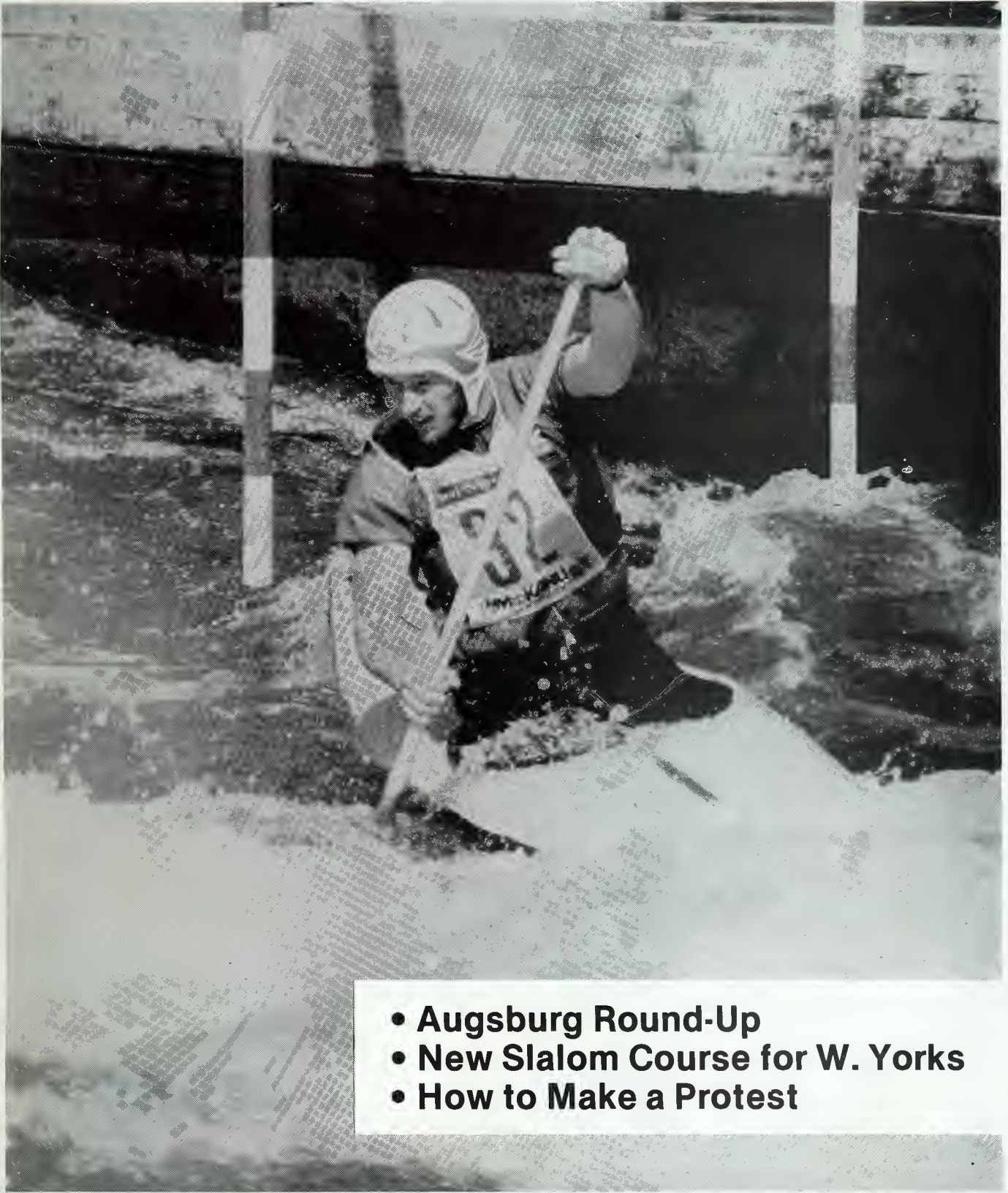


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RUSS SMITH on the Eiskanal Photo: Tony Tickle

Canoe SLALOM

1 School Terrace, Selly Oak, Birmingham. B29 6DY
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FEATURES: RICHARD FOX

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COPY

The next issue will be published on October 14th. Copy to reach the Editor 14 days before publication date.

Cover photo: MARTYN HEDGES
winning Britain's first ever C1 medal at a World Championships. Photo by Tony Tickle

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EDITORIAL

First and foremost, congratulations to our World Championship team for their efforts in Augsburg, especially to Richard, Gail and Martyn. The report in this issue gives more detail on the event while the F.A.C. column gives an inside story on how victory came from initial defeat. This issue also contains a summary of the new developments to bring on the next generation as well as a Canadian report from Pete Bell, which suggests some radical ideas for concentrating entries and thus raising the standards of competition. The Jimmy Jayes story has been postponed, due to my tame interviewer being so excited by winning the Worlds that he forgot talk to him. It has been a busy time with events and where we have reports we have printed them.

The main thrust of this editorial is twofold. The first is to address the task of building the team for the 1987 worlds in Bourg St. Maurice. Alan Edge has been appointed the Director of Coaching for slalom and officially begins his post on November 1st. A full time post, designed to bring coaching to the fore in British Slalom for the first time, is precisely what we need. Whilst Alan must have his own ideas it is up to all of us as canoeists to help him and support him in his development of the job, and I'm sure he will welcome offers of advice and assistance from almost any quarter.

Whilst the results of the Augsburg World's were not as good as Merano's (we finished 4th in the medal table rather than 1st), we should not be disheartened. For three of our kayak men it was their first time at a worlds, and with the experience they have gained, and the good paddlers that are right behind them and pushing them forward, there is no reason to think that mens kayak is on the wane. Our ladies, whilst not as awesome as at Merano, still placed well, but do seem to lack strength in depth. It is time for some of the Premier ladies who have been content to be there, or thereabouts to raise the standard of ladies kayak, so that when Liz decides she has had enough, we still have enough good class ladies to put out a team. The Canadian classes do need work, though not least because it is currently a team of old dogs. However the C1 B team that travelled abroad with the Kayak B team acquitted themselves well, and considering their relative youth and inexperience they could come through to replace the current leaders. C2 though, depends for its future on the development of new crews, which are not there at the moment. Perhaps its

time to re-route some of our strong mens kayak paddlers into this, our weakest class.

Both this magazine, and "Canoeist" note with some dismay the decision of the BCU to increase its production of "Canoe Focus" to 6 issues a year. As a specialist magazine this will not hit us as badly as it does the general magazine, but with Focus's incredibly expensive advertising rates, and what seem to me to be relatively new low returns to that advertising, per £ spent, even more pressure will be put on advertisers' limited budgets, and even more money will be needed from central funds to finance the magazine's deficit, driving up membership costs further. The time has come for a complete reappraisal of 'Focus'.

