

# FEEDBACK

NEWS AND VIEWS



In this issue:

**1983 – A Time for change in U.K. Slalom**

– Martyn Hedges

**Acquiring Slalom Skills** – More from Ken Langford

**I.C.F Rules** – The Proposals

**Organisers Conference** – Some Ideas for Everyone

**Reports** – Australian Championships – Trevor Rocks

---

# *CONTENTS*

---

Editorial	1
Australian Championships	2
Know your rules	3
Time for Change in U.K. Slalom	4
Acquiring Slalom Skills	6
Buoyancy Aids - new rules	7
Trevor Rocks Slalom	8
I.C.F. Rule Changes - the Proposals	10
Organisers' Conference	11
Your Trip to Merano!	12
Crystal Palace Pool Slalom	13
Judging ideas from the Organisers' Conference	14
Letters	16

---

# FEEDBACK

## EDITORIAL

"FEEDBACK" is the Official journal of the Slalom Committee of the British Canoe Union and is edited by Richard Fox.

It is published by the B.C.U. Slalom Executive, 45-47 High Street, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey KT15 1JV. All copy should be submitted to the Editor, c/o 3 Moreton Avenue, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2EU.

The views expressed in "FEEDBACK" are not necessarily those of the Editor, nor of the British Canoe Union Slalom Executive Committee.

"FEEDBACK" is published six times a year and costs £4.00 for six issues, post paid from Mrs. A. Robinson, 19 Bell Bank View, Bailey Hills, Bingley, Yorkshire, BD16 2RL, or from Canoe Clubs at 50p per issue. Clubs supplies can be obtained from the above address - write for details.

Issue 3 of 'Feedback' marks another significant development in this new magazine's history. After lengthy discussions the Editor and the Slalom Executive have both agreed that this should be the new official journal of the Slalom Committee, now that 'White Water' has 'gone public in its new guise as 'Canoeist'.

'Feedback' will have the same aims as stated in the original issues - offering a forum for slalomists of all abilities to learn from each other, to ask questions, receive answers (hopefully) and, from this issue to allow Executive communication with all Clubs and paddlers.

Every Club which has registered an interest in slalom is receiving ten copies of this issue. We hope they will all be sold, making a little money for the Club and helping the magazine to break even. Postal subscriptions are available, but the main aim is to sell Feedback through the Club Organisation.

We are trying a new print format for this issue - it's the best we can afford at present, but we would like comments. There is space for more photography - if you've got so good black and white photographs please submit them to the editorial address (if you want them back, please include a stamped and addressed envelope). Letters, articles and short items of news or gossip are also wanted.



## Australian Championships

Western Australia played host to the Australian Championships for the third time in fifteen years. For slalomists here this event represents the highlight of the canoeing year, both as a competitive experience and as a financial commitment. Many paddlers will have travelled up to three thousand miles from the Eastern States to attend, a prospect which makes Grandtully seem within jogging distance.

Britons, Nick Wain and Richard Fox, were invited over to train with and coach the Western Australian Team prior to the event and to compete in the two slaloms. Jane Roderick also came out to train and compete, while world tourist John Shackleton made a comeback from a year's retirement to paddle and act as Manager.

The slalom course is situated about a hundred miles south of Perth on the dam controlled river Harvey, a large Washburn in the middle of the bush. We were pleasantly surprised by the nature of the course, the middle section had some excellent deep eddies and as a competition venue its remote location is the only drawback.

Perth is the centre of virtually everything in WA, not least canoeing. There are three canoe clubs within the vast suburban sprawl, each of which maintains an active interest in most aspects of the sport. The number of paddlers is fairly low and the standard varied. Training here is relaxing and enjoyable as there is no shortage of water, but at this time of year gatework can only be done on flat water. We have all relished the

open spaces, cleanliness and relaxed atmosphere of this fine city and from a training point of view there has been nothing better than an early morning workout alongside dolphins and pelicans on Freshwater Bay.

Before the Championships we had a training camp on the course at Harvey. Twenty paddlers ranging in standard from novice to international provided a stimulating challenge in coaching organisation. The majority of training focused on technique and appeared as damaging to mind as well as body for the majority concerned. Hopefully, we had prepared the best paddlers for World Championship selection while not neglecting the needs of the 12 year old gaining confidence in a stopper. The opportunity for our own personal training was valuable, particularly from a technical point of view.

The first event of the championships was the International slalom in which there were a total of ten non-Australian paddlers from Britain, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and New Zealand. Each state was represented by a full team which boosted the numbers. The main opposition came from G Hedstrom and Sixten Bjarkland, the 'speedy Swede'. Jurg Gotz from Switzerland, like the Swedes, is on a transcontinental training tour and is returning to his form of previous seasons.

Nick Wain and John Shackleton designed an excellent course and in the final analysis the speedy Swede was not as fast as Foxy who won by 11 seconds. Jane Roderick cruised the ladies event against poor opposition and our Western Australian hopefuls were in strong contention for selection.

The Swedes designed the course for the second event and 'Speedy' was

right in there with a fast time and a five. Fortunately Foxy pulled off a clean second run to squeeze into first place. Nick Wain and John Shackleton had recovered from the previous week's efforts of course design and erection to place 5th and 14th. Jane again showed the gap of the hemispheres being 30 seconds faster than the next girl. Disaster was particularly abundant at this race as the Australians contested their national titles and spectating in 35°C sunshine was a welcome contrast to the dire atmospheric conditions at home.

The final evening saw the presentations of awards to all and sundry, winners received toy koalas! The selection of the Australian team for the Worlds was an emotional occasion and one which held particular interest for us Poms. While we had known the Western Australians only for a matter of weeks and could not expect to have contributed in any great degree to their paddling ability it was a satisfying feeling when their names were called out. Lindsay Binning and Ian Vincent in KLM, Jenny Downes in KLL, Warwick Smith and Geoff Chambers in C2.

