

CANOE KAYAK '89 U.K £2.00. U.S \$ 5.00. D.M 7. 00.

CANOE-KAYAK '89

BACKING THE BRITISH TEAM WORLD CHALLENGE

- THE BRITISH TEAM
TOP RACERS
TEAM PADDLERS
- MELVIN JONES
in profile
- SAVAGE '89
- THE OLYMPICS
AND SLALOM
- COLOUR PULL-OUT
POSTER



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Whitewater Championships inc. Andy the Dave, Spike, A canny lad
Erry.....Thanks for making it happen.

CANOE KAYAK '89

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CANOE-KAYAK '89

WHY?

1988 was one of the longest international slalom seasons owing to the introduction of the World Cup. Top international paddlers are under immense pressure to achieve results at major internationals as well as domestic slalom events.

The priority in 1988 was the Europa Cup with the final in Britain. A trip to America for the Pre-Worlds was also on the travel plans.

Looking back on 1988 I see one of the most successful years with outstanding performances and results at the Europa Cup and Pre-Worlds. The cost to paddlers to attend these events is great, both in training time, time at events and financially. Accepting the costs with a professional approach, even though we as the Great Britain slalom teams receive Sports Council grants and assistance from support and sponsorship, we strive for more back-up and information, bank support, video, transport and much, much more.

This magazine has been produced by members of the team and coaches, to raise money for the teams and squads. All profits go into the team, and work time has not been charged for. We see this magazine becoming a yearly publication but this can only be done with your help. **DON'T PASS THE MAGAZINE AROUND BUT TELL PEOPLE TO BUY IT.**

In looking to the future, 1989 and the World Championships at the Savage river USA will be a tremendous task for all paddlers, but Great Britain is one of leading slalom nations and with hard work and more hard work we will bring back the medals and results we deserve.

I thank you for purchasing this magazine and please tell your friends to purchase it.
Many thanks

JOHN GOSLING *British Slalom Team Manager.*

THE IDEA

The idea for Canoe Kayak '89 was born in Augsburg at the World Cup final, when only two British paddlers were able to attend after the most physically and financially demanding season to date.

I was discussing with Hugh Mantle the difficulties of raising funds, for year-round training and competition programs with effective coaching and video support.

At the same time we reflected on the fact that 1988 had been a vintage year for British slalom results. The outcome is Canoe Kayak '89 - a celebration of top class performances in 1988 and a look to the future, to both Savage '89 and Barcelona '92.

All of the cover price goes directly to

support the team effort for the Savage World Championships: everything associated with the production of Canoe Kayak '89 has been donated (photographs, features, production and printing).

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the project for their incredible support. I was amazed by everybody's enthusiasm when they heard that it was to raise money for the British team. Finally, thank you for buying your copy of Canoe Kayak '89. You can feel part of our challenge for medals at the Savage World Championships.

Mike Druce



1988 WORLD CUP REPORT



CANOE SLALOM TAKES OFF

The first Canoe Slalom World Cup was a big success. Twenty nations took part in a seven-race series and forty athletes won World Cup medals. In North America crowds of up to 30,000 watched the world's top paddlers in action during the early stages of the series, and in Europe television viewers were treated to extensive same-day coverage of the final two World Cup races.

A World Cup schedule has been prepared for 1989 and 1990 and interest in staging future races has been shown from countries like Brazil, Japan and the Soviet Union. With the inclusion of slalom in the 1992 Olympic programme the future of white water sport has never looked brighter.

The overall World Cup standings from 1988 show just how close the competition was in each of the four categories and it was fitting that the final race should take place on the Olympic slalom course in Augsburg, the site of so many world class events over the years. The World Cup started in June in the friendly town of Wausau, Wisconsin in the Mid-West of America; the paddlers then travelled to the site of the 1989 World Championships on the Savage River in Western Maryland for the second race and then returned northwards to the spectacular Gull River course in Ontario, Canada. The final race in North America was on a man made course in the centre of South Bend, Indiana. All this took place within the space of 15 days and amounted to the most intensive series of races anyone had experienced. Some were better prepared than others, but the over-

● Richard Fox reports on the inaugural World Cup series and the future global development of our sport

whelming feeling was that traveling across the World and racing against the World's best on good whitewater is what the top level of slalom should be about. It's a hard job but someone has to do it!

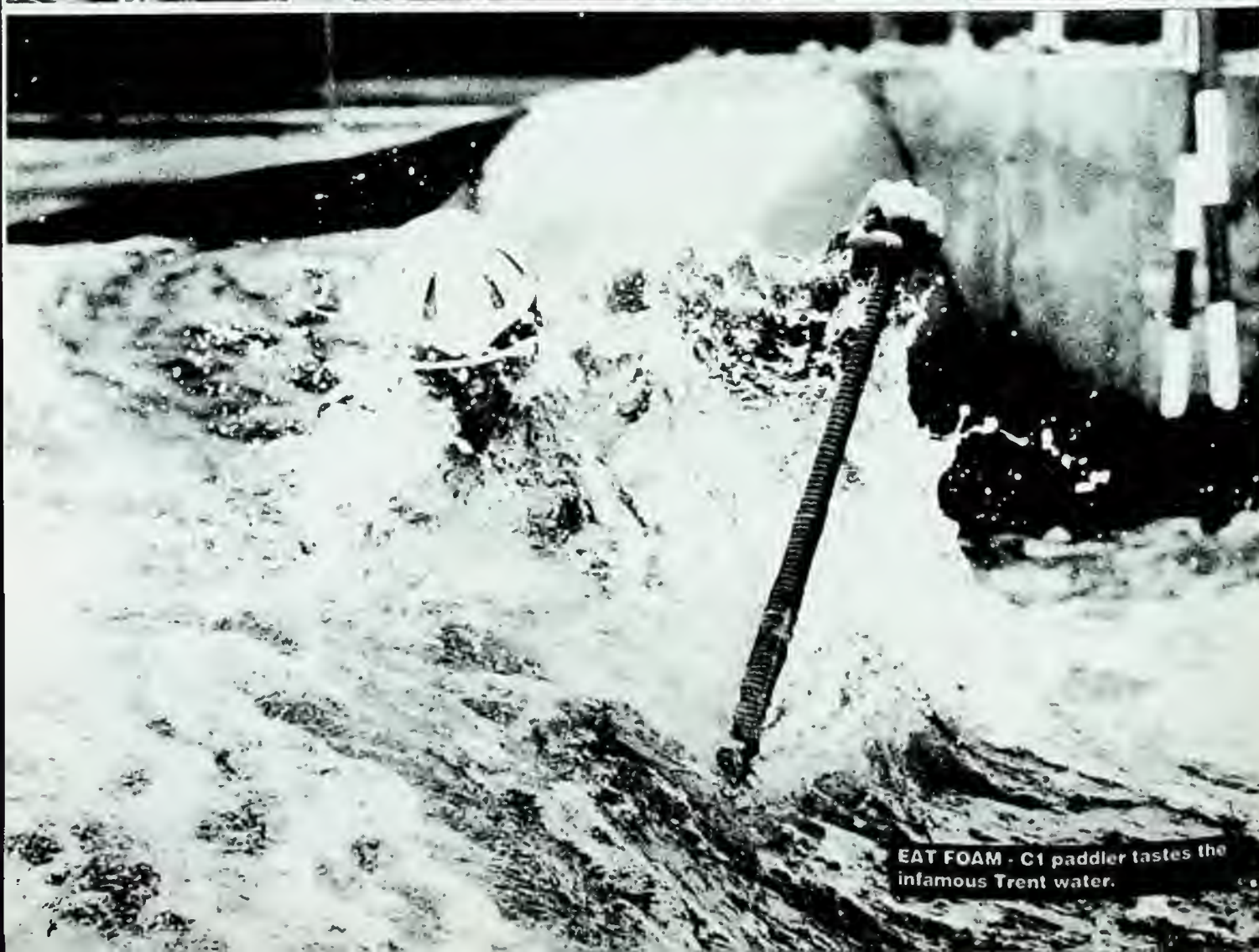
There were many firsts during the World Cup races in North America: Vincent Radoux from Belgium was bib number one at the first World Cup race; The Czech team, all fifteen of them, arrived on their first visit to the U.S.A. with no money or transport to the races but were fixed up by the Americans with a van and free food and accommodation at each race; the Brazilians, who came to learn the techniques of slalom, struggled to make the gates but survived every race, went to train in Wash-

ington D.C., and are now organising the first Brazilian International slalom; the stylish and entertaining race commentary from former World team champion Kent Ford and Lamar Sims which was appreciated by thousands at Wausau and Savage; The American families who opened their homes to accommodate teams from all over the World and then became dedicated supporters; the Germans who arrived in New York but found that their boats were in Colorado; the paddlers who lent the Polish team their own boats to race in. Such was the experience and the spirit of the World Cup, North American style.