Myself, I would prefer to see a freedom of choice available either to receiver of not receive 'Focus' with a news bulletin, with vital information being distributed instead. Then those who wished to receive the magazine could fund its deficit, while those who did not could be free to spend the money subscribing to a canoeing publication more in touch with their own discipline. This would also boost the circulation and importance of the various magazines in their disciplines, (i.e. White Water News, Beach Break, Slalom Magazine etc.) allowing them to provide a better service and making a better link with the paddlers of their various disciplines. It would also give a true picture of the relative popularity of 'Focus' to the other magazines, rather than a false impression that everyone likes and reads it! Perhaps it's time to take the bull by the horns, and tell the B.C.U. that the great majority of slalom paddlers don't get a lot out of 'Focus' and perhaps would prefer the chance to choose an alternative.

JOE LYONS



FEEDBACK NEWS AND INFO

SLALOM ENTRIES

Paddlers, spare a minute or two of thought for the Organiser. The deadline for receipt of entries is the Friday a fortnight before the event. How can he put together a sensible programme and start list if a substantial number of entries continue to arrive in the following week? Many Division Four/Novice events are struggling to find enough competitors to make the organisation worthwhile and it is simply not fair to keep the Club on tenterhooks for up to a week after the closing date.

Please, please, send in your entries in plenty of time. Remember it takes longer without a post code and if none is quoted for the Organiser it is prudent to allow at least one extra day for delivery.

You will benefit because you will have a better planned event, a completed start list and a happy Organiser who will not bite your head off when you want to change a team member.

BIBS BIBS BIBS BIBS

It has been brought to the attention of the Executive that a number of paddlers are still not complying with the Bib Regulations.

Paddlers in Divisions 3 — Premier are reminded that they must prove membership of the B.C.U. and obtain their **official** bib from the relevant bib officer BEFORE competing at any event. Failure to do so may well result in those events not being counted, or even loss of ranking status.

BE WARNED!

Llangollen International

The Fosters International Slalom will be held at Llangollen Town on 26th-27th October under the 1986 ICF Rules. This will be one of the first International events (apart from the European Youth Championships) to be run under these rules. There will also be a 3 nation International event on Thursday October 24th on the Serpents Tail Rapid.

Pool Slalom

R and A Longrigg have agreed to run the 1986 Pool Slalom. They have asked us to announce that the event will be on February 22-23, at the Exhibition, and that the regional knockouts for the competition should be held in September to December - so contact your region NOW.

Premier Split?

A working party is considering splitting Premier and 'Div 1. A working paper has been drawn up

suggesting, among other things, in season promotion from Div 1 to Premier, should be split occur. Constructive suggestions should be directed to M. Crosbee.

New Coach -

Alan Edge will take up his appointment as the full time Director of Slalom Coaching on November 1st. This is an exciting prospect not only for Alan, who will relish the challenge, but for everyone who is involved in competitive slalom.

Change of Address

SUE WHARTON - the Slalom Committee Administrator has moved to:

1, Barnacre View,
High Street,
Garstang,
Preston PR3 1EB.
Telephone: 09952 4579

TERRY WHITE - the Premier and Division One Ranking List Compiler, has moved to:

7, Pitstone Close,
Stafford ST16 1TT
Telephone: 0785 59474

Roderick Returns

Jane Roderick, the former World Silver Medallist returned to competition for a brief period this summer. The occasion was the Amsele International Grand Prix in Sweden where she was one of the few women to survive the testing course. Jane's second place earned her an enormous portable music system. Richard Fox was beaten into 3rd place by Toy Prijon and Goeran Hedstroem. The water was big enough to reverse loop downriver boats during the Rapid Race and West German, Peter Micheler was just one paddler who ended up looking for fish.

Raspin Wins Gold

Ian Raspin won the European Youth Championships at Spittal on July 15th in a closely contested event held under the 1986 ICF Slalom rules. Spittal has been the site for these championships since 1978 and will next year host a World Junior Championships. By then, Raspin will be ineligible for youth competition but his place on the rostrum may well be taken by David Crosbee who showed remarkable speed at this year's event only to be held back by penalties.

OPINION Who will catch The Fox?

Giving the Hounds the Scent

by Peter Bell

Once again the Great Britain slalom team has returned from the World Championships with Gold in the Mens kayak event. At Augsburg they also won bronze in the Ladies kayak and that elusive first medal for Britain in the Canadian singles. We have good reason to be proud of the "stars" of our team.

It is just two years until the next World Championship, the rest of the World is already asking "When will the Fox stop?" We should be asking ourselves how we are going to produce another British paddler to "Catch the Fox?"

Without Gail, Liz, Martyn and Foxy our results are much less impressive, our reputation as a strong nation is an unstable pinnacle relying on these few names.

Over 5000 paddlers compete in Canoe Slalom in Britain. A majority enjoy the sport as casual recreation because there is a lack of stimulus encouraging them to discover the greater satisfaction of competing with an athletic approach. The stimulus should be club level coaching but this is missing because paddlers fail to help each other and those following them.

Our most important resources are our most wasted, those of talent and experience. We miss talent by lack of coaches and then loose experience by failing to retain paddlers as coaches.

What can we do about it?

Two major steps are being taken by the BCU slalom committee.

Alan Edge will be taking up a full time appointment as National Competition coach in November (see page 2)

Dave Morgan is structuring youth and intermediate development plans for the coaching of paddlers who have already demonstrated talent.

More vital is an adjustment in attitude between clubs and paddlers. Clubs need to help themselves, they should assist their better paddlers to become their coaches, and encourage them to do so.

Paddlers can quite easily "adopt" a small group of paddlers which they help within their club. Half an hour a couple of times a week of coaching after a paddlers' own training is not a great burden, especially if in exchange he gets help with timing, hanging gates etc.

When a paddler's own ambitions fade, hopefully he will already have experience and respect from his coaching easing adjustment of emphasis from racing coaching.

If you need a coach in your club don't wait for another paddler to offer. Catch him after training and strike a bargain ie you time his session, he helps you with skill work for 15 minutes afterwards.

How many paddlers have you heard say "I never had a coach?" Many may never have had a formal coach, but few have not had any help from other paddlers.

If you don't ask, you won't get,



Pete Bell 13th place at Augsburg Photo by Tony Tickle

Nomad Inter-Club Championships

1985 sees the introduction of this new event to the Slalom Calendar. The event organised by Jim Croft and held at Cardington on September 21/22, is the first of its kind (to my knowledge) in Britain. It is a welcome change from the prevailing divisional system which makes it hard for club organisers and parents to travel, or arrange transport, for those too young to drive. It is also the first event to offer cash prizes not to the individuals, but to the clubs. It will be interesting to see how the various clubs across the nation stand up to claim their title of best British slalom club, 1985, and whether it will be won by an old established club, or by a smaller, but more compact and better organised group. The rules for each team ensure that a wide spread of ability is required, not just in kayaks but in canadians too. Stafford and Stone could put out mens premier kayak teams now until doomsday, but a quick look through the rankings for C2s and ladies shows a weakness on that front, while other clubs will struggle to find 3 Premier/Div ones to make up their teams. Viking - the home club - must have a good chance on their own water, with international level C1s and C2s as well as quite good kayaks. But the unknown factor has to be the Div 2, 3 and 4 categories. This is the nub of the competition and this is where it is hoped the introduction of the event will pressure clubs who encouraging senior paddlers to coach the junior divisions. For it is this element that is lacking in the British system and in this respect the relative weakness of our clubs result in a slower rate of transfer of skill from senior to junior paddlers. The knowledge that half an hour spent coaching your Div 4 representative in the club event could reap dividends if he does well, will be a spur to the senior paddler to spend the time with the junior.