For many Australians making the team for a Worlds is an end in itself, the experience of travelling to Europe and competing against the world's best presently precludes any aspirations of winning. The problems their paddlers face are considerable, no government support for overseas travel, lack of top class competition to name but two. The sport itself needs increased participation, active encouragement of younger paddlers and a return of experienced paddlers into the sport. The same changes we require in Britain but on a different scale.

## KNOW YOUR RULES

Directional 50's or sideways gates.

The old rule used to be to give the benefit of the doubt. Now a sideways presentation is normally given a 50 second penalty. This fact causes a lot of concern from paddlers and is one of the main reasons for the proposed abolishment of reverse gates. In my opinion paddlers must take it on themselves to convince the judge that they went through the gate in the right direction. If they are sideways then a '50' must be expected and no protest made. It is up to us, the paddlers, to eliminate these discrepancies. MAKE SURE OF YOUR PRESENTATION.

One earlier argument to prevent the presentation problem was to ensure all reverses were full spins, an example of this was the Fosters International. However, I like to see the inclusion of shuttles, as it is yet another skill required of the slalomist. So let's keep reverses in by keeping the judges happy with presentations.

REMEMBER THERE ARE NO EXCUSES.

A Spoke of the Hub

As a special competition in this issue we are asking for designs for the cover and a 'Feedback' Logo - see the advert about it if you are interested. There are also vacancies in all departments for help - again see the special advertisement for more details.

**F.A.C.**



# 1983

## Time for Change in U.K. Slalom

With only six weeks to go before Grandtully the C1 paddlers can look forward to a selection event with a difference. For the first time in nearly a decade we have more than four boats that are capable of making the 'Worlds Team'. I would like to say this was a landmark for Canadian canoeing in this country but it really isn't. We still do not have the numbers in the class working seriously that will produce a more competitive field, eg ten boats finishing within 15-20 secs of each other. What is needed are more Div. 1 and Premier Kayak paddlers to switch to C1 and C2. In my opinion this is the only way a big improvement in standards can be made, we need quality paddlers to make an effective transition. Those who have switched to C1 or C2, and I was one many years ago, have done very well. Bill Berrisford, Bob Doman, in C1 and Jock/Bluebell, Eric/Robin in C2 being the best examples. What is interesting to note is that the majority of these paddlers have raised their own standards and trained much harder in Canadian canoes than they ever did in kayaks. In the rest of this recruitment article I will speculate on the type of individual that is needed to make the switch and benefits to be gained from it.

To swap your hard earned place in Premier or Div. 1 for a novice place in C1 or C2 requires commitment and confidence. Be warned, don't consider switching as an easy option because it just isn't anymore, I'm afraid. However, if

you need a new challenge that will stretch your physical and mental capabilities just a little bit more read on and see if what is on offer appeals to you.

If you haven't paddled a C1 or C2 before - SHOCK, HORROR - you will encounter several problems straight away.

### 1. Kneeling in the boat:

Apart from better vision in waves, this approach gives some stability problems and a need for an extra six inches! Anorak length, of course. Fittings will be important to get the best balance and 'comfort' possible. For those who get cramp after five minutes, it really will improve with practice and time. Rolling may also pose difficulties at first - especially as if you don't roll much in a K1, you certainly will in a C1 or C2.

### 2. The single blade - What it is really about:

It will give you all sorts of trouble at first but once you get used to it you wouldn't want anything else. Paddling in a straight line as opposed to circles will not come easy at first even with the help of 'Goon strokes', going backwards will be even more trying. To move the canoe effectively you will have to think quite a lot of the blade/boat interaction. Newton's Third Law is very applicable to paddling a C1. Action - reaction, power phase - steering phase. Minimising steering is the greatest challenge in the end.

If you find paddling a C1 frustrating, fair enough. If

you find it frustrating but challenging, persevere, with patience and thought, things get better.

## 3. Rough water:

If it was frustrating on flat water, the fun will really start when you try paddling through waves and crossing currents. At first difficulty will be found especially when crossing waves, etc. No paddle on the downstream side means a greater reliance on boat angles and balance is required. Going into stoppers on the wrong side is always guaranteed to raise the adrenalin level somewhat, but once confidence is built up some excellent fun and posing can be had. There's nothing like sitting in a huge hole on your wrong side while throwing your blade high in the air and catching it again.

## 4. Posing:

It will not have escaped your notice that the new ultra low designs give us a new dimension in posing. In my opinion posing should be an integral part of one's repertoire. People may say it is a waste of time but from such extreme experiments advanced technique can stem. For example listed below are several manoeuvres unique to C1's (some Europeans can do nose spins in K1's).

- a) nose spins
- b) reverse pirouette  
(a la Bush)
- c) deck dunking (a la Beacon)
- d) Stopper blasting a la  
Lugbill (thanks Jon)
- e) Lugbill Shrugs (guess who)
- f) Stopper spins
- g) Mega enders  
(75-85° spin stern turns)

At the Hub F10 is guaranteed to anyone developing a new pose - we value it so much!

In a gentle summary, paddling a C1/C2 will give you a lot of headaches at first, but once you start thinking about the problems and how to solve them you will be halfway there. Tricky at first but it gets better and better.

If you don't have the ability to think and persevere then C1 and C2 won't offer you anything. If you like a challenge that is a little different give it a try and see how you get on. Don't forget you can work your way through the Canadian divisions to Div. 1 and then compete in both K1 and C1/C2 events (1982 AGM) just to see how you do. We will all be interested to have you long.

Just a word of warning - I wouldn't advise anyone under 16 to take up C1/C2 until their bodies are more or less fully developed. One-sided forms of exercise can play havoc with a developing body and it is far better to get a good grounding in a kayak before switching over. Those who do paddle at a younger age SHOULD ALWAYS paddle on both sides to ensure good development.