Then the racing got more serious. After a month's break the series resumed with the Europa Cup races in Dublin on the relatively tame River Liffey, and in Nottingham on the familiar River Trent. The competition began to hot up as some new faces stole the honours and points. The stage was set for a fitting climax on the Eiskanal in Augsburg. The overall World Cup positions were determined on the best 5 out of 7 races, with the final race scoring double points. This meant that nothing would be decided until the Augsburg race was over.

In the men's kayak event Richard Fox had gone into an early lead with wins in the first three World Cup races but was never out of sight of the chasing pack and it was Janez Skok, the powerful Yugoslav, who closed the gap with wins at South Bend and Dublin, and Melvin Jones who paddled brilliantly to win from Fox at Nottingham. West Germany's Peter

Bushy(Martyn Hedges) with awesome extention on the River Liffey Dublin.



EAT FOAM - C1 paddler tastes the infamous Trent water.

Micheler stole the show at the final, however, with a spectacular run on his home course to win ahead of Skok. It was Micheler's only showing at the World Cup so the overall positions were not affected and Fox held on the win by a single point from Skok despite a disastrous 13th place at the final. Laurent Brissaud of France and Melvin Jones shared the points for 3rd and 4th place overall.

In the ladies event Dana Chladek of the USA produced a magnificent run at the final to claim her only victory of the series. It was the most significant victory of the World Cup- the double points enabled her to jump to the top of the rankings ahead of Myriam Jerusalemi, the Europa Cup winner, and Marie Francoise

"The future of Whitewater sport has never looked brighter"

Grange Prigent, the winner at the Gull and South Bend and the leader for much of the series. Because of her Olympic commitments Liz Sharman contested just 3 events but nevertheless produced two fine wins at the Savage and in Dublin. There were also some good performances from the Czech girls, Zdena Grossmanova and Stepanka Hilgertova, who picked up maximum World Cup points at Wausau and Nottingham.

The favorites in the C2 class Haller and McEwan of the USA were challenged early on in the series by the Petricek brothers from Czechoslovakia who won at Wausau, and Daille/LeLievre from France, the winners at Savage. Back-to-back wins at the Gull and South Bend by the Americans redressed the balance and left Haller/McEwan one point ahead of the French as the series moved on to Europe. The powerful West German crew of Thomas Loose and Frank Hemmer dominated the final stages of the World Cup with wins at Dublin and Augsburg and a 2nd place at Nottingham. Another crew to come good late in the proceedings were the Czechs, Simek and Rohan, who scored maximum points at Nottingham and finished 2nd in the final. Neither of these crews had contested the early races, however, and lacked vital points so Haller/McEwan held on to a slender lead to take the title.

Through-out the series the most intense battle for points took place in the C1 category where the might of Lugbill and Hearn was arrogantly challenged by Jed Prentice the young pretender to the C1 throne. It was strictly an American affair apart from a single appearance each on the rostrum through out the series from Faloci and Hurneau of France, Vidmar of Yugoslavia, and De Monti of Italy. For paddlers like Britain's Mark Delaney, who competed at 6 of the 7 races, it was a chance to race against the best and learn some of the techniques

**TOTAL CONCENTRATION -
Russ Smith at Europa Cup race one.**



which enable the Americans to dominate. Lugbill set the pace with wins in the first two races but was rudely upset by Prentice who paddled to his first major victory at the Gull. Hearn stole up to sneak a win at South Bend and so the show moved on. Lugbill had intended to wrap up the Cup early on but the challenge was so fierce that he couldn't afford to miss a race. In

"The might of Lugbill and Hearn was arrogantly challenged by Jed Prentice the young pretender to the C1 throne"

Dublin, Prentice left the world in his wake on the flat course but then paid the price as he was squeezed into 3rd place at the 2 final races. Lugbill won at Nottingham and Hearn timed his second win to perfection with a controlled performance at the final which placed him 2nd overall. Lugbill, with three wins under his belt, did enough to win the World Cup by placing second at the final and order was at last restored.

In 1989 the World Cup takes off in Canada on July 1st on the Gull River with further races at South Bend and Wausau in the USA. The final stage will involve four races around Europe between August 6th and 20th starting at Bourg St. Maurice in France, followed by Mezzana in Italy, Augsburg in Germany and culminating at the final at Tacen in Yugoslavia. 1989 promises to be bigger and better with the appearance of the Soviet Union for international competition for the first time since 1972, and the improvements in performance which we can expect from teams totally committed to Slalom in the build up to the Barcelona Olympics.

THE 1988 WORLD CUP RESULTS

FINAL RESULTS KAYAK - MEN

Rank	Name	Country	Total points
1	Richard Fox	GBR	110
2	Janez Skok	YUG	109
3	Laurent Brissaud	FRA	86
3	Melvin Jones	GBR	86
5	Richard Weiss	USA	60
6	Jernej Abramic	YUG	51
6	Lubos Hilgert	TCH	51
8	Peter Micheler	FRG	50
8	Chris Doughty	USA	50
10	Martin Hemmer	FRG	48
11	Emmanuel Brissaud	FRA	37
12	Ivan Hilgert	TCH	32
13	Marjan Strukelj	YUG	32
14	Poir-Paulo Ferrazzi	ITA	26
15	Christophe Prigent	FRA	25

FINAL RESULTS KAYAK - WOMEN

Rank	Name	Country	Total points
1	Dana Chladek	USA	112
2	Myriam Jerusalemi	FRA	110
3	M.F.Grange-Prigent	FRA	98
4	Anne Boixel	FRA	66
4	Zdena Grossmannova	TCH	66
6	Elizabeth Sharman	GBR	58
7	Cathy Hearn-Haller	USA	57
8	Margit Messelhauser	FRG	49
9	Stephanka Hilgertova	TCH	46
10	Elizabeth Micheler	FRG	42
10	Jennifer Stone	USA	42
12	Gabrielle Loose	BRD	36
13	Karen Davies	GBR	33
14	Joanne Woods	CAN	32
15	Sylvie Arnaud	FRA	20

FINAL RESULTS C1 - MEN

Rank	Name	Country	Total points
1	Jon Lugbill	USA	135
2	David Hearn	USA	130
3	Jed Prentice	USA	115
4	Thierry Humeau	FRA	76
5	Jose Vidmar	YUG	73
6	Jacky Avril	FRA	52
7	Juraj Ontko	YUG	41
8	Carlo Faloci	FRA	39
9	Renato DeMonti	ITA	33
10	Martin Lang	FRG	32
11	Andreas Kubler	FRG	31
12	Janko Brezigar	YUG	30
12	Jiri Rohan	TCH	30
14	Irmich Vida	TCH	20
15	Mark Delaney	GBR	20

FINAL RESULTS C2 - MEN

Rank	Name	Country	Total points
1	McEwan/Haller	USA	106
2	Hemmer/Loose	FRG	101
3	Saidi/Daval	FRA	100
4	Petricek/Petricek	TCH	81
5	Le Lievre/Daille	FRA	79
6	Simek/Rohan	TCH	65
7	Hajducik/Kucera	TCH	62
8	Matti/Matti	SUI	60
9	Strasbaugh/Jacobi	USA	58
10	Saidi/Delrey	FRA	57
11	LeLann/Lefriec	FRA	47
12	Nerlich/Bittner	FRG	37
13	Becker/Frohlke	BDR	26
14	Meikle/Brown	GBR	23
15	Anderson/Hearn	USA	16

1989 WORLD CUP - COMPETITION PROGRAMME

Race 1 - July 01 - Gull River, Ontario, Canada ● Race 2 July 04 South Bend, Indiana, U.S.A. ● Race 3 July 08\09 Wausau, Wisconsin, U.S.A. ● Race 4 August 05/06 Bourg St. Maurice, France ● Race 5 August 12 Mezzana, Val di Sole, Italy ● Race 6 August 15 Augsburg, West Germany ● Race 7 August 19\20 Tacen, Yugoslavia.