This is of course the way the system works in Germany where almost all their events are club oriented, and have separate events for each class of paddlers - apparently an organisers nightmare but it does produce the club spirit and the coaching. The sight of Margit

Messelhauser, new World Champion, coaching the young girls of AVK Augsburg, or of top end mens kayaks taking under 14s down the course at an event, having all arrived in the same minibus and with their tents next to each other is one that is rare in Britain. Whilst our divisional system has its own great advantages, pressing people to chase hard for results and to train, the introduction of a club event may start a greater involvement in club life for all.

The future of the event is still uncertain not in terms of support, for Mike Dalton of Nomad Canoes is firmly committed to the club idea, but in terms of format. Mike himself would like to see it regionalised with perhaps the top clubs from each regional championship going to the national final. However, as with anything new it is open to change, and to suggestions from all quarters for improvement.

The sponsorship itself is costing Nomad in the region of £600 in prize money, with the entries going to cover the expenses. Most manufactures have been invited to attend, and it is hoped a large trade show will develop. Entries at the moment have been received from about 15 clubs, and the organiser, Jim Croft would be happy to get as many as he can in before the end of August. The prizes are £450 for the winning club, £150 for the 2nd club and £50 for the 3rd, with each member of the winning team receiving a medal as well as the manager and the two judges that they provide. This form of event sponsorship is one way of putting back into the sport some of the profit that the manufacturers take out, and hopefully it will be a good event and become a permanent fixture on the Calendar as a prelude to the Winter. Come along and support your team and you never know you may get the rare sight of some World Champions urging a div 4 man down the course, rather than the other way round.

Joe Lyons.

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A Guide to Protests Doug Castle

Having been asked to serve on the Jury for a few of the Div 4/N events this season, one event kept me busy as Chairman, I have noted several shortcomings in the reasons why, and the way in which, paddlers protest. In a way this is not surprising as at an event at this level many paddlers may be making a protest for the first time.

The relevant rule governing protests is D 3.4 in the Slalom Yearbook which reads -

Protests may be made against the published score, time and/or penalties or against a decision of the organiser (eg on a re-run), they must be made by the paddler, in person, presenting an Official protest form duly completed. This form must be accompanied by a 50p deposit which is returnable if the protest is upheld, or if the Jury so decide. The time for protests on any one run closes 1 hour after the results for that run have been put on display, with the proviso that no protest can be accepted after the results for the last run of the day have been on display for 15 minutes. The Jury's decision on protests (and the return of protest deposits) is final. Retained protest fees should be sent by the organiser, with the slalom levies, to the appropriate treasurer for the Judging fund.

We also have to look at the last part of rule D3.3 which states - 'If at any time, a paddler, or his representative, makes an unauthorised approach to a judge concerning a protest, the protest should be rejected and the paddler may be disqualified from the event at the discretion of the jury.'

So far it seems that one can protest about anything, but wait, there are snags. We must look at rule C11 for the last italics are important - 'In all cases the doubt is based on what the judge sees, not on what is, or might be, seen from any other point or by any other person.'

It would, therefore, seem that if a judge states that a pole was touched and has recorded the penalty, there can be no argument, to protest is fruitless. The rule on sideways presentation causes much concern, for a paddler's head slightly

turned gives an entirely different line on presentation, than a person sat on the bank looking along the centreline of the canoe and the gateline at the moment that the shoulders cross the gateline. Hence, benefit of the doubt shall not be given.

A protest will be successful if the paddler can show that the judge is not interpreting a rule correctly, although again the different viewpoints can show this differently if high flying poles are contested. When a paddler fairly catches up with the next paddler ahead and is baulked the re-run is obvious, but if it is an unfair catch-up, due to the second paddler missing gates, the paddler caught up may not realise this, but should check the scores.

Basically, a paddler needs to know that there is no transmission error, and then only to protest if he is absolutely sure of the rule concerned. A moments calm thought, and a look at the situation may reveal that the judge is right and the paddler is enraged by his own shortcomings at that gate.

One of the main problems often found is that the paddler does not adequately explain his grievance, leaving the jury to guess at his version of the incident. Clear and precise, as well as concise explanations are required. Mere reference to a shoulder is not enough, a paddler has two - right and left giving different interpretations of a rule. It may be worth making a tiny sketch to help show the position of the canoe to poles.

I have seen protests rejected because the form is not correctly filled in. I find that hard at Div 4/N level when paddlers may be making their first protest and a little guidance from the organiser or jury chairman will create faith in the system rather than alienate someone further. I have seen protests rejected because more than one gate has been protested against on the one form. Where, indeed, does that get a mention in the Yearbook? It is in the notes from the organisers conference, so how does the paddler know?

Yes, by all means protest if (a) you are sure of the rule (b) you are sure of the facts and (c) it appears that the judge/organiser is wrongly interpreting the rule. State the case clearly, and advise what penalty you consider should be given. Above all put your number, run and name at the top of the form. Then hope that the facts are made clear to the jury, and that the judge has put some notes on the judging sheet. With luck a member of the jury may have seen the incident himself if he was walking around watching the judges and the event. The jury is not just there to reject protests, and if they do, it doesn't hurt to advise the paddler why, at this level guidance is valuable.

EDITORS NOTE

A further recent practice has been the presentation of video film to support protests. This is not acceptable whatever it shows. Rule C11 excludes video as much as the testimony of an anonymous bystander so don't argue the point with poor, hassled jury chairmen!

**Answers to the
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featured in the June issue:**

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WM85KANU

World Championship Report by Joe Lyons

Arriving in sunny Augsburg the first thing to strike you was that it wasn't sunny. In fact it was overcast and blustery, and even the stiff wire gate supports of the slalom course were swaying.

A trip to the team hotel showed them to be relaxed and in good spirits, even if it was a fair trek to the slalom site. They had also discovered an impressive leisure centre which seems to be populated with pairs of German girls. When not paddling the team could be found in the main at the pool, ogling the girls and getting a sun tan under the UV lights that surround the pool. Time at the course was spent talent spotting (canoeing talent, of course), and laughing at the antics of the Finns and Japanese, who were finding the water a little testing, and giving the Wasserwacht a hard time.