I'll finish with a little question to all those in Premier/Div. 1 who have been beaten by a C1 this year (this includes several Team paddlers as well) -

How can a boat that is so slow in a straight line (10-15 seconds/minute slower than a K1) and powered by a single blade only, keep up with and beat the majority of paddlers in Premier and Div. 1. (The winning C1 regularly comes 11-25 in Premier K1 in the UK.

continued on page 18



# Acquiring Slalom Skills

How often have we sat by a slalom course and seen a superb breakout or some other equally well performed skill which resulted in a saving of one, two or three seconds or more? How often, then, have we decided to do the same on our own next run - and failed?

There is a fundamental failing in 'imitating' the skills performed by someone else. The problem is that we ONLY see what happened; we do not see what the paddler tried to do. The good breakout may have been accidental or a 'fluke' which is difficult to repeat. Consequently, we cannot copy the performance of someone else unless we know what they were trying to do, what they were aiming at, and whether the observed result was intentional.

All of this means that the individual has to learn for himself what his capabilities are before the competition. To do this a basic plan would be:

1. Observe others in competition and training IN ORDER TO SEE WHAT IS POSSIBLE.
2. Try the moves out in training.
3. IF they work, use them in competition.

The decision as to whether new skills should be used in an event depends mainly on the degree of consistency in performance. If a skill can only be successfully performed nine times out of ten the chance of an error is too great for the skill to be used in competition (unless you are already in the lead on the first run with a clear round and a time ten seconds faster than anyone else!!!).

If we regard an error as the difference between intention and performance we can regard the acquisition of skills as the reduction of errors. Using this philosophy it becomes clear that we cannot correct errors unless we had an intention of how we were going to do a gate. Unfortunately, too many paddlers regard mistakes as synonymous with getting a penalty on a gate. As a result, the only time they correct their technique or examine their routes is after getting a penalty. By this time they have already 'lost' the event.

Precision on the slalom course means having a specific route which one follows. Using a forward downstream gate as an example, it is not satisfactory to simply aim between two poles. The boat is 60cms wide and the gate is 120cms wide and any paddler can be 9.9mm from the centre of the gate without being penalised. Yet if the paddler cannot guarantee his boat position to within 10cms of his intended route he is taking too much of a chance on a slalom course if he cuts gates so fine that he aims only 5cms from a pole. A 6cms error could cost him a penalty.

A satisfactory plan for training on gates is, therefore:

1. Aim for a specific boat position and not 'between' two extremes. This means that the intention is known.
2. Note how the boat finished up.
3. The difference between (1) and (2) is the error. Over a period of time the paddler learns the extent to which he can guarantee his boat position.
4. The margin of error at the time of entering a competition becomes



omes the safety margin and the route down the course incorporates this safety margin.

It all sounds a bit too easy and of course it is. The competitive situation is always different from training. The familiar training site does not have the distractions of spectators, judges, pressure etc which tend to interrupt concentration. The most significant effect of competition pressure is that the individual is less able to make conscious decisions and tends to revert to the habits he has acquired. The solution is therefore logical. Practise the skills for the last four weeks before an event so that they become habits. Remember, though, that hitting gates in training also is a habit! Treat gate sessions in February and March as rehearsals for competition and habits will develop - including the precise positioning and specific intentions.

Perhaps the best motto to put in your training log or on your bedroom wall is:

"Every penalty incurred in the last four weeks before Grandtully increases the chances of hitting gates at Grandtully." - You are every day in every way getting better and better at hitting gates!

## Ken Langford

"Coaching one's rivals is like pulling a steamroller downhill. On the negative side one will eventually get flattened. On the positive side it certainly gets the adrenalin flowing and concentrates the mind wonderfully!"

## BUOYANCY AIDS

Following the decision of the ICF to define a buoyancy aid more tightly, the Executive has, following the recommendations of the A.G.M., made the following decisions:

1. A buoyancy aid shall consist of non-absorbent flotation material in a jacket or vest worn about the upper torso, equally distributed, front and back. It must have buoyancy sufficient to float a 6Kg legalised weight and should be designed to keep a conscious person floating in a face up position in the water. Where a Local Education Authority or Youth Organisation requires organised groups to wear lifejackets to BS 3595, these will be acceptable until a date to be determined after publication by BCU/BCMA of a standard for buoyancy aids.

2. Manufacturers and retailers may submit buoyancy aids to the Slalom Executive which will give an opinion as to their acceptability. A list of acceptable types will be on display at the International Canoe Exhibition.

3. Further to the above:

Manufacturers, retailers and competitors are notified that for British Slalom Ranking events, the organiser and the Jury are being advised that until further notice all buoyancy aids should be accepted other than those which are clearly in breach of the new rule. Aids must incorporate buoyancy (to float a 6 Kg minimum) worn against the upper torso, front and back.

It is likely that the ICF will give clear guideline as to what is, and what is not, acceptable, at the World Championships in Merano. If in doubt for the time being please write to the Secretary, BCU Slalom Committee, 3 Moreton Avenue, Harpenden, Herts. Please do not phone on this issue.

## TREVOR ROCKS SLALOM

The Trevor Rocks Invitation Slalom took place in excellent weather as traditionally organised by Dave Manby at all his events. 25 names from the past took part on the course as used for the first ever British National Slalom at Trevor Rocks in 1939. Young Albert Kerr did the demonstration run which included a figure of eight, a circumnavigation of a rock and a long sprint (or restful paddle) to the last gate - number 6! A complicated system of penalties - mainly worked out after the event - based on age of boat and time since the individual concerned last competed for Great Britain led to some very interesting results.

Eventual winner was Keith White (of KW fame) whose 255 aggregate time (both runs used to be added together) and no penalties (100 for missing a gate for example) was reduced to 13½ seconds after handicapping took place. The Witter brothers lost their £10 bet with Goodwin/Court - their old rivals by 18 seconds - both C2 crews going clear in their end-cockpit boats.

First competitor to start was Eric Totty whose 939 aggregate was a record for the day but would have gained him 3rd place in 1939. Pauline Goodwin had the best ladies time - 206 on aggregate.

Maurice kept his eye on the competition (and his fag going) to make sure that the plate presented by Llangollen Anglers went to a good, but temporary, home.