In 1989 four additional nations will be represented Soviet Union Spain Japan Norway and possibly Senegal.



SMOOTH OPERATOR



Since the incredible victory at the 1977 World Championships of Albert Kerr and then the phenomenal sustained world beating standards of Richard Fox, there has been a gap in the standard of the kayaks, with only one medal contender in any one team. 1988 has seen a change with 1st and 2nd place in the pre-world championships, 1st, 2nd, and 4th at the Europa Cup final and 1st and 3rd at the World Cup. The biggest improvement in international standard has been by Melvin Jones. Canoe Kayak '89 asked Melvin about his rise in slalom, his winning season and his aims for the future.

Hooked

Like so many people Melvin started his canoeing on a family holiday, became hooked and saved up for his first kayak. Melvin really started to get into his paddling through joining Stourvale Canoe club which was an active

● Canoe Kayak '89 talks to Melvin Jones, Britain's most improved international slalom paddler, about his crash course to the top.

slalom club and made it easy to get to slalom competitions and training gates at Ironbridge Rapids in Shropshire.

Melvin's improvement was fast, and as a junior he was set to make the youth team in 1980 when just prior to selection events he broke his ankle and raced with his leg in plaster. Understandably he missed his place in the Youth team.

1981 saw Melvin selected for the junior

development squad with Albert Kerr, Richard Fox and Clive Atkins coaching. The squad raced at Mezzana, Italy and Lofer, Austria; Melvin sees this tour as a foundation of his international experience.

The Spittal European Youth Championships of 1982 saw Melvin's first international success. Despite having the fastest time Melvin placed 2nd behind Cizman of Yugoslavia, who has since been a constant rival. Having tasted

success Melvin was set to increase his efforts and 1983 looked like seeing more improvement. Instead, he was involved in a serious car crash and was unable to get in a kayak for 6 months. At the time this represented a huge set-back in training but he now sees that it gave him the chance to stand back from racing and return with a more clear-sighted and purposeful approach. Melvin only managed to race in the final events of the 1983 season and so dropped down the ranking list. In 1984, starting low down the order, Melvin surprised many people by gaining selection to the Europa Cup team a sweet experience compared with the despair of 12 months previous.

When asked about racing in the Europa Cup in 1984 Melvin feels that it was like starting again with new courses, and unfamiliar competitors. 1984 proved to be a year of

learning to cope with new competitive environment at international races.

In 1985, Melvin sustained his improvement and gained selection for the World Championships in Augsburg. When talking about his first World Championships Melvin says "I thought it was just another race" and feels he performed below his expectations because of the extra pressure and distractions that surround a World Championships.



'B' Team Boys cause an upset at Bourg St Maurice 1986 . Left to right Ian Raspin, Melvin Jones and Russ Smith.

The following season saw Melvin drop out of the top three places in team selection but, importantly he gained a placed for the Pre - World Championships in Bourg St. Maurice. Whilst unable to compete in the Europa Cup races that year he

achieved success in winning the team race at Bourg as a member of the 'B' Team with Ian Raspin and Russ Smith. Melvin sees this as the high point of 1986 and a real consolation for missing the Europa Cup series.

Gold medal winner Melvin Jones on the rostrum at the Europa Cup Final, Holme Pierrepont 1988.



"I thought it was just another race"

The next major race for Melvin was the 1987 World Championships at Bourg St Maurice. In the individual event he feels that he did not race up to his potential because of lack of confidence on the crunch moves on the course. After disappointing performances from the mens K.1. in the individual runs Melvin, along with Richard Fox and Russ Smith, came though to win the team event. This continued a long tradition of British team racing, with 4 gold medals at the last 5 World Championships.

At this time Melvin started to work for the West Midlands Canoe Centre which gave him flexible training time and a sympathetic employer when it came to international trips. This change of employment coupled with the extra confidence of being team World Champions launched Melvin into a new level of training. Coming into the 1988 season had had much more whitewater training and the confidence that he was a race winner. His international season started badly with a very poor performance coming last at Wausau, the first leg of the World Cup. Travelling in a small group with coach Huge Mantle moved on to the pre World Championships at The Savage River. Richard Fox won the event with Melvin placing second and together with Russ Smith repeating the team victory. This performance for Melvins international season the high point was the Europa Cup final in Nottingham. With Melvin's girl friend involved in a car crash on the way to practice runs Melvin, was set to retire from the race but he was persuaded to compete and spent the next two days driving between the hospital and the race site. Despite the trauma of the situation Melvin performed at his best and beat a World Class field to win the Europa Cup final in front of a home crowd.

Despite a disappointing race at World Cup final at Augsburg Melvin placed 3rd in the series. 1988 has seen Melvin establish himself as a truly World Class slalomist.

When asked about the future, Melvin sees himself continuing to race and holds the Olympics in 1992 as a major goal. He feels that many people are looking to youth paddlers for Olympic hopefuls but thinks that for medal hopes we must look to the current squad.

With the K1 squad training together on a weekly basis, a greater exchange of ideas and constantly improving training techniques 1989 and beyond can only see greater improvements for Melvin and Britain's men's K1.





'89 World's
Savage River USA

AMERICAN SAVAGE

● A worldwide event is coming to America: Canoe Kayak '89 asked organiser Don Storck about the wild host region of Western Maryland.

A worldwide event is coming to America in 1989 - the world Championships of Whitewater canoe and kayak racing will be held on the Savage river in western Maryland. Competitors from 30 nations will be competing in the 21st slalom and 16th wildwa-

ter canoe races over a two week period from June 11 through to June 25, 1989.

The American Canoe Association and 1989 Whitewater World Championships Inc. are the hosts for the 1989 event. The latter organisation, based in McHenry, Maryland,

is made up of representatives from governments, businesses, civic organisations and interested individuals. State and local governments are lending considerable support to development and implementation efforts for these events.



Photo by Tom Darden.

AMERICAN RACE

1989 SCHEDULE

- June 11, 12, 13, 14 - Registration and wildwater practice.
- June 15 - Opening ceremonies.
- June 16, 17, 18 - Wildwater competitions.
- June 21, 22 - Slalom practice.
- June 23, 24, 25 - Slalom competition.
- June 25 - Closing ceremonies.

The Savage river near Luke, Maryland is powerful and narrow. It is a naturally wild area that is being upgraded by the state of Maryland to accommodate spectators, sponsors and competitors. The river offers continuous class Three and Four rapids, making it the most exciting and suitable river for these competitions in the United States.

Over 30 countries from around the world will be sending teams of 20 competitors

HOSTSERVICES

Hotels Motels.

Continental motor Inn, RD5, Box 393-a, Cumberland, MD 21502 (301) 719-2201
Potomac Motel, Inc. P.O. Box 421 Keyser, WV 26726.