Wednesday saw the course announced, and the last day of training. Though all the gates had been removed from the course various people ran 'guesstimates' of the course, while others chose to wait for the real thing. As last year an impossible breakout appeared, and was moved even before practice runs started. As the course went up on the Wednesday afternoon the paddlers arrived to view it before Thursday's practice runs. First appraisals suggested no impossible moves, but a course of steady difficulty from start to finish. No gates were easy and all would require good skills. Breakout gate 1 and forward down 2 were a prelude to an s move across the back of Avery Brundage to reverse 3. This move required speed and confidence and was the graveyard of many good runs, not least the practice run of Arrowsmith and Brain. The tight stagger of 4 to 5 and reverse 6 came up very fast while 7 under the first road bridge was tried as a breakout and as a merano but ended up as a right to left s. 8 and 9 were a slight stagger, designed to fool you into going too fast for reverse 10. By the dumping wave at the junction of old and new courses was breakout 11, with a cross either in the wave or behind it to a forward down 12, almost on the same line.

Down into the washing machine and straight into a reverse on the right, under the wall, and closer to the stopper. Bushy rolled here on his practice run. Then a run across the wave behind the stopper to breakout 14. Gate 15 on the farside of the rock below the washing machine meant surfing back out on the same wave you came in on and across the face of the rock to the gate. Breakout 16 was a gate looking for an eddy to happen in, and even the best kayaks 4 or 5 stroked it. Poor C2s 10 or 12 stroked it.

Straight down the Zoom Flume to a apparently simple forward down that a lot of people missed - obviously not as easy as it looked! 18, a left hand breakout went to a forward reverse forward sequence 19, 20, 21 that turned you reverse just above Moby Dick, but required you to go forward down the right of it, a gate that many missed, whilst the reverse before it just begged to be 50'd. A tight stagger from 21 to 22 led to another 'wheres the eddy' break-out, that you just put as much of your bow into as possible, to save paddling up. 24 was on a wave and to the left while 25 took you far to the right just before the drop into the spin dryer, making breakout 26 awkward. Reverse 27, out on the fast moving water of the spin dryer, was neatly positioned to throw you into the stopper if you misjudged it, whilst the right hand breakout 28 was a churning tight little eddy. Not satisfied with the hardness of the course up till then the stopper under the road bridge had a forward down in it, and many were the mens kayaks who struggled to get through -let alone the other classes. Richard, on his practice run found the paddler before him hadn't made it and was struck upside down in the stopper forcing Richard to miss the gate. Gate 30, a left hand breakout, was a nasty gate to finish on as it was impossible to get in high up. Every paddler struggled up the eddy in the last extremities of exhaustion. The sprint to the finish must have seemed almost a relief.

WM85KANU



GAIL ALLAN — the fastest time of the day 249.25 with 15 penalties
Photo: Tickle

Thursday's practice runs produced no surprises, though all the C2s struggled - if ever there was a wide open event this was it! No one else was spectacular, and not surprisingly it was local boy Peter Micheler who clocked the fastest practice time. Friday dawned, with the Ladies and C1s to compete from 3 pm. The day dragged on and we drank free beer in the press bar until the event started. I was running splits in the washing machine, and the first runs flowed by me with all the British ladies looking good on that part. The end results showed how difficult the course really was. Liz Sharman, with the only clear run, was 5th, the inconsistency of the water not suiting her precise style. Gail Allen had excelled, with 15 penalties and the fastest time of first runs she was 3rd with it all to go for. 2nd was Grange of France, and Messelhauser of Germany was first. Who? - We all rushed off to the press centre to get an information sheet on her. She turned out to be an 18 year old Augsburg girl who had never done an international before, and was 4th selected for the German team, and now she was leading the world. And so it was to remain. Not one of the top 8 ladies improved on their 2nd runs. Gail to the Bronze, Liz was 5th, Karen Davies first run took her to 13th, and Sue Ward, always struggling on the surgy water, came in

25th. The French team impressed with all three in the top 6 - a good bet for the team event, or could our girls pull through? Sunday would give the answer. C1 had long been the domain of the Americans, and this year was to be no different. But rumours abounded before the event about Jon Luginbill. It transpired that he'd gone scrambling and fallen on his shoulder. One look at him on the course showed he was in trouble, and it was unclear even on the morning of the event, whether he was going to paddle. However, he was not to be stopped, but it was to be Davy Hearn's year after all. It was also, after many years hard work, to be Bushy's year. With a marvellous first run Bush squeezed the Italian Express, Renato Di Monti, into 4th place. Bush was only 4 and a bit seconds adrift of Luginbill, and the sight of him on the rostrum filled us all with a great deal of joy. Pete Bell finished a very creditable 13th in the world, fast enough to be in the top ten, but a couple of 5's pushing him just outside. Bob Domans 19th place came from a fast run but he was dogged by penalties. Poor Les Williams, having looked really good on the water all week, had a disaster at gate 14 which broke his boat, and finally finished 31st. The Americans dominated the top end, with Kent Ford 6th and Jamie McEwan, who paddled at the 1972 Olympics in C1, coming 7th. No-one else had 3 good boats and the rest of the team medals were wide open.



LUGIBILL gave 100% but had to settle for a Silver Medal
Photo: Tickle



Schreyer

Tockle



W/M 85 KANU

C1 Davey Hearn, U.S.A.

**K1 Ladies Margit Messelhauser
West Germany**

K1 Men Richard Fox, Great Britain

**C2 Kueppers & Klein Impelmann
West Germany**

Champions of the World



Schreyer



Tickle

WM85KANU

We went to bed that night both pleased and disappointed. Disappointed for Liz but pleased for Gail and especially Bush. Tomorrow was another day. For the benefit of German TV taking the event live, it was to start at 2 pm. Would that we were so constrained in Britain! First off were the C2s, and early in the class were Chris Arrowsmith and Paul Brain. Disaster struck for them at gate 11, and they swam, after umpteen attempts at a roll, one of which was successful, but just in time to wrap up around the junction between old and new courses. The photo shows the anguish! The rest of the crews had finished and some were well placed. Meikle and Brown had a good run in the bag and were 7th, but the event was wide open and any crew who could put a run together could take gold. Then the first crew to go down the course, the bottom ranked German crew, last at Merano, went down clear. Kueppers and Klein-Impelmann, home town boys, shot into first place, and stayed there for the rest of the event. They seemed to be as surprised as anyone else. The British C2 crews had mixed results. Eric Jamieson and Rob Williams were disappointed with 8th, though Rob had been injured for some time. Alan Meikle and Colin Brown slipped to 10th, a good result for a first worlds. Jock Young and Alistair Munro had been struggling due to injury and a swim on their 2nd run finished their day off totally, while Chris and Paul, obviously rattled by their first run nightmare, finished a place behind the Scots at 21st.

Meanwhile, the Mens kayak first runs had gone down and we were all living on our nerves. 1st British paddler down was Melvyn Jones, and for a long time his score was on the first 5 on the leader board, but without a fast clear run he was moved off the top as the group 2 paddlers started to come down. Russ went down in a fast time but 15 penalties pushed him down the order. The early fast run came from Italian, Dario Ferrazzi. Then came Richard, flying through our section and fastest on splits, but a couple of time errors on the lower part of the course put him just behind Ferrazzi and 2nd. Lubos Hilgert flew down in a fast time, but a 5 put him only just into the lead. Then Toni Prijon squeezed in between Richard and the Italian, and then Micheler raced down to lead the first runs with 215.6 + 1 penalties, only .47 seconds up on Hilgert, and Richard 5th just 3.4 seconds down. With the mistakes Richard had made it was still on, but others were in the hunt too. The old dog Sattler was only 5 seconds adrift in 7th place.