In the evening a dinner was held at the Chainbridge in honour of Maurice Rothwell's years of devoted

service to our sport. Maurice was presented with an 1820 silver cigar box by David Wain - President of the B.C.U. which Albert Woods suggested in his speech was probably an old one Maurice had thrown away in his youth. After a prolonged standing ovation Maurice thanked everyone and complained that the box was empty!

The event and dinner were both organised by Dave Manby in his inimitable style. Thanks Dave - we'd all like you to do it again.

### RESULTS

Pos	Name	Boat	Agg tot	Hcap tot
1	Keith White	KW7	255	130
2=	John McLeod	Puma	193	148
	Dave Mitchell	Hartung	213	148
4	Ken Langford	Hartung	219	164
5	Albert Kerr	Premier	168	168
6	Ray Calverley	Premeier	209	199
7	Alan Edge	Vedel	211	201
8	Stuart Fisher	Sting	234	204
9	Pauline Goodwin			
		Scorpion	256	206
10	Heather Goodman			
		Scorpion Scarab	308	228
11	Keith Wickham	Mirage	283	233
12	Pete Midwood	Dipper	294	234
13	Fréd Doody	Equippe	296	246
14	Steve Leary	Mirage	294	249
15	Court-Goodwin	Gaybo C2	257	257
16	Witter-Witter	C2	275	275
17	Glyn Davies	Miarage	348	278
18	Jim Sibley	Minstrel	349	288
19	John Fazey	Mirage	399	359
20	Mike Hilyard	JC Piranha	510	440
21	Alan Sharples	JC Wildcat	621	511
22	Jane Rouse	Mirage	674	649
23	Eric Totty		939	789

Tony Young and Robin Witter took only one run each.



Best Lady Pauline Goodwin  
 Best C1 Jim Sibley  
 Best C2 John Goodwin and John Court  
 Furthest travelled Dave Mitchell - New Hampshire, USA  
 Oldest competitor Eric Totty  
 Best Organiser Dave Manby

Thanks to Brian Hammill and the local canoe clubs for organising the course and the judges and teaching them the old rules!

THE CANOE & SMALL BOAT  
 Incorporating THE OUTBOARD

## BRITAIN'S FIRST KAYAK SLALOM

An outstanding success helped by sun and surroundings

Canoers from all parts of the country and large crowds of spectators combined to make the first National Kayak Slalom organised by the British Canoe Union at Whitsun an outstanding event. The course eventually used was the stretch of rapids below Trevor Bridge on the Dee, just above the Shropshire Union Canal aqueduct. The lovely surrounds of the Vale of Llangollen provided a perfect setting for good sport and the low state of the water made it possible for onlookers to clamber out on to the rocks and watch competitors going past only a yard or two away.

### Five "Stayers"

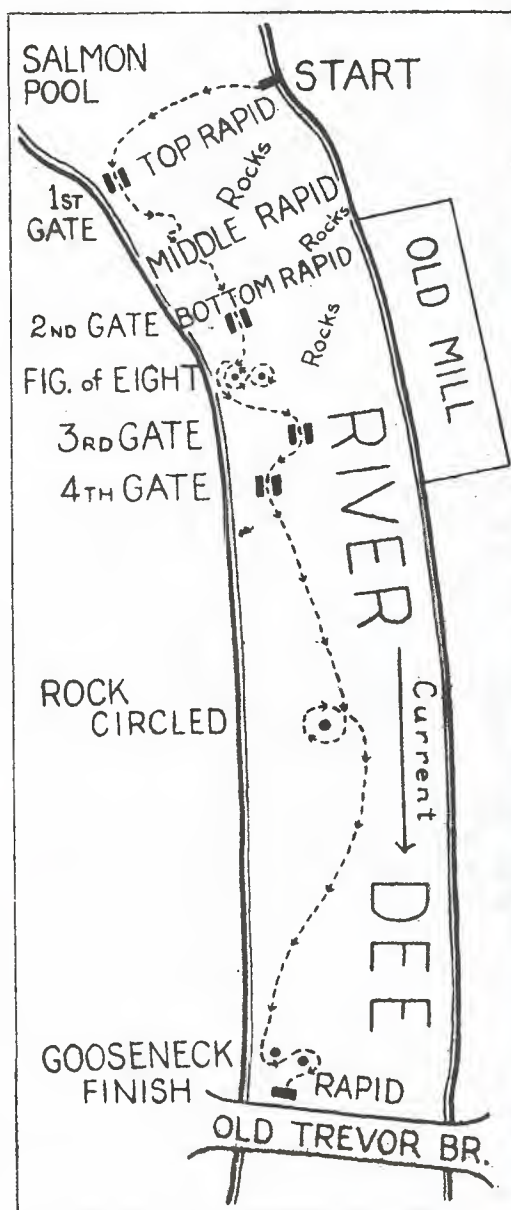
There were a number of capsizes and some boats were slightly damaged, only five competitors staying the course for the two complete runs necessary. I. B. Ritchie of Newcastle-on-Tyne made easily the fastest run but he capsized during his second time down.

The results were as follows:—

	Run	Run	Tot'l
	1	2	Pts.
1. J. Harris (Birmingham) ...	472	362	834
2. B. Scarratt (Liverpool) ...	509	427	936
3. K. Wainwright (London)...	466	584	1050
4. M. Rothwell (Manchester)..	564	542	1106
5. H. Stainton (Birmingham).	707	564	1271

These points are based on the actual time in seconds taken in traversing the course, with penalty seconds added for errors. The runs were started by gunshot and each gate had an independent neutral judge.

The marking was in the hands of E. Roylance of Leeds, who was responsible for most of the arrangements for the Slalom. F. Schulhof of London, who was of great assistance to the organisers with his advice, and D. M. Prince of Manchester were present throughout the meeting but very sportingly did not compete.



PLAN OF THE COURSE

Old canoeists don't die  
 they just fail to roll up again...

