh Giri
- v. Kamal Bhandari
- vi. Kumar Sherestha



First day event:

On 4th April 2008, all the participants, organizers committee, media people and volunteer of team Nodan were engaged in making the history of White Water Rafting as the first national rafting competition was on that day. We were at the venue at around 12:00 pm and had a lunch provided by the Northfield café. After all the participants filled air in their raft boat there was a photo session for the participants and were apparently ready for the competition. After short briefing about the rules of the competition by the judges and managed well by the Facilitators of Team Nodan it was now all geared up for the competition to begin. Each team departed at an average of 3-5 minutes, as the race started all the people of media were busy enough to capture the race and we all wrapped our self in the bus and were behind the competitors for fair and free game and also to sport ourselves.

At about an hour, the race completed and the winner of the competition were Paddle Nepal, Rapid Runner and Ultimate River as first, second and third respectively. After that was the slalom which was the technical part as described above and the winner of slalom were Paddle Nepal, Rapid Runner and Ultimate

Rivers “A” as first, second and third respectively. After completion of Slalom all the participants return to the camp and were welcome by tea and hot popcorns. After a while supper was served and participants and the people from media enjoyed drinks as per their choices. After that music was played and all were on the floor zooming and dancing the music tracks. After that we all wrapped ourselves by sleeping bags and were inside the tents.

Second day event:

On 5th April 2008, Morning was tranquil and all the participants were served with tea and breakfast. After that we headed for Slalom, in view of the fact that the Slalom done in the past was discarded. The new Slalom was conducted with 10 gates and around 15 judges. The winners of new slalom were Rapid Runner, Paddle Nepal and Ultimate River “A” as first, second and third respectively.

After that we all returned to the camp and the final result was acknowledged and cash prizes and trophy were given. Cash prize for the first team was Rs18000, for second team was Rs12000 and for third team was Rs6000 and all the participants of the championship were provided with certificate.

Then after, the official program was complete and launch was served. After launch all the friends of Media and volunteer were in taken for Rafting so that they could explore the White Water of Bhotekoshi. Finally, after completion of the rafting we returned to Katmandu.



Result:

The entire slogan of the competition was to select 'Team Nepal' which could battle in the international rafting championship going to be held in 2009 in Bosnia Herzegovina. Out of 25 teams applied for the competition only 7 teams were selected because of the criteria for competitors. On the tough competition between 7 team 'Paddle Nepal' won the title.

Team no	Name of team	Down river race	Slalom	Total time taken	position
1	Rapid Runner	55:00	6:43	61:43	Second
2	HRGAN	68:32	12:57	81:29	Sixth
3	Ultimate River 'B'	61:19	14:23	75:42	Fifth
4	Paddle Nepal	53:02	7:25	60:27	First
5	Lost Paddle	61:28	10:24	71:52	Fourth
6	UD Nepal	-----	-----	-----	Disqualified*
7	Ultimate River 'A'	57:08	9:58	67:06	Third

* The sixth team (UD Nepal) was disqualified in slalom due to technical reason.

Paddle Nepal won the first national rafting championship by completing its journey in sixty minute and twenty-seven second. The team Paddle Nepal was first on down river race but Rapid Runner won the slalom. Rapid Runner got the second position by completing the race on sixty-one minute and forty- second. Ultimate River 'A' got the third position where as Lost paddle grab the fourth position. Ultimate River 'B' and HRGAN had to be satisfied on fifth and sixth position respectively.

Trophy and prizes:

Cash prize of the Championship were sponsored by Nepal Mountaineering Association, White Water Nepal and Paddle Nepal.

Summary:

River guides, who were building their profession as rafting nationally and internationally, showed their enthusiasm to make the event successful- HRGAN was proud to select the team which can represent Nepal in international championship. Even though Paddle Nepal was selected to participate in international rafting championship going to be held in 2009 in Bosnia, Herzegovina all the eligible teams of the competition were acknowledged as team of Nepal and has full right to chip in international championship. Overall six teams were declared as national team of Nepal.

Thanks for all the supporters, Nepal Tourism Board for promotion, Nodan Club for facilitation and the entire individual who put their effort for the accomplishment of First National Rafting Championship.



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