Second runs started with Melvyn unable to improve on his first run and it was just a question of how many places he would slip. 16th after first runs, he eventually finished 28th. Russ, though a little slower than his first run, went clear in 238.64, to a final placing of 16th. Poor Jim Jayes first run had been fast enough for the top 10 but was marred by a 50. Another on the ricky reverse 3 on his secondrun gave him a final result of 42nd, but there is



WM85KANU

plenty of future for a man of his speed. All eyes were on the Fox though, and we gathered at the start to run him down. Dodging Germans, we raced down the bank, watching a man possessed. Where before he had steered now he sprinted. There is no way to describe the run. It was just brilliance from start to finish, and coming into the last section he was clear and well up on splits. The agony of watching the clock tick on was eased by the fact that he was so far up. It finally stopped at 210.54 seconds - first place by 10.04 seconds. Back to the start to watch Micheler. There was a short interlude while Russ tried to bet a German Girl 125 marks against Micheler but she was reluctant to put her money where her mouth was. Micheler started like an Express train, well aware of what he had to do, but too much speed into reverse 10 cost a 5 and though he cut every corner he wasn't fast enough - a time of 212.48 and 110 penalties. The nerve racking wait for the next four paddlers, including Sattler, was too much and most of us, except Richard, were already celebrating a 10.04 second margin and a 3rd K1 gold.

So to the press conference, and then, walking up to the car with the trophy, the unthinkable happened. Passing Martin Harvey, and turning back to talk to him Richard pulled out the Medal Ribbon to show him. Only there was no Medal - he'd lost it! We looked up and down the road for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, eventually deciding it was gone for ever. Richard returned to the hotel to receive the 'wally of the day' award and telling the story, he put his hand into his pocket and, deep in the lining was the missing medal! If his head wasn't screwed on... Team events were not to be the startling success that Merano had been, but it would have been amazing luck if they had. As it happened everything seemed to run against us. The ladies bronze was a consolation prize, but no team put together a run without a 50 penalty. Hedges, Doman and Bell finished 7th, while the C2 team were 6th. The Men, with Jim Jayes dogged by 50's through the event, were only 10th, though fast enough for the silver.

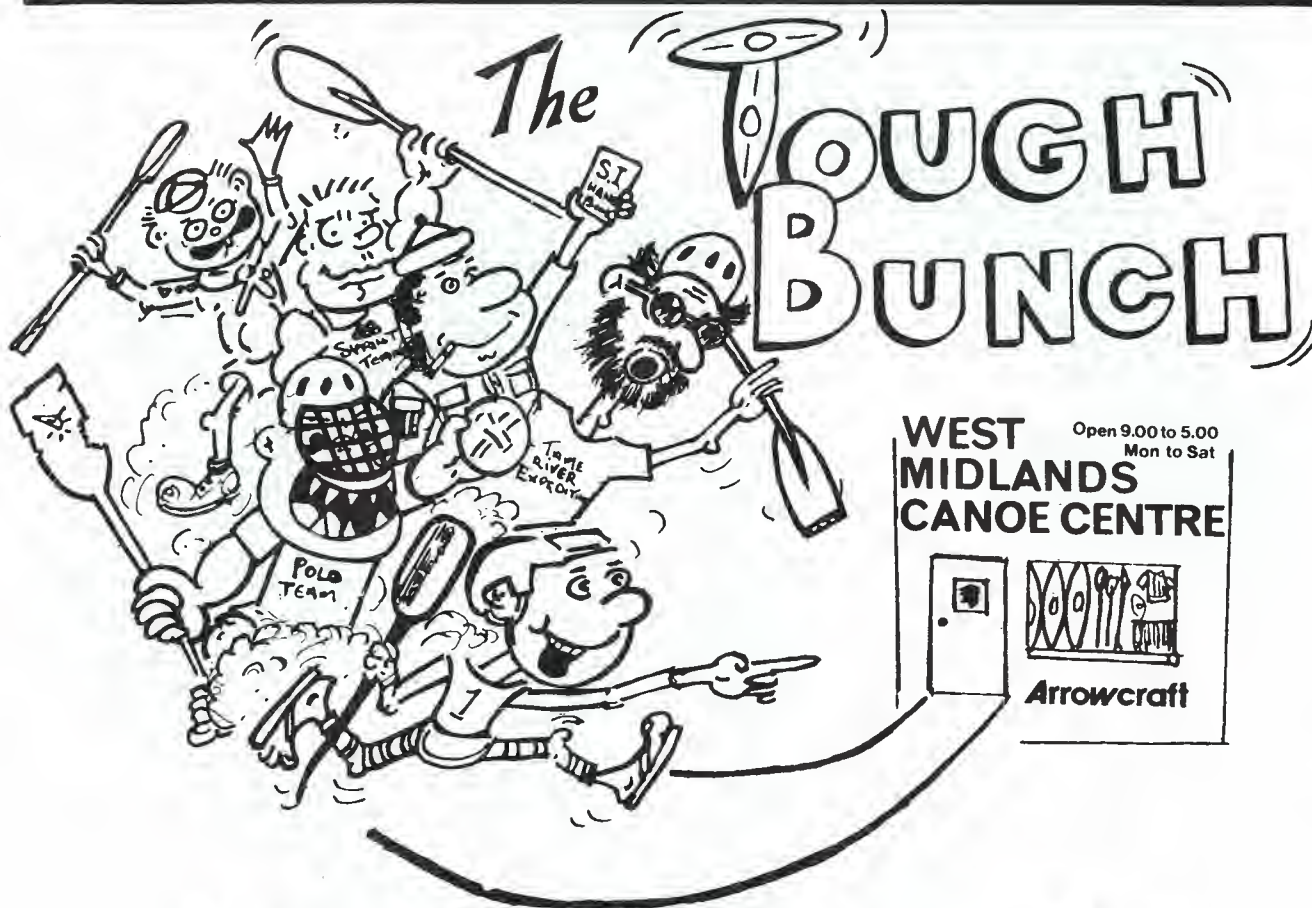
THREE MEN IN A BOAT — Arrowsmith and Bain receive assistance on their disastrous first run. (See p.14)
Photo: Schreyer



As the last paddler descends the Eiskanal, the scoreboard displays the leading positions in the Mens Kayak Event.
Photo: Schreyer

In total, not so good a haul as Merano, but it was always going to be difficult to repeat that. We showed that we still have excellent ladies, and the men with 3 of them at the first worlds, have a future too. In Canadians we need more depth, as our top boats are internationally competitive, but aren't being pressured from behind to produce higher things. The C1 team is also getting on, and if Bush does retire this will leave a hole at the top which none of the current team are likely to fill. The C2 class is wide open internationally and a spread of good competitive boats, rather than a handful, would give us a real chance of making this a class we could dominate.

1987 here we come!