## ICF RULE CHANGES - THE PROPOSALS

The following is a letter from the ICF slalom and wildwater committee:

"The ICF-Board of Management approved at his meeting held in Berlin/GDR on last 13th November the following proposals made by SWC/ICF to take effect

I by January 1st 1983

as implementation to rule 19.2

A LIFE JACKET (BUOYANCY AID) SHALL CONSIST OF NON-ABSORBENT FLOTATION MATERIAL EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED IN A JACKET OR VEST WORN ABOUT THE UPPER TORSO FRONT AND BACK. IT MUST HAVE BUOYANCY SUFFICIENT TO FLOAT A 6KG LEGALIZED LEAD WEIGHT, AND SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO KEEP A CONSCIOUS PERSON FLOATING IN A FACE-UP POSITION IN THE WATER.

as implementation to rule 6.1

THE C2 MIXED CATEGORY WILL NOT BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1983 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN MERANO.

as implementation to rule 7.2.3

KAYAKS ARE DECKED BOATS WHICH MUST BE PROPELLED BY DOUBLE-BLADED PADDLES AND INSIDE WHICH THE COMPETITORS SIT.

CANADIAN CANOES ARE DECKED BOATS WHICH MUST BE PROPELLED BY SINGLE-BLADED PADDLES AND INSIDE WHICH THE COMPETITORS KNEEL.

and for 1985 as rules by the 84th Congress,

II by 1983 for the test competitions notified as such in the ICF Calendar 83:

as test-changes to rule -

8. ALL COMPETITORS WILL HAVE AT LEAST ONE RUN - ONLY THE TOP 50% AFTER THE FIRST RUN-RESULTS WILL ADVANCE TO THE SECOND, AND STARTING ORDER WILL BE THE REVERSE OF FIRST RUN RESULTS.

25.4 A SLALOM COURSE CONSISTS OF A MAXIMUM OF 25 GATES, HAVING TWO POLES WITH A MINIMUM WIDTH OF TWO METRES, NOT LESS THAN 10cm ABOVE THE WATER LEVEL, MINIMUM 6 UPSTREAM GATES.

27.5 GATES WILL HAVE A NUMERICAL SEQUENCE WITH A SLASH ON ONE SIDE, SO THAT THE SIDE FOR BEGINNING NEGOTIATION IS DEFINED.

27.1 THE GATES ARE MARKED BY PAINTING, GREEN/WHITE FOR EVEN NUMBERS AND RED/WHITE FOR UNEVEN NUMBERS.

29 A TOUCH OF THE GATE (EITHER ONE OR BOTH POLES) WITH BODY, BOAT OR PADDLE AND/OR MISSING THE GATE ~~XXXX~~ ENTIRELY WILL HAVE THE SAME PENALTY - 20 POINTS.

and III as possible rule changes by January 1st 1985 by Congress 1984

Minimum boat weights in racing condition, with buoyancy in place:

SLALOM K1	7kg	WWR K1	9kg
C1	8kg	C1	11kg
C2	11kg	C2	15kg

also for slalom the slalom boats there should be a minimum radius (2cm) at the ends.

The principle of convex lines for all boats.

No team runs in Continental Cup Competitions and (possible) Olympic Competitions

The 15 seconds will be moved from the team gate to the finish line.



In slalom competition generally there will be only one team run.

Elimination of the C2 mixed as a separate category.  
Only three competitors per category per federation in World Championships.

Reduction of Officials.  
Compressing the time for a competition by setting a standard for the length of the course measured in distance or in terms of the best time.

ICF/SWC 01.01.83

Well! There they are in ICF English. See comment on the letters page for more information about how to make your feelings/ideas get over to the decision makers. In Britain we will hold a conference for all interested slalomists during winter of this year.



## ORGANISERS' CONFERENCE

Holme Pierrepont - 29/30 January

This year's Organisers Conference, with nearly forty people taking part took place without snow drifts and, more or less on time at the National Water Sports Centre. Roger Annan opened the Conference with a look at some of the problems both of organisers and participants and outlined the objectives of the meeting.

Peter King outlined the Executive's hopes and ideas for the 'Year of the Novice' and asked that groups dealt

with the ideas posed and new thoughts of their own during the weekend. Three groups operated - all the Div 1 organisers in one group; all the Novice event organisers in a second and everyone else in the third. Problems of organisation, judging, parents, finance, course design, ranking list compilers, paperwork, competitors (at various levels) and dealing with public bodies were fully discussed and many recommendations made. A Conference Report is in the preparation stages. A few important matters for immediate attention of paddlers and others emerged:

1. Entry Cards - need to be complete in every respect. Judges are asked to include their division and if they are qualified on their cards.
2. Bibs can be obtained for Div 1 and 2 paddlers immediately - see details.
3. Organiser are encouraged to provide some time for practice for higher division paddlers on the course without other paddlers on the water at the same time and these paddlers, in return to keep out of the way of Novices when it is their turn to practice.
4. There should be prizes for novice judges in Div 2-4 events to encourage novices to come along and to try things out.
5. Information and help for novices at Novice events is an essential.
6. Course adjustment must be completed before practice runs take place. Thereafter continuous maintenance is recommended.
7. Results must appear promptly, whether results sheets or cards are displayed. It is not sat-

isfactory to leave it until all competitors results have been copied onto a results sheet before the first results are displayed.

8. Competitors like to know their times at the finish - organisers should tell them as far as possible. Back-up timing is essential at all events.
9. Top paddlers would attend events and demonstrate how the course can be done in return for some timed runs - they might also help with prizegiving - particularly at novice level.
10. Events should be publicised where possible beforehand and always afterwards. Clubs should have press officers and let Jennifer Munro (Slalom Press/Publicity Officer) have cuttings and details. Don't forget local radio.
11. Public address systems are very important at top level events, and very useful elsewhere where organisers are allowed to use them.
12. Paddlers who cannot act properly should be disciplined and, if necessary excluded from the sport. Organisers should report problems, not shrug them away - to help other organisers in the future.

If you would like a copy of the full Conference report contact Roger Fox, Slalom Secretary.