Holiday Inn Grantsville Route 48 & 219N (301) 895-5993

Holiday Inn Cumberland Route 48 & 220, Villages of Wisp 1000 Thayer Center-Oakland, MD 21550.

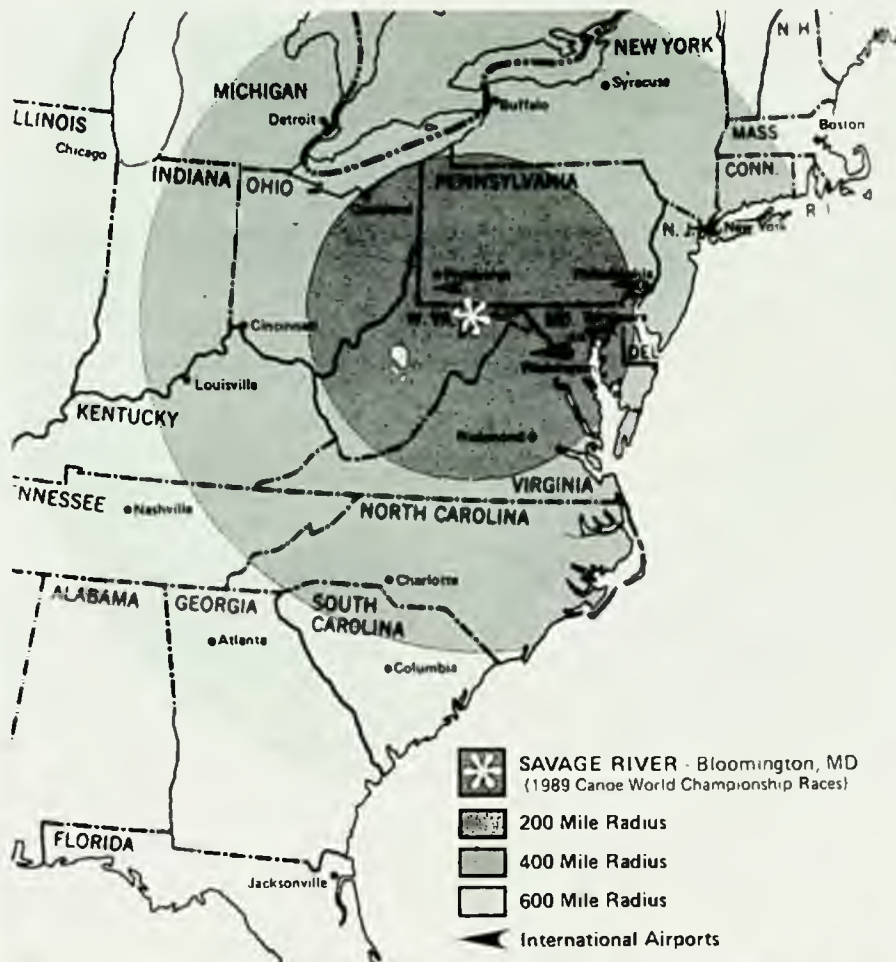
RESORTS

Alpine Lake Resort- RT 2 Box 9902 Terra Alta WV 26764 Tel (304) 789 2481.

to race in the World Championships. The State of Maryland, along with Whitewater Inc. is organising many Federal, State and local agencies in a coordinated effort to provide over \$2m worth of on-site infrastructure to accommodate the World Whitewater Championships. The Savage river site is a sensitive natural region. All preparations are being planned with the preservation of the fragile ecology, and also to offer the maximum enjoyment to the spectators, sponsors and the competitors.

The host region of Garrett County, Maryland is widely known for its natural beauty. Located in the extreme western part of Maryland, the Appalachian mountains provide awe-some sights for visitors. Although the area is primarily rural, there are excellent highways which provide easy access to the race site.

Today, western Maryland has become a popular region for both winter and summer sports enthusiasts. In the heart of our extensive recreation and visitor paradise is Deep Creek lake, which is only 12 miles from the World Championship race site on the Sav-



SAVAGE RIVER - Bloomington, MD
(1989 Canoe World Championship Races)



200 Mile Radius



400 Mile Radius



600 Mile Radius



International Airports

age river. There are an abundance of excellent accommodation for visitors to sleep, dine and shop. The area offers all types of lake recreation as well.

There are state parks throughout the host region, all abounding with wildlife. Many parks have camping facilities, plus rivers and streams which also provide superb canoeing and rafting.

You'll be impressed with the relaxing lifestyles and friendly manners of the local people, all of whom are dedicated to making your stay and the 1989 World Championships a fun adventure and an exciting event.

All information courtesy of Don Storck, Executive Director Whitewater World Championships Inc.

FURTHER INFORMATION

May be obtained on the Whitewater World Championships. Enquiries should be addressed to: Whitewater World Championships Inc.
PO Box 689, McHenry, Maryland 21541, USA.
Tel: (301) 387 - 4282

WORLDS ON THE SAVAGE



Eighteen years ago, just after winning the U.S. Nationals on the Savage, I turned to my partner, Brad Hager, and said, 'Boy, this would be a good river for the Worlds.' He looked at me and said 'I can just imagine the East Germans tripping through the poison ivy!' We burst out laughing, thinking that a World Championships on the Savage was an impossible dream.

Well, there have been a number of impossible dreams fulfilled in American canoeing lately and another one will happen in a few months when the Worlds take place for the first time ever in the U.S.

"I can just imagine the East Germans tripping through the poison ivy"

This will be a great adventure for us, as you might well imagine. There really is no river that has been as integrally linked with the rise of the U.S. team over the years as the Savage. Many of us were National Champions there, the U.S. Olympic trials were there in 1982, and it has been pretty much the top test for all these years. The Savage is in close proximity to the Bethesda area where much of the U.S. team has trained over the years. For all these reasons we regard it as our special river.

All of this was true even before the advent of the World Cup or the notice of our being in the Olympics in 1992. Since these things have

● U.S. team coach Bill Endicott gives the inside story on how his impossible dream becomes a reality in the summer of '89

become known, the Worlds has taken on the added role of being part of a wave of big events which, collectively, all of us in Whitewater Canoeing hope will push our sport to new heights of public awareness.

In fact, at one time many of us felt that maybe the Savage would be our last fling and that we would retire after it. But now what with the World Cup, the Olympics, the possibility of the Soviet Union taking part, Brazil talking about wanting to have annual winter training

"It looks like we're not ending our careers, but just getting ready for the best years"

and racing sites for us, and a lot of other things, it looks like we're not ending our careers, but just getting ready for the best years.

WE'RE PSYCHED !

The staging of the Worlds on the Savage has breathed new fire into the American whitewater program. Former team members are thinking about making come-backs, hundreds of people are volunteering to help, promoters are sniffing around seeking opportunities, and sponsors are starting to take the plunge. While watching one of our fellow whitewater paddlers, Norm Bellingham, winning the Olympic sprint on television recently, someone exclaimed, 'Just think, we're going to be there in 1992!' To which some young fanatic roared, 'Four years, hell, our Olympics starts with the Savage next year!'

A GREAT RIVER , BUT.....

Initially, the Savage was a great river, but there was insufficient organisation or amenities for staging a World Championships. That's why Brad and I laughed off the idea back in 1970.

Although they had little to work with, Don Storck and Steve Prosser have put together an excellent organisation for the Savage. Great credit, however, has to go to Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer, who took an interest in the project and has seen to it that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on staging and promoting it. They all have been thinking big about the event, which pleases us canoeists mightily. We think that now at long last, whitewater racing will be fitted into the venerable tradition of American sports hype - national television broadcasts, screaming fans, and a thrilling show. In short, this will be the biggest event ever for us, and we hope the gate way to new prestige for whitewater in America.



**THE SUPREME COMPETITOR, JON LUGBILL.
U.S.A. 4xINDIVIDUAL C1
WORLD CHAMPION.**



WORLD CHAMPIONS



British World Champions far left Russ Smith, left Melvin Jones, main picture Richard Fox, above Liz Sharman.