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CANADIAN CORNER

CANADIAN CLASS RANKING: TIME FOR A RETHINK

Whats wrong? What are they going to do about it? and who cares?

Many events have numerically very small entries. Much too frequently the middle divisions [(ii) and (iii)] have races which are inadequate and hence invalid for ranking purposes.

It is my view that we have too many divisions and/or too many events for the number of paddlers competing in the Canadian classes.

To overcome the problem of inquate on-events we have two basic options:-

(A) Concentrate paddlers together to race against each other. Possibly by designating only certain events as having ranking status for Canadian classes so paddlers are not spread between several events, each with small entries.

(B) Accept the current situation of small entries, but make promotion dependent on level of performance rather than placing in a race (ie Base ranking promotion on scores relative to Kayak men.)

These ideas both have merits. The latter allows all existing events on the calendar to be used effectively, resulting in shorter and easier travel to events.

The other idea increases the chance of having real races between Canadian class competitors, giving more opportunity for exchange of ideas and techniques plus lifting the status of the classes to meaningful races.

There is a working group of the BCU Slalom committee looking into the whole situation of Canadian ranking. We need your ideas and comment.

The BCU Slalom administrator has a package of more detailed information on the two options outlined.

There will be an open meeting on this subject at the **NOMAD INTERCLUB EVENT AT CARDINGTON ON 17 SEPTEMBER.**

At the BCU Slalom AGM in November there will be motions to implement a change for the better. If you have ideas communicate them or we will not know what you, the paddlers, want.

Pete Bell BCU Slalom Committee

NUMBER OF COMPETITORS IN CANADIAN EVENTS SPRING 1985												
PREMIER	DIV ONE		DIV TWO		DIV THREE			DIV FOUR				
			SHEPPERTON 5 C1 4 C2		CARLISLE 1 C1 1 C2			CARLISLE 2 C1 1 C2				
			APPLETREEWICK 8 C1 2 C2					DUCK MILL 5 C1 3 C2				
HAMBLEDEN 8 C1 8 C2	HAMBLEDEN 18 C1 8 C2		STANGERTHWAITE 4 C1 3 C2					MARPLE 4 C1 3 C2				
			HALTON RAPIDS 12 C1 4 C2					YALDING WEIR 8 C1 1 C2				
			SYMONDS YAT 9 C1 3 C2		MIDDLETON Cancelled			MIDDLETON Cancelled		CHURNETT - C1 - C2	CONRIE 8 C1 2 C2	DEDHAM MILL 4 C1 2 C2
GRANDTULLY 11 C1 7 C2	GRANDTULLY 11 C1 9 C2											
			FAIRNILEE 5 C1 2 C2		FAIRNILEE 8 C1 1 C2			DOBBS WEIR 5 C1 5 C2		IRONBRIDGE 5 C1 3 C2	MERSEY VALLEY 3 C1 2 C2	
TRYWERYN 9 C1 7 C2	TRYWERYN 10 C1 5 C2				CARDINGTON 7 C1 3 C2			PETERBOROUGH 10 C1 8 C2				
					LLANDYSSUL 19 C1 4 C2			CRDAL VALLEY 3 C1 2 C2		HEADWEIR 3 C1 3 C2	RED LOCKS 11 C1 7 C2	
								CANFORD WEIR ? C1 ? C2		COPELY VILLAGE 2 C1 8 C2	RIVER TEITH ? C1 ? C2	RICHMOND - C1 3 C2
WASHBURN 8 C1 8 C2	WASHBURN 18 C1 15 C2		OLD WINDSOR 7 C1 - C2		EASBY ABBEY 5 C1 3 C2		HAMBLEDEN 12 C1 8 C2		SHARNSBROOK 8 C1 - C2	FINCHALE ABBEY Cancelled		
								PULTENEY WEIR ? C1 ? C2		STRATFORD WEIR 5 C1 4 C2		
			LINTON LOCKS 3 C1 - C2					RIVER LENY ? C1 ? C2		OFFENHAM 4 C1 1 C2		

210.56 Fast and Clean

Richard Fox

There I was, at the finish after first runs paddling around in disgust. This was a World Championship and I had paddled like a wally. Reverse ferry glides, negative strokes, low breakouts and a lot of wasted energy left me in 5th place a long way behind the leaders, Peter Micheler and Lubos Hilgert. It was a painful experience. I knew I was hesitant and losing time but I was gripped by the situation and couldn't break out of it. I am still not quite sure why things went wrong, but it is the uncertainty of the outcome which makes the sport so exciting. For a time, however, it was distinctly unexciting.

I went through brief phases of anger and frustration at my performance and then a negative phase when it occurred to me that I might have only two hours left as World Champion - what would happen then? I would probably retire, I thought, and do something else. Perhaps this was it, I had had my time at the top, my success, now someone else would take over. How would I feel? It was amazing the number of thoughts that went through my mind. This was a pressure situation and I was suffering.

Then I began to realise that this was what it was all about, performing under pressure, just like Bala 4 years previously. This was what the training had been for, to cope when things went wrong. Everybody suffers at some stage from the pressure of competition but those who come out on top are the ones who manage to maintain control over the situation and concentrate objectively on the performance. Psychologists call this a process focus rather than an outcome focus.

Once I started to think objectively my confidence soared. The leading score of 220 set by Micheler was within easy reach and since both Micheler and Hilgert had running times of around 215 it was likely that one paddler at least would break under 220. A check on the splits showed that I had lost 8 seconds on various sections of the course through hesitance or bad positioning. Video playback of the Zoom Flume and Spin Dryer sections confirmed this and it was clear that if I

corrected these simple errors I could go down in a time quick enough to put the pressure on the fast boys who were to follow. The race was far from over.

After watching the video there were just over forty five minutes remaining until my second run and a tight schedule of race preparation had to be kept. I walked back from the team caravan to the clubhouse, working hard to control my thoughts. I felt quite relaxed inside because I knew that I had the skill and fitness to perform well. A few nagging doubts still crept in but as I went over my past performances at Augsburg and in other races when I had been in similar situations the doubts diminished. This had to be just another race, a second run, a job to be done. Easy to say but hard to believe when over 22,000 people and television cameras are waiting expectantly. In fact, it was the importance of the occasion that gave me the final boost. This was the biggest canoeing event since the Olympics and one I wanted to enjoy and remember for a long time to come. A final quick look at the course, taking up the atmosphere and I was almost ready.

My second run warm up was a gentle affair on the training canal alongside the Augsburg Canoe Club. I could still feel the effects of the first run in my arms and so I just paddled around easily trying to charge up by imagining that I was drawing energy from the water with each paddle stroke. A worthless exercise I'm sure, however I did feel significantly better as a result of it and ready to go once I got on the water at the Pre-start launch.

I didn't seem to be thinking of anything at the start, my mind was blank and even on the course there is little that I can remember except hitting the wall in the Washing Machine and dragging low in the eddy at gate 28. The greatest feeling, though, came when I heard the crowd cheer as the time was displayed on the scoreboard.