## BRITISH SLALOM TRAVEL

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

1983

### MERANO - ITALY

Special arrangements have been made for reduced price tours for British supporters to see this year's World Championship in Merano, Northern Italy. Full package tours are available, or, for the more independent air flights, car hire, hotels, car ferries and camp sites can be arranged for very competitive rates. Full details from (send sae):

Brian James,  
British Slalom Travel,  
7 Knowle Gardens,  
West Byfleet,  
Surrey.

### SPECIAL DEALS ON SALLY LINE ALITALIA and ALL GRADES OF HOTELS

## SLALOM HANDBOOK

A new book for all involved in slalom, particularly for those just promoted into the Divisional Structure, or thinking of Coaching. Costs £1 and is available from good Canoe Clubs, or from:

Miss Christine  
Arrowsmith,  
34 Newbold Road, Wellesbourne, Warwick  
CV35 9QE



CRYSTAL PALACE NATIONAL KNOCKOUT  
POOL SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIP

Event 1 Saturday 13.55 - GB squad

Event 2 Saturday 15.50 Regional  
Heats

Event 3 Sunday 10.55 GB Squad

Event 4 Sunday 13.25 Finals

Prizegiving - Sunday at 14.20.

COURSE 2 - Event 4



COURSE 1 - Events 1, 2 and 3



LANE 1

LANE 2

GB Squad

K1

C2

1 S.Briggs	18 Joce / Owen
2 J.Dolan	19 Read / Read
3 P.Godfrey	20 Smith / Smith
4 G.Helsby	17 Jamieson / Williams
5 R.Manwaring	
6 P.McConkey	C1
7 J.Rennocks	9 R.Doman
8 R.Smith	10 M.Hedges
	11 L.Williams

K1L

13 G.Allen  
14 C.Pallett  
15 L.Sharman  
16 J.Wilson

LANE 1

LANE 2

Competitors go up and back in the SAME lane. Penalties - 2 per pole hit (at any time), 50 for missing a gate out.

## CRYSTAL PALACE SLALOM - Continued

### Regional Heats Paddlers

The following qualified for the National finals at events held at Stratford-upon-Avon, Leeds and Reading.

Four K1M, and two from each other class will go forward to event 4 - the national finals against a similar number from the GB squad. Competitors will be chosen from their fastest run times achieved in events 1 and 2 on SATURDAY.

K1	C2
21 D. Bowles	37 Arrowsmith/Brain
22 D. Howarth	38 Edwards
23 J. Jayes	Stonestreet
24 L. Johnson	39 Morgan/Deacon
25 M. Marks	40 Walling/Ambridge
26 M. Mitchell	
27 C. Nelson	
28 B. Noble	

K1L	C1
33 C. Arrow-	29 R. Black
smith	30 D. Hennessey
34 L. Badger	31 D. Janes
35 H. Bradshaw	32 R. Stonestreet
36 G. Stock	

Details of the 1984 knockout championship will appear in a later edition of "FEEDBACK"

## ORGANISERS' CONFERENCE - THOUGHTS ON JUDGING

### Slalom Judging at Div 1/P Events - Summary

The aim is to give paddlers the best possible judging to the rules as they are laid down by the ICF. To this end a section judging scheme is operated and this was considered. After an outline of the responsibilities of the event organisers and the section judging panel for supply of equipment and personnel a number of points were considered.

It is essential that both section judges and gate judges are properly briefed and treated with consideration. They must be encouraged to act as a partnership and must both keep full records of all penalties and especially of cases of disagreement. The aim is to have two independent views of each gate. Although in the final analysis it is the section judge - as senior qualified partner - whose score is transmitted to control, he must exercise judgement in deciding when, and when not, to over-rule the gate judge, and this is the final measure of his effectiveness. In the event of protests the jury is the final arbiter of disagreements.

### Slalom Judging at Div 2/3/4 & N events Events - Summary

The aim is the same as above. Starting from this it is felt that the most important thing is to start planning the judging of an event early. The judging organiser should be appointed early and left free of other responsibility. Judging equipment must be checked before the event and any shortage of judges identified and if possible remedied (other clubs may be asked to help!). Judging positions must be chosen very carefully and an attempt made to anticipate problems; it is believed that a large proportion of the penalty problems that occur at events are due to poor siting of judges. The course must be capable of being judged by the judges available.

#### \*\*\*\*\*COMPETITION\*\*\*\*\*

DESIGN A TITLE PAGE AND A  
LOGO FOR:

# feedback

Ideas, rough sketches or finished artwork are all acceptable. Winners can join the editorial team!

\*\*\*\*\*



At the event judges must be treated fairly but worked reasonably hard. They must be properly briefed and this includes posting the judging rota early and avoiding unannounced alterations to this. Some form of judge shelter is advisable and some form of refreshment - once per shift - is desirable. The ideal length of shift is probably 1½ hours. The judging organiser should, at all times, know exactly who is judging where, and, should be aware of any failures of relief of judges. A fair, well-organised judges practice and event is advised. Judges must at all times fill in the judging slips fully (name, etc.,) and record as much information as possible concerning the reasons for penalties.

A final point applying to both the above summaries is that a badly organised event spoils the judge supply at all other events.

From the discussion a few extra recommendations emerged:

1. Organisers should use judges as part of their whole event team. They can report continuously on the state of the event, e.g. capsizes, collapse of gates, etc.
2. Some clarification of protest procedure is required.
3. An approved judges shorthand for recording reasons for penalties was requested.
4. The rule on approaches, by paddlers and supporters, to judges needs publicity.

NEVILLE UNWIN

From Issue 4 of "FEEDBACK" Jez Taylor - that celebrated C1 international paddler, and bon vivant - will run a new, witty and interesting column of slalom gossip known as:

## JEZS' JOTTINGS

Any contributions to Jez at the Editorial address please.

## "WHITE WATER MAGAZINE" and "FEEDBACK"

Readers may be aware that Stuart Fisher - the highly successful Editor of "White Water Magazine" decided to produce an independant canoe magazine - "CANOEIST" from 1st January 1983. "FEEDBACK" wishes Stuart well with his montly magazine.