**ALAN MIEKLE and COLIN BROWN
ON THEIR WAY TO A MEDAL AT THE
EUROPA CUP FINAL NOTTINGHAM**

SLAVES TO THE RIVER

● Seeing telegraph poles, Batman, Beating the Czechs and Training with Rasbo! Canoe Kayak '89 unearths a few secrets from the British Olympic Slalom squad.



THE BEST THING ABOUT
SLALOM IS ?
"VARIATION . NO TWO
GATES ARE THE SAME,
THERE'S ALWAYS THE
SERCH FOR PERFECTION
AND BEATING THE CZECH
C2'S"

YOUR FAVORITE
SLALOM SITE ?
"SAVAGE RIVER
MARYLAND -SO FAR"

Colin Thompson
C2

THE WORST
THING ABOUT
SLALOM IS ?
"A DOUBLE HEADER
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GO
ON THE BEERS ON A
SATURDAY NIGHT"

Mike Wharton
A.K.A. CHUBBY
CHECKER

SCARIEST MOMENT
IN CANOEING ?
"GETTING STUCK IN MY
FITTINGS , UPSIDE DOWN
AT BOURG AND HAVING TO
RIP THEM FROM THE BOAT
TO ESCAPE !"

Clive Richardson
C2

WHO HAS MOST INFLUENCED
YOUR PADDLING ?
"KEN LANGFORD ,
GEORGE RADFORD AND
BILL ENDICOTT"

PERSON YOU
MOST ADMIRE
OUTSIDE CANOEING ?
"DALEY THOMPSON"

Elizabeth Sharman Radford
K1W

SCARIEST MOMENT IN CANOEING ?
"GOING DOWN THE RIVER TRYWERYN UPSIDE DOWN"

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING MOST WHEN NOT CANOEING ?
"RALLY DRIVING"

**Richard Domoney
C1**

WHO HAS MOST INFLUENCED YOUR PADDLING ?
"BIG BROTHER"

John Shackleton

THE WORST THING ABOUT SLALOM IS ?
"POLES"

PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE OUTSIDE CANOEING?
"STEVE McQUEEN"

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING MOST WHEN NOT CANOEING ?
"SLEEPING, EATING AND DRINKING"

**Len Shackleton
K1M**

WHO HAS MOST INFLUENCED YOUR PADDLING ?
"JON LUGBILL"

SCARIEST MOMENT IN CANOEING ?
"WAITING FOR THE TIMES AT THE JUNIOR WORLDS"

**Gareth Marriott
C1**

SCARIEST MOMENT IN CANOEING ?
"GETTING FLIPED AND SMASHING MY FACE UP IN THE SLOT ON LLANGOLLEN TOWN FALL"

THE WORST THING ABOUT SLALOM IS ?
"BLOWING OUT ON EVERY RUN THEN GETTING IT RIGHT ON THE TEAM RACE"

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING MOST WHEN NOT CANOEING ?
"GOING TO COLLEGE AND EATING MASSES OF FOOD"

Shaun Pearce

HOW MANY YEARS CANOEING ?
"I STARTED WHEN I WAS FIVE"

SCARIEST MOMENT IN CANOEING ?
"TRAINING WITH RASBO (IAN RASPIN)"

THE WORST THING ABOUT SLALOM IS ?
"BEING BEATEN ...IT SUCKS"

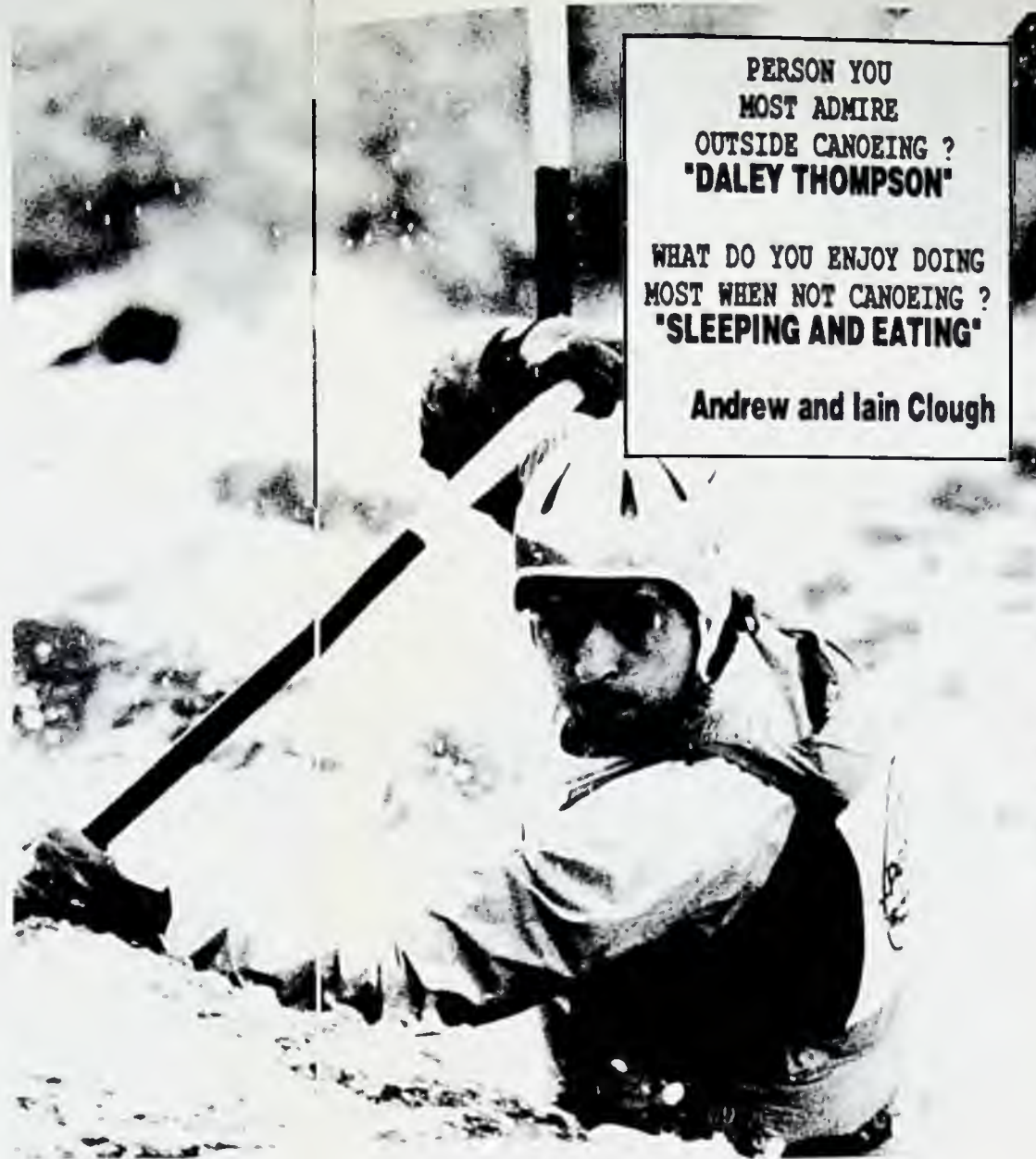
PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE OUTSIDE CANOEING ?
"BATMAN OR DALEY THOMPSON"

**Russ Smith
K1M**

SCARIEST MOMENT IN CANOEING ?
"HALF WAY DOWN A FALL, SEEING A TELEGRAPH POLE IN FRONT OF ME"

PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE OUTSIDE CANOEING?
"DALEY THOMPSON"

**Rachel Fox
K1W**



PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE OUTSIDE CANOEING ?
"DALEY THOMPSON"

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING MOST WHEN NOT CANOEING ?
"SLEEPING AND EATING"

Andrew and Iain Clough



OLYMPICS

1972

FIRST HAND FROM K1M

● As slalom regains its Olympic status. John MacLoed-GB coach and Olympic team member gives Canoe Kayak'89 an insight into racing slalom at an Olympic Games.