Normally I can judge fairly accurately the time of a run from the pace of a first run, but because I had made so many errors first time down, all I knew was that it had

NEWS EXTRA

to be faster, how much I wasn't sure. Someone shouted out "210 clear!" and hordes of kids descended on the finish area. This was the last thing I wanted, autographs before the race was over! Micheler, Prijon and Hilgert were yet to come. I left in a hurry running through the woods to get away from everyone, and quietly watched the rest of the race.

That was the worst period - waiting for the final result. Micheler was capable of a time equal to or faster than mine and it was not until he hit two gates that I began to relax. As the last paddler cleared the line it was all over and Conk produced the chilled champagne.

It was not quite the Ultimate Run - that search continues, but it was the most satisfying to date. Winning the worlds by ten seconds was something I had dreamed about but I did not realistically expect to do it. When Albert Kens won at Spittal by eleven seconds he inspired a lot of people, not least a wide eyed seventeen year old in a Cosmic and it must have been then that I learnt almost anything is possible if you put your mind to it.



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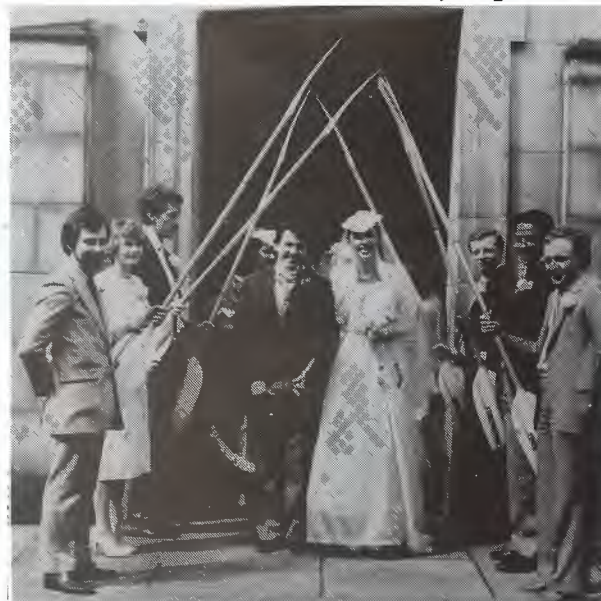
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DENNIS WEDS

A variety of canoeing superstars gathered recently at the marriage of Mr Dennis Hennessy, the C2 National Team Coach, to Miss Karen Bolger, a favourite in the Miss Co-op 1985 contest. Hardliners in the paddling world were surprised to see Dennis and best man, Melvyn Jones, forgo their blue and silver Central Paddlers tracksuits for the traditional wedding regalia, but were reassured to learn that Dennis had prepared a detailed warm-up strategy for the evening events and had even arranged for splits to be taken during his performance. After a night in the luxurious Plough and Harrow in Birmingham the couple set out for sunny Torquay. But not for long, because the lads have a workout on Tuesday nights!



JOB 'ADVERTS' FOR 1986 SEASON

1 Div 4 ranking list compiler.

the current compiler had a program for use on an IBM PC/XT with a 256K memory and a 360K diskette drive, and a 10 megabyte hard disk, as the database at the end of the season is too large to be contained on diskette. The size of this job makes the use of a computer almost a necessity, so anyone who can volunteer will be gratefully appreciated.

2 Div 3 bib issue officer

Involves checking applications for bibs, issuing and posting them.

Any volunteers for either job please contact **SUE WHARTON**.

Slalom Development

The Sowerby Bridge Canoe Festival will mark the launch of a new slalom course for West Yorkshire.

Derek Clark describes how the project got off the ground.

Plans for developing a new slalom site on the River Calder in the centre of the town of Sowerby Bridge in West Yorkshire are now well advanced and it is hoped the new slalom course will be ready by the end of September 1985.

The project is part of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Council's scheme to develop a group of historical riverside mills in the heart of Sowerby Bridge for recreational and tourist purposes.

A central part of the scheme is to attract and encourage people to use the riverside area. With this in mind, a feasibility study was undertaken to examine the possibility of establishing a canoe slalom course on the river which runs through the development area. The study confirmed that with the correct river bed design, the site was suitable for a first class slalom course which would be suitable for all classes of competition.

The major problem with the project is the lack of time as the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Council is due to be abolished in the Spring of 1986.

In view of the urgency, the Halifax Canoe Club appointed the writer to act for and to represent it at all stages of the project and to assist the County Council Planning Director and his staff to ensure the project was progressed as quickly as possible.

Following numerous meetings with many interested parties, a great deal of progress has been made and on the recommendation of the Halifax Canoe Club, Dr George Parr of the Department of Civil Engineering at Nottingham University has been commissioned by the Director of Planning for the West

Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council to design and supervise the construction of the slalom course.

George Parr, along with his colleague Frank Goodman, was responsible for the design of the slalom course at Matlock - Derbyshire, Cardington - Bedfordshire and currently the design and development of the slalom course at the Holme Pierpoint National Water Sports Centre at Nottingham.

The development of the canoe slalom course in Sowerby Bridge is of the utmost importance to paddlers throughout Yorkshire and the surrounding areas as there is a shortage of this type of facility in Yorkshire. During the last four years, the number of paddlers in Yorkshire has increased by over 61% with virtually no increase in water facilities.

The site, which is in the centre of the town of Sowerby Bridge, will have full public access and is well situated as it is mid-way on the M62 between the M6 to the West and the M1 to the East and is therefore easily accessible from the whole of the North of England and the Midlands, being no more than a two hour journey away.

The river bed design has now been completed and approved by the Water Authority. The course starts on flowing water above a small weir approximately half a metre in height and drops from the base of the weir approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres along a 250 metre river length, through a series of channelled flows and posts which create different currents over different heights of the river bed according to the seasonal flow of water in the river.

For the technically minded, the river has a Median flow of 5.47 cumex, a Modal flow of 4.00 cumex (the most frequent) and a Dry Weather flow of 2.23 cumex (this is exceeded for 96% of the year).

It is hoped to complete construction of the slalom course by mid-September.

In order to create paddler and public awareness and interest in the slalom activities on the new course, the Halifax Canoe Club hopes to maximise on press and media publicity by holding an opening event which will be known as the **SOWERBY BRIDGE CANOE FESTIVAL**.

This event is to be held on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October and will include an open slalom for all divisions of paddlers for Premier to Div 4, as well as a number of fun events on the Saturday. On the Sunday there will be a Paddles Up competition for the same group of paddlers, a special judges event and to finish a grand prix event.

The Club then hopes to organise a wide range of canoeing activities on a regular basis including training for schools, clubs, scout groups, colleges and universities in the area.

Practice facilities will be provided for canoeists throughout Yorkshire and the North. Weekend schools in Slalom skills and coaching training will also be held.

It is also hoped to hold a number of ranking slaloms in 1986. These slaloms will not be restricted to those organised by the Halifax Canoe Club. Other clubs will be able to use the facilities for their own slaloms.