"Feedback" - which started before "White Water" ceased publication will continue to foster all aspects of slalom and will now, additionally, take on the role of a means of communication between the Slalom Executive and slalomists of all abilities and ages.

## HELP WANTED BY 'FEEDBACK'

1. Divisional Reporters.
2. Salesmen and women
3. Help with typing and layout
4. Features editors
5. New articles and ideas
6. Club news items
7. Black and white photos

All offers to:

F.A.C.

3 Moreton Avenue,  
HARPENDEN,  
Herts.

AL5 2EU

## Letters

Dear FAC,

After purchasing a copy of FEEDBACK I note with some interest that it is stated that Martin Deacon is "Britain's Brightest Young C1 hope for some time." At the present time I am training with a Division One C1 paddler who is in fact higher on the ranking lists than Martyn and is a junior. His name is Simon Warden. Simon doesn't have another Canadian paddler to train with and relies on Kayak paddlers to point out his weak points. As a final point Simon also beat Martyn at all the selection events and was also invited to Mezzana.

Ian McKay (Div. 1, K1M)  
PRESTON

Any more young hopefuls - please  
let us know Ed



Dear Feedback,

### RESCUE BOATS

With reference to Washburn Slalom 8/9 May 1982. After completing my first run (the sort of run that a paddler, who had spent months of solid training and preparation for, could be pleased with) I slowly got out of my boat, totally exhausted and made my way to the Control to see the result, stopping at Gate 30 for a chat to other club members to enquire if they had seen any gate touches. All looked promising for a good result. On arrival at Control, I was greeted with a notice in large red letters saying, I quote -

Competitor 19 disqualified from the whole event for not staying on the water at the finish as a rescue boat. Well, what can I say, I was left speechless, that was the last thing I had thought of on finishing my run, it is surprising what an exhausted paddler can forget!! After the initial shock, I forwarded my protest and after some very understanding and helpful talk with members of the Slalom Executive and some understanding discussion with the organisers, the verdict was that they would be kind enough to let me compete in the team event. You can imagine how I felt, especially after finding out that there was a chance of possible selection for the Czechoslovakia team.

Following the disaster, I was surprised to learn that at the Foster's Lager International, 30/31 October 1982 a 16 year old girl was expected, not long after daylight, to be the first person to take her practice run, with no previous competitor to watch and inadequate light to study the course prior to getting on the water, also, no sign of a rescue boat at the finish despite a request to the organisers for such a boat to be provided. The same paddler completed her first and second runs without any sign of a rescue boat at the finish.

The question is, can a paddler who has given 110% of effort to their run be relied on to rescue the following competitor, single handed, what if he also gets into difficulties, and as a matter of interest, who is responsible for rescuing the first competitor down the course?

Mike Mitchell  
Ross on Wye

Mike's letter highlights a serious problem which we should have seen, but didn't. All Organisers are asked to ensure that adequate rescue



is available for the first paddlers off in a competition in the future. However, it doesn't overcome the reasons for Mike's disqualification this year and other competitors last season. One simple and sure way of providing extra cover in the event of a capsize is to ensure that finished competitors stay on the water - maybe for more than one boat - until someone else is fit enough to perform a rescue of canoeist or equipment.

Exec



Dear FAC,

What are the ICF doing to our sport? After reading the proposed new rules for slalom I was shocked by the apparent short sightedness of the ICF.

Two metre gates! Think of some of the best breakouts on British slalom courses, could you fit a 2m gate in them all? Think of the Washburn try hanging a course with 2m gates.

A single penalty of 20 sec for touching a pole or missing a gate. For years we have been cutting down on the penalty to make people paddle faster and faster. Now paddlers will be encouraged to go to a slower, safe style which must be a step backwards. Surely it's an insult to the intelligence of the judges that they cannot differentiate between missing a gate and hitting a gate. How can you penalise a competitor the same for rolling a pole against his cag and totally missing a gate?

The restrictions on boat weight and forebow dimensions are surely creating the need for more officials and as such seem to be in conflict with the main motive of the ICF.

The weight restrictions will only result in light boats weighted up as in sprint racing and a slalom boat with the front 20cm of bow 2cm wide still looks like a spike to me (sorry Andy).

The only ray of hope contained in the proposed new rules is the abolition of presentation. I am sure every paddler can think of a situation where they were denied one of their best runs by a difficult presentation decision which went the wrong way. Clever course design will be able to retain the reverse gate and its associated skills.

The thought which goes through my mind is how involved with slalom are these individuals on the ICF and do they have the good of the sport at heart, after all slalom is for the paddlers not the administrators. How much consultation with paddlers has there been in formulating these proposals? Judging by the reaction of the other paddlers I have spoken to their feeling against the bulk of the rules is very strong.

Surely we must question the spending of a large sum of money to send a team to test out a set of ill-conceived rules and if a team is sent then the medal rostrum would be a good place to make a stand.

We must get organised and be co-ordinated in our opposition to the proposals nationally and internationally and show the ICF that they can not mess around with our sport without first listening to the views of the paddlers.

Mike Druce  
North Staffs Canoe Centre

Details of the proposed ICF changes appear elsewhere. These are currently only proposals for 1985 and will be re-examined by the ICF after test events this summer at

LETTERS - Continued

Bourg, Augsburg and Lofer. British teams will compete at each of these events and will doubtless make their views known to paddlers from other countries. Anyone who has the chance to talk to competitors or officials from other nations is urged to do so - remember, in the end Great Britain has only one vote at the 1984 ICF Congress which will decide on what the International rules will be for 1985-1988.

Exec

Dear F.A.C.

ICF RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

The latest proposals of the ICF for the 'development' of slalom were announced at the Slalom AGM. They spell the end for slalom as we all know it moving it from a skill orientated event into one totally designed for speed. No reverses, 6ft. wide gates, shorter courses, limitations on boat design, same penalty for hitting one pole as for missing a gate out, etc, etc. This imposition on our sport is one we cannot tolerate and efforts must be made by our ICF member and the Slalom Committee to throw out these proposals in total. At the AGM a unanimous vote gave this message to the Executive and I hope they understand what that means. Don't flinch, stick to your guns and meet the ICF head on, the future of our sport is at stake.