The preparation we went through started with a definite four year plan. Olympic slalom was in. Some of us knew the score on how best to prepare; others, mostly youngsters like Edge were still finding out which end of the boat did what. The long term training schedule based on strength, flexibility, skill and racing abroad had to be pushed hard on personal budgets. Real cash support was not to arrive until 1972!

The Old Augsburg had a particularly handy stopper which a young lad called Norbert, 'Ich bin der bester', would sit in all day. Whilst we were camped there in 1970, not 20 yards away from the slalom course, the new slalom course was pegged out between our tents. Ray Calverley had spent some time at Mannheim getting a glimpse of the model of the course. The engineers brief of 'make it as rough as you can' left most paddlers in a state of speculation

as to what was going to be. Cash being spent on the venture far exceeded anything previously known.

1971, less than 12 months before the Olympics, the first competition was held and we had the previous week to get to know the 'New Augsburg'. Probably everybody was doing too much as there was a good deal of jostling for training time. The stories of boat crushing boils faded as we worked out on the course. We realised that the first top class effort at artificial slalom was going to provide a competition that was anybody's for the taking. The areas of the course that we spent time on were the eddy behind 'Avery', (the first big rock), the slope below the first bridge and the Zoom. Crossing high below Avery was quite nerve racking at first - put the speed on, keep the boat at 90 degrees to the main flow and hit the downstream flow hard for a clean pull into the

current. In the big slop there was a two foot variation to get to know. The Zoom, one of the fastest pieces of water that slalom is run on, could only be cracked using tighter error margins than we were used to; even when you thought you had mastered it, a new training manoeuvre that had not been tried before would set you back.

A good deal of time and frustration, was spent on the Zoom Flume. Changes to this and other parts of the course have since reduced the 'luck factor'. Our first video machine was put into action to help us understand more about the course, and indeed proved invaluable.

The DDR team went home in 1971 and built a course, some two thirds the size of Augsburg, using the same plans, and within months were working out on it. They were indisputably the top nation and determined to stay they way.

With a strong management/coaching base and talented paddlers who were well used to working hard, they were better in all respects.

GBR selection proved to be as contentious as ever. Some good paddlers had to be left behind. More than ever I became aware that selection can be a demotivating influence even if you are in. However, a paddler on the move doesn't have time to linger on such things. Moved we were, with three trips in our own transport between Easter and the event in early August. A tough drain on personal resources even if the hostel, the petrol and ferry were paid.

Boat design suffered in the stages of us getting to know the course. The West Germans led the big boat brigade and the rest followed, except the DDR who had doggedly stuck with the Hartung for years, maybe even since 1965 and who now produced a medium volume boat. Right up to the race day the French were taking electric saws to their boat. Ziggy Horn, the eventual Men's K1 winner from DDR got as far as getting his management to allow him to paddle a Prijon. Ziggy was unpretentious to watch, sat upright and used his long reach well. His race runs were characteristically well controlled and he had a deceptively easy looking style, his red face being the only indication that he was giving it the works. Norbert Sattler, on the other hand, with his speedy, punchy style was hungry for eating both Ziggy on the results board and our food when he could get near it.

So single track were my own efforts that the other classes were peripheral. However, I do remember end cockpit C2s proving their mastery of tight spaces, (particularly the DDR C2s) a hot competition between the top class C1s and a walkover for Angelika Baumann in K1W.

There's no doubt that much of what surrounds the Olympics is not the norm for paddlers on the International circuit. For instance, paddlers get to know the officials from various countries, but at the Olympics there are so many officials very few are to be recognised. The crowds get deeper. Greater restrictions on access have to be accepted. You're reliant on those around you keeping things running as expected. The 'big crowd' goes with Olympics, far exceeding even World Championships. It's a good move to experience other sporting situations where big crowds are in attendance keeping a view of competition as a 'corridor' down the course, not to be deviated from, and eliminating the crowd factor to the extent that one becomes almost unaware of the external happenings. The 'corridor' doubles up as the set route for mental rehearsal. Recently a group of paddlers were talking about the rails they keep to - a similar technique.

The slalom itself proved to be no more than Internationals we were well used to. The opposition does not change, nor do the rules. Fast and clean or else! Not coming away with the results expected hit hard, particularly with the realisation that several years effort had been spent.

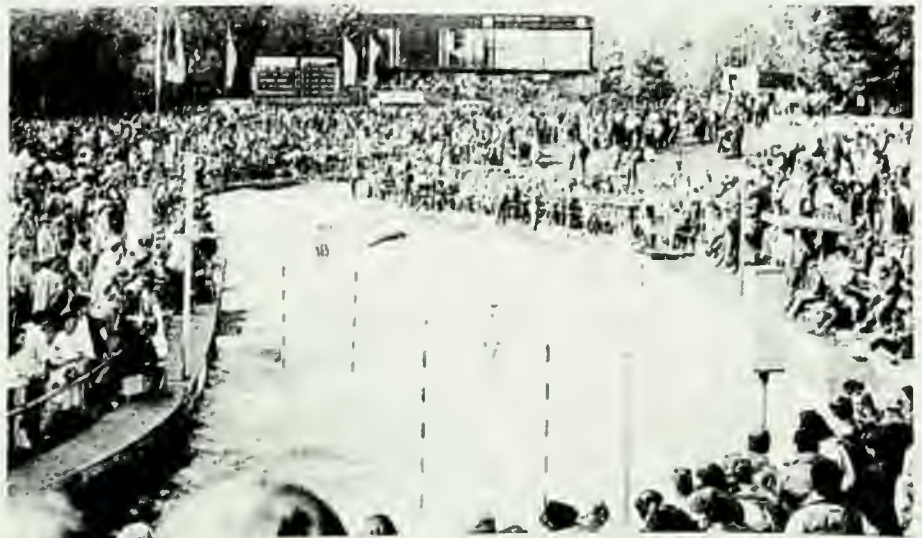
The 'Olympic Village' was an experience that was easy to lap up at the time, but on reflection was amazing. Having spent up to the last penny in preparation it was terrific to have



This shot of the 1972 Olympic Games shows the enormous lapels and huge volume boats of the era. Photo by Fred Schollhorn .

all facilities laid on, but then somewhat confusing when faced with restaurants into which you could roam and eat whatever you wished. Indeed overeating can become a real problem for calorie burning paddlers. In contrast with our usual tented accommodation the facilities were somewhat overwhelming. For us a daily chartered train journey to Augsburg meant a routine dominated by getting to the train on time. Getting out of the village/slalom site routine became important later on and this proved

quite awkward. Being able to commandeer tickets for other events, almost to the personal saturation after our events, offered opportunities that could not be missed. I remember sitting in the stadium as America's two best sprinters failed to get to the start line of their heats, - they were on a bus! - and watching the marathon finish with a hoaxer doing a lap of the stadium. Probably the most exhilarating was the basketball final when USA beat USSR with the most exciting closing stages ever.



The artificial Slalom course at Augsburg. Site for the 1972 Olympic Slalom



THE ROAD TO BARCELONA

BACK IN THE GAMES

Slalom's return to the Olympics will be very helpful to our sport. It's a special thing, no doubt about it. I remember the electricity in the air in 1972, when we were last in the games. The Olympics will make it easier to raise money and to get attention for our athletes - as Jon Lugbill put it, "make it easier to do our sport". All of that is fantastic.

But we will make a great mistake if we now sit back and let Olympic status take care of everything for us as we did in 1972.

On the contrary, now we have a four year window in which to make great and long lasting strides in improving our sport. We must resolve on a worldwide basis to use Olympic status, World Championships and everything else we can get our hands on to build up slalom!

Now is our chance, our great opportunity. Let us strike!