The Halifax Canoe Club will be pleased to welcome any paddler who wishes to use its new course and the first opportunity will occur on the 5th and 6th October when the course will be officially opened with the competitions previously mentioned.

by D A Clark, Development Officer -
Halifax Canoe Club

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LETTERS

Lets Race Short Boats

Whitewater slalom racing fascinates all involved with a unique blend of speed and precision. This impression would be improved still further with an elimination of boat length rules. The cumbersome boat measuring process now keeps boats to an arbitrary 4 metres and encourages designs with dangerous added on point ends. Shorter boats will last longer without thin breakable ends, hence easing the cost for developing countries. The fascination of slalom, speed and precision, will improve with lighter faster turning designs.

Recreational paddlers have already discovered the advantages of shorter boats. In fact, a handful of US manufacturers have already dropped race designs for short plastic recreational models which out perform the racers. This is a dangerous trend as the ultimate prosperity of our sport depends largely on the recreational paddler's enthrallment with racing. The longer this trend continues, the less incentive manufacturers will have to cater the racing market. The current rules limit the progress of boat designs in a young sport.

Eliminating the length requirement would also make transporting race boats much easier. This year's US team found only two airliners willing to carry our boats to Augsburg for less than a prohibitive \$250 per boat. For whitewater to mature to a truly world circuit, the boats will have to be easier to fly.

Since shorter boats are cheaper to build and transport, more countries will compete. Lighter faster turning boats will speed up the racing to the delight of paddlers and fans, allowing the sport to mature to a truly international status.

Kent Ford
US 19 West Box 41
Bryson City NC 28713
USA

Kent Ford was US National C1 Champion in 1977, two time Europa Cup Bronze Medallist (80,82) and World C1 Team Champion 83 and 85.

Anti Social Slalom?

Is it possible to air a real problem in your columns? Over three seasons, without exception, my son and I have enjoyed slalom canoeing and camping weekends. Novice and Division 4 - no problems. Division 3 of this season, a hell of a shock! Apparently behaviour, courtesy, consideration and camping quietness descend in inverse ratio to the rise to Division 2 to Premier! Has it something to do with the fact that from Division 3 the age range appears to rise to 25-35 and moronic behaviour is an inbuilt factor at that age range?

I have believed, up to now that slalom canoeists keep a fine balance of sport professionalism and good camp behaviour. Fairnilee (April 13-14: Edinburgh University organisers) and Richmond, Easby Abbey (May 18/19: Manchester Canoe Club) both contained a high proportion of higher education students, and, again, a proportionate descent in behaviour patterns. It might be pointed out to such people, somehow, that neighbours, farmers and landowners, river rights organisations, more courteous fellow campers and town/country residents will not look with any enthusiasm at being on the reception end of slalom events if the late night behaviour of the two events is par for the course. We were regaled on both Friday and Saturday late nights (defined as between 12.00 pm and 1.00 am) with noise, conversation, singing and general loud behaviour which would not have been acceptable in Manchester, Piccadilly or Edinburgh, Princess Street, let alone two rural sites.

It leads me to make a suggestion (for the offenders at Easby Abbey turned out actually to be judges of the event and therefore actually involved in the organisation!): why not do what the Camping and Caravan Club of Great Britain do and ask for a deposit of the BCU members card at the beginning of the event, returnable at the end of the weekend for good behaviour, kept and returned to BCU, with a report on bad behaviour and not issuable again for the current season? Such people do not respond to courteous requests for silence -it feeds only to inflame their alcoholic

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induced machoism - for such behaviour as
we have experienced must only be the
result of alcoholic intake wedded to an
incapacity to cope with its effects - and
the least sanction now for football
supporters abroad is impounding of
passports.

Mr R McGraw
199 Hatfield Place
Peterlee
Co Durham
SR8 5TA

Manchester Canoe Club replies

We would like to offer our regrets over
your disappointment with the Easby
Abbey Slalom, we usually endeavour to
run a relaxed slalom where everyone can
enjoy themselves without giving offence
to others. This years event was not up to

our usual standard, the rain didn't help, so
we hope you will return again next year.

As to your suggestions re discipline of
Judges unfortunately under the present
circumstances this will not work.
Organisers are reliant on volunteer Judges
in order to run their events and without
these volunteers no event could take
place. Manchester Canoe Club has
frequently pressed the Slalom Executive
through the AGM to formalise Judges
which would no doubt raise their standard
of Judging as well as their behaviour.
This year we shall yet again propose a
Judges Division and we hope both you and
your club will support us in our efforts to
improve Slalom for all.

Yours sincerely

Roy Bradshaw, MCC Competition
Committee

RESULTS

CARDINGTON DIV 2 July 20-21

A fast course, designed by Dave Brown. (now you know why I wanted your name!) posed a challenge in skill and accuracy of line on the full release. The insertion of a weir after gate 10 gave a brief respite from fast water but those who relaxed too much found that the gap after gate 13R was just less than a boat's length! A very highly ranked paddler in premier was heard to say that it was one of the best courses that he had paddled there. Organisation was of the high standard that one has come to expect from Viking CC and the erection of a public address system that could be heard from the campsite was a boom to those hiding from the hailstorm in their tents. In fact I think that where feasible such a system would be a boom to any organiser for co-ordinating people and the event. Actually the weather wasn't that bad all the time but it was generally cold in the wind even when the sun shone.

A Grand Prix on the Saturday evening produced some very fast paddling with Jimmy Jayes winning in 63.8 seconds, but possibly the most impressive display of speed on the tricky top of the course coming from Malcolm Reynolds.

Sunday dawned bright but cold and judges were glad of the regular supplies of coffee. I believe that they also had a free hamburger and they certainly had extensive exclusive use of the course for practice. Throughout the weekend the ladies in the food 'tent' did a sterling job providing good food at a remarkably low price for longer hours than one usually finds and control kept the event running to time. In view of the lack of rescue personnel I was glad that I opted out of paddling but it was an enjoyable weekend with paddlers having their abilities stretched on rather unpredictable water.

GDN

Results Provisional

KIM	
1st R Mullick	Chalfont Park
2nd J Carrol	Viking
3rd K Worsley	Viking
KIL	
1st J Marlow	St Albans
2nd A Walley	Staffs & Stone
3rd A Runnecar	Bassildon
C1	
1st I Feast	Startrek
2nd D Middleton	Chelmsford
C2	
1st Walling/Walling	Whitmore
2nd Clough/Caunt	Cambridge
University	
Teams	
1st Ptoteus Posers	Churchill/Ractstraw/ Mullins
2nd Kinner & A	
Taffy	Parmer/Brown/Like
34d Viking B	Wright/Worsley/Bayne

WINCHESTER NOVICE OPEN/OPEN TEAM JUNE 22-23

Winchester, famous for sunny weather and well-run events blew out this time. Murphy's law hit them with both barrels. The change of date had made the usual organiser, Andy Grey, unavailable and luck seemed to stay away with him. Timing gear as supplied by the BCU is well known to be on its last legs and it fell flat on its face this time (perhaps we had better vote for a fee increase at the AGM this year!) This was coupled with an excellent course designed by Mat Mclean that unfortunately proved to be too long for the novices - the extra 30 seconds that they took over previous years