The Hub

1983 - time for a change in U.K. Slalom - continued

In Europe at Augsburg all but two kayaks were beaten by Jon Lugbill.)

IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION I SUGGEST YOU GET IN A C1 AND TRY AND FIND OUT. EVEN IF YOU DON'T STICK WITH IT I'LL GUARANTEE YOUR K1 PADDLING WILL IMPROVE.

**HUB**

OVERHEARD AT THE TREVOR ROCKS SLALOM

JG You were looking good there, R.

RW I nearly spewed!

JG Nothing changes, does it?

\*\*\*\*\*

DM We can start soon - as soon as P. finishes feeding the baby.

\*\*\*\*\*

AE K, Hold on, you've got past gate four - you swim now.

\*\*\*\*\*

AS Are you starting us all with the shotgun?

DM No - I've only got 4 cartridges!

\*\*\*\*\*

DM What's that boat?

AE It's a Puma, circa 1972

BF One of a matching pair!

\*\*\*\*\*

PM Mitchell always gets two strokes in before the start - nothing changes.



PRODUCTION SCHEDULE FOR 'FEEDBACK'
1983

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Copy Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
4	March 15	April 2
5	May 15	June 5
6	July 15	August 8
7	September 20	October 20
8	December 8	January 1
9	January 31	February 17

If you would like to contribute  
please send copy by the due date.

ORGANISERS' Please submit all  
results of events as  
soon as possible after

ORGANISERS' Submit results as soon  
as your event is over  
so that they can  
appear in 'FEEDBACK'  
All prizewinners and  
promotees names will  
be printed.

Feedback 3 was produced by:

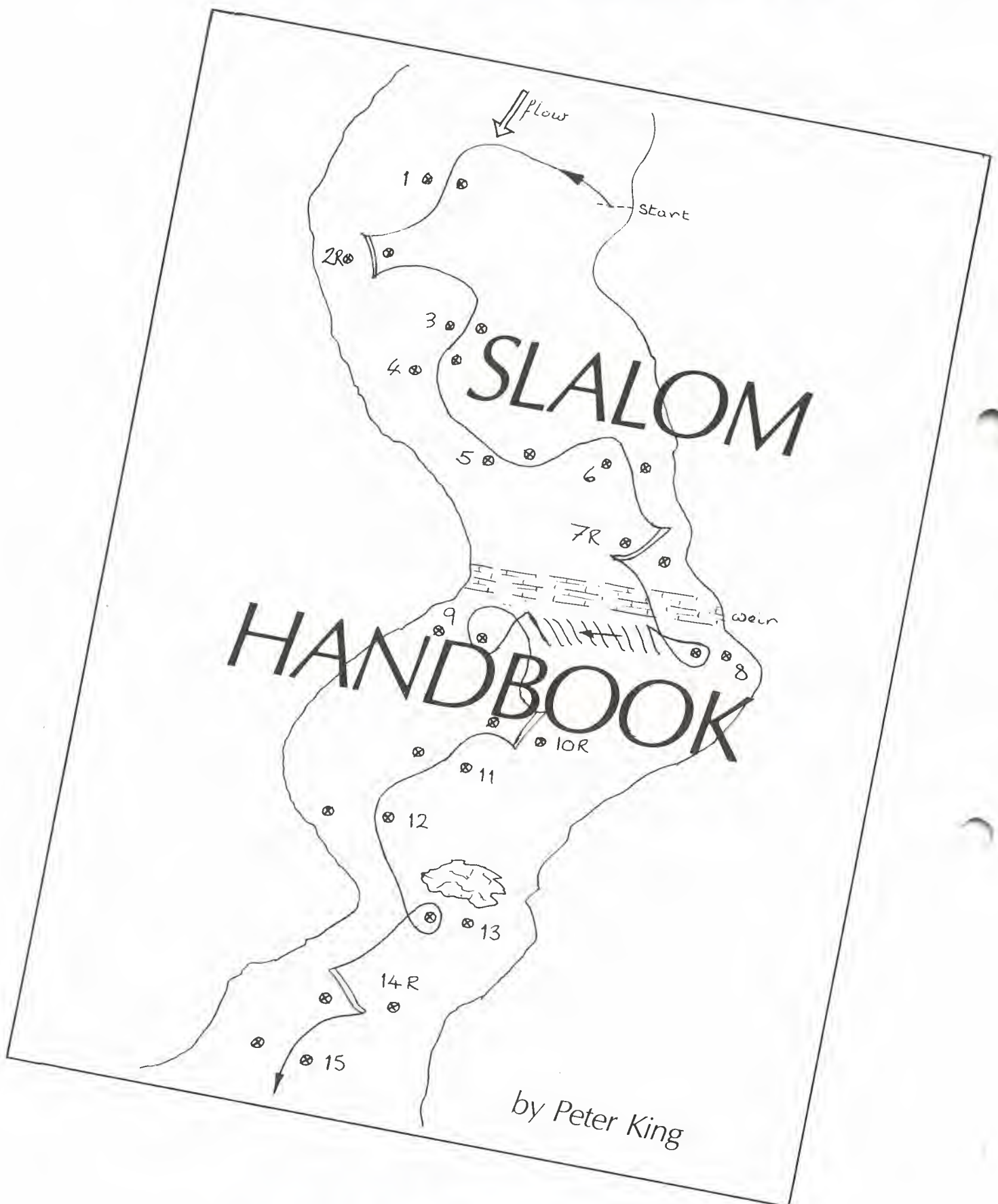
EDITOR Richard Fox

Assisted by John Gosling and  
Roger Annan.

Typing Stephanie Mawdesley

Layout All the above and  
Chris Nelson

**PRICE £ 1.30 POST PAID**



**ADDRESS PAGE 12**