But in this crusade, let us remember something important. In some ways we are now in a "Golden Age". We may belong to many nations, but basically, we are citizens of "Slalomia", travelling freely throughout the slalom world on a special passport, exchanging ideas, training together, planning together. As a result, we are raising up our sport by its bootstraps and having a great deal of fun doing it. But I wonder whether this unprecedented international cooperation, this envy of the sporting world, can survive if people's jobs depend upon Olympic results. Let's have the foresight to fuse the good of the past with the opportunity of the future.

Yes, after all those years, we are back in the Olympics. Congratulations to us all. This time, let's do it right!

BILL ENDICOTT is US Olympic coach and author of four books on white water sport.

MEDIA GAMES

An Olympic Games is something very different from anything we have experienced recently. Just picture the scene from the recent Seoul

● As slalom enters the Olympic programme for the second time, Canoe Kayak 89 asked Bill Endicott, Hugh Mantle and Richard Fox - is Slalom to benefit?

Olympics: 13,269 athletes (more athletes competing than at any other previous games), 70,000 people involved with security, and the venue was potentially volatile being only 38 miles from a hostile border. Yet it all went well and the games are now seen to be healthy again, after the unfortunate political differences voiced at previous Olympics.

So is slalom to benefit from the inclusion in Barcelona? Well, I remain somewhat ambivalent about the whole thing. On the one hand yes, for it will give status to our sport, which will bring in money to enable gifted athletes to benefit from increased resources. But with all of that could come the problems over importance of winning, an increase in political exploitation, an atmosphere of unfriendliness and the increased media coverage dictating to our sport in order to get the best exposure for sponsorship. It will mean that countries with full-time coaching personnel will be expected to produce the goods at any cost, whereas what we have now is a small, friendly, politically neutral sport.

Perhaps the answer lies in making sure

that the Olympics is seen only as important (and no more) as our World Championships, Europa Cup and World Cup Series. This will spread importance and probably benefit our sport in many ways, but would be particularly beneficial to our sponsors. They would have involvement on a much more sustained level and would reap greater benefits from such arrangements.

HUGH MANTLE British Olympic K1 coach, lecturer in sports psychology and a professional coaching consultant.

OLYMPIC PREPARATION - A NEW PERSPECTIVE

During 1988 we learned that slalom will be included in the canoeing programme at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, 20 years after the first and, to date, only Olympic slalom which took place at Augsburg during the Munich Olympics. At Augsburg, the East German team took all four slalom gold medals and their success was put down to their professional approach and the fact that their paddlers were state supported full-time athletes. Today this type of commitment to competition is commonplace among many teams and the added incentive of Olympic gold will no doubt accelerate the race for those who want to be the world's best. What will the Barcelona games hold in store for our sport, and will we be prepared for the challenge? These are questions that many teams around the world are asking.

Some countries have reacted already. The American slalom team has had its budget increased from \$20,000 gained from fund-raising to \$200,000 from US Olympic funds. This includes the full-time appointment of Bill Endicott as an Olympic coach. On the other side of the Iron curtain, we hear the news that the Rus-

sians are coming! The Soviets are sending a team to the USA in 1989, have started training camps already, have plans to buy western kayaks and build a slalom course in Moscow. These Olympics sound serious - we need to know more.

The Olympic slalom course will be on the outskirts of La Seo d'Urgell, a small town nestling in the Pyrenees close to Andorra. Seo has had a tradition of major slalom competitions, including Europa cup finals and last year the World Junior championships. The Spanish plan to build a completely new course for the Olympics, using water from the Alte Segre river which flows across the border from France. The engineers have consulted with experts in artificial slalom course design, and produced the plan for a course 400m long with a drop of 6.4m and a maximum flow of 15 cubic metres per second. Work should be completed by the end of 1989 and the first major slalom held in 1990 as part of the World Cup series. The sighting of the slalom course on the outskirts of the town is no accident. A natural amphitheatre will be created with the Pyrenees forming a breathtaking backdrop on one side, with the historic buildings of the town bordering the spectators' side of the course. Slalom will be one of the first and most spectacular events of the XXVth Olympiad which starts at the end of July.

The Olympic challenge will be unique for everyone involved with the team. For the com-

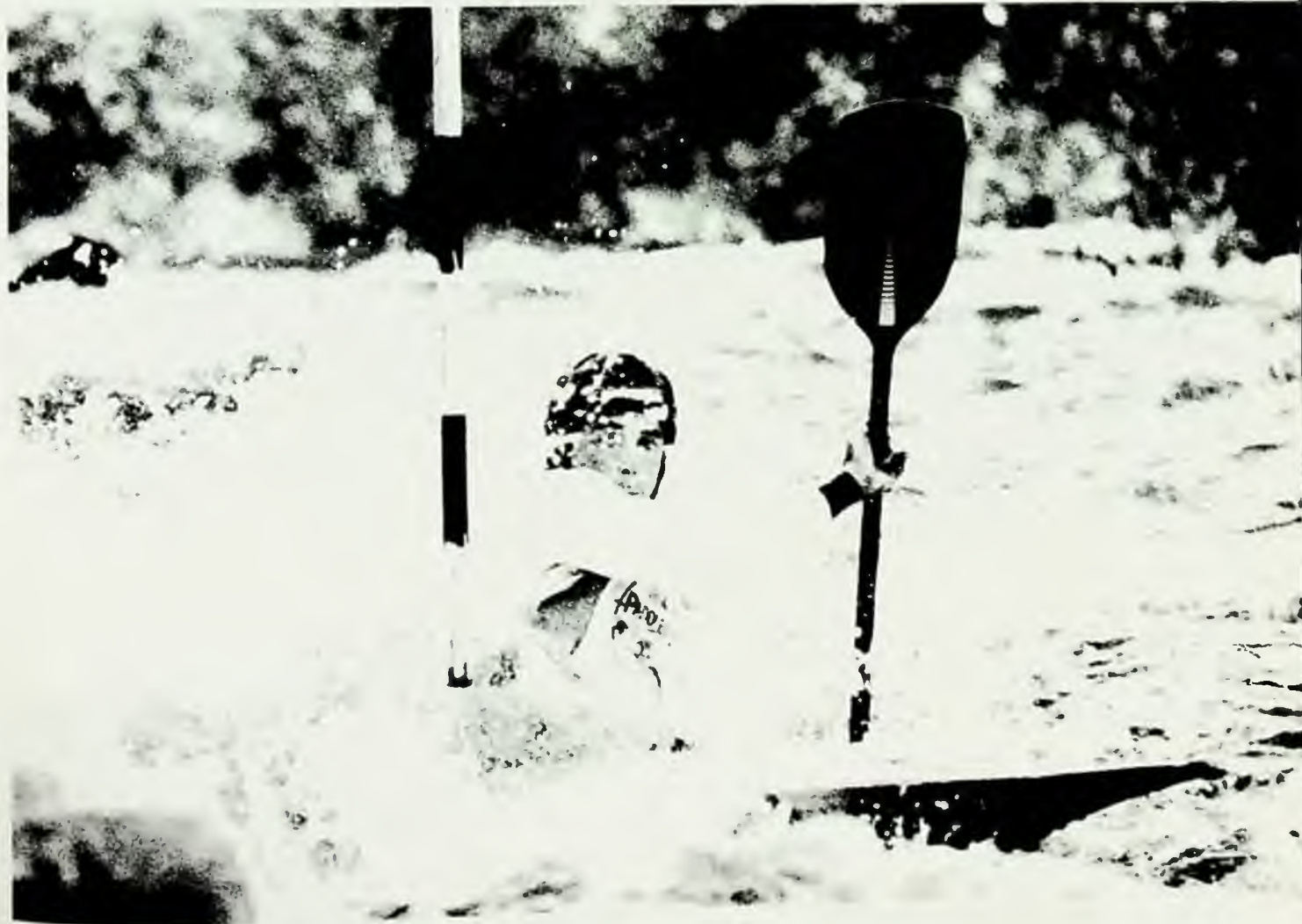
petitors it will be the greatest test of their lives, only two boats per category will be entered by each nation, and in many instances just making the team will be like a World Championship. The shorter course will place greater emphasis on speed, technical precision, and the confidence to risk it all, Franz Klammer style; training programmes will be adjusted to place more emphasis on the anaerobic energy system, more attention will be paid to technical details of equipment and boat design; paddlers and coaches will also need to spend longer preparing for the psychological stresses associated with competing in a new environment, the burning question is will they cope in the Olympic cauldron? Over all, more time, effort, people and money will be involved in preparing slalom teams from around the world.

The British team are well placed to respond to the new demands. We have a purpose built Olympic Training Centre at Nottingham, a pool of dedicated coaches and a strong squad of international champions and young hopefuls a good platform on which to build. Over the coming year the scale of the British Olympic Mission will come to light but it will require some careful preparation. The main problem area will be funding. It is certain there won't be enough money to go round and the list of demands is endless. Training camps and competitions, team transport, fulltime coaches, technical equipment, physiological and psychological monitoring, medical back up etc. While

the team can reasonably expect an increase in its official training grant, a large proportion of the total budget will need to come from sponsorship. A professional approach to marketing the team is as essential as the commitment from paddlers and coaches.

At the present time the world's top paddlers will compete in 10 to 15 top class internationals each year, on top of minor events, selections and domestic competitions. This kind of programme can only be followed if paddlers, and coaches, have a flexible work or study situation or are in full time training. On a daily basis the training commitment involves between 2 and 4 hours of land or water based activity. During the season approximately 75% of the training needs to take place on the water. In the winter months many paddlers seek warm weather training sites to avoid the freeze and this trend is likely to become more popular. There is no doubt that we will see a rise in the number of foreign paddlers and coaches training on a fulltime basis and many more British paddlers will need to make this kind of commitment, at least in the Olympic year. The East Germans are unlikely to win 4 gold medals this time, who knows yet if they will even take part, but one thing is for sure the race has already started and there are no handicaps.

RICHARD FOX, member of the Sports Council and multiple World Champion in Canoe Slalom.



"Risking it all Franz Klammer style" Richard Fox.

COACHING



THE MEN'S K1

● Great Britain coach Hugh Mantle gives an insight into the rise and rise of the Mens K1

Gold and silver in the Pre-world Championships; 1st and 3rd in the World Cup Series. Such success is seen to be rare in British Sport.

My coaching with the Men's Kayak started in 1980 under the mentorship of John Macleod. He nurtured me for my first three years and instilled in me some coaching

aspects that are still as important eight years on - setting up effective gates, providing factual information in your feedback, shutting your mouth when you only have duff information, and treating paddlers with respect - they have the knowledge, we need to use it effectively.

Eleven gold, four silver, and one bronze later I still apply those principles. How-

ever, certain aspects have developed - my overall philosophy is to create an environment where excellence is standard. To do this I have to look very hard at what we do and try to combine a scientific approach with the art of coaching.

For an athletes to grow in the fullest sense of the word we need to energise and inspire them, persuading them that adoption of new beliefs may require a series of radical steps and integrating the elements of change so that they are real and resilient. An in depth scientific analysis is not enough, it has to be blended with a human approach, as the need to take account of people's feelings is paramount. I think we have come of age in our men's kayak squad. There is a sharing of knowledge, support, loyalty and honesty.

The idea of coach being the fount of all knowledge is well buried. Instead, the coach at an elite level must be prepared to be challenged and to accept that the paddlers are likely to have at least as much, if not more, to offer on technical analysis. The new rules have made slalom more exciting - the moves are much more dynamic, skilled and varied now. The choices that are available on a sequence of gates

has made the sport more difficult to coach, hence the importance of shared knowledge. The coach has to facilitate such a sharing.

Will such an approach lead to success at the Olympics? I can't answer that, but I do know that from talking to many different coaches in other sports that our systems and structures in slalom are at least as good, if not better, than most Olympic sports.

In the meantime the coaching will go

"As a group we have reached a level of professionalism..."

on - John Macleod will always be there to keep me right and the impact of Roger Manwaring and now Mike Druce will be invaluable. The nice thing is that these guys have been coached by me at one time and this cycle of natural events strengthens my belief in continuity. But stand still we won't. We have developed our squad now into a dynamic group of individuals backed by a first-rate management and administrative team.

approach which will allow us to attain our set goals of improved performance.

We have developed a vision of the desired future. The squad has found a way of bringing the actions of creative individuals into a convergence towards the corporate efforts of performing to our set objectives in any competition - I look forward to our next three or four years - slalom is on the march!

Understanding of the physical and psychological factors of performance is growing and paying dividends. The old adage that "a fanatic is a person that doubles their effort but loses sight of their aims" is most pertinent here - for we now know exactly what high quality training is and how to obtain it without just increasing our work loads.

I feel confident that as a group we have reached a level of professionalism in our



Left to right Melvin Jones, Richard Fox and Russ Smith celebrate victory at Bourg St Maurice 1987 (left) Richard Fox
powering through endless full runs at one of the weekly K1 Squad training days (above)

TOP RANKING

● After a hard fought season, Canoe Kayak '89 gives you the final positions for the 1988 British Championships and would like to congratulate the top paddlers on the most exciting slalom season to date.

1988 FINAL RANKING K1 - MEN

Rank	Name	Club
1	Richard Fox	Nottingham
2	Melvin Jones	Arrowcraft
3	Russ Smith	Tees K.C
4	Ian Raspin	Tees K.C
5	Jim Jayes	Llangollen
6	Rob Wright	Shepperton
7	Len Shackleton	Leeds C.C
8	Andy Gladwin	P &H Racing team
9	Shaun Pearce	Newbury C.C.
10	Andrew Raspin	Tees K.C.
11	Andrew Fuller	Banbury
12	David Crosbee	Forth
13	Keith Brown	Forth
14	Graham Blaney	Waltham Forest
15	Kevin Cambell	Central Paddlers



Richard Fox British Champion again after a highly competitive season .



Russ Smith placed third in the very close battle at the top of Mens K1.

1988 FINAL RANKING K1 - WOMEN

Rank	Name	Club
1	Liz Sharman	Staffs and Stone
2	Karen Davies	DAD A.M.L.
3	Jane Wilson	Forth EUCC
4	Rachel Fox	Nottingham K.C.
5	Lynn Simpson	Hull & District
6	Sue Burns	Forth
7	Penny Briscoe	Loughborough
8	Ishbel Grant	P & H Racing
9	Lara Tipper	Nottingham K.C.
10	Maria Francis	Mad Sports
11	Heather Corrie	Manchester
12	Alison Walley	Staffs and Stone
13	Joan Cowthray	LLangollen
14	Kay Longrigg	Staffs and Stone
15	Helen Marriott	Mansfield



Rachel Fox in her first full international season.

1988 FINAL RANKING C2 - MEN

Rank	Name	Club
1	Richardson/Thompson	Shepperton
2	Meikle/ Brown	Woodmill
3	Clough/ Clough	I.C.I Engineering
4	Smith/ Smith	'Urchins'
5	Arrowsmith/ Brain	The Wimps.



Richardson and Thompson British Champions in C2.

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Mark Delaney still pushing hard for
the Number one spot.

1988 FINAL RANKING C1 - MEN

Rank	Name	Club
1	Martyn Hedges	Windsor
2	Mark Delaney	West Lothian
3	Gareth Marriott	Notts K.C.
4	Paul Brain	S.O.A.K
5	Peter Bell	Arrowcraft
6	Michael Wharton	Ribble
7	Richard Domoney	Shepperton
8	Richard Cromer	Windsor
9	Andrew Clough	Tees K.C
10	Alan Meikle	Woodmill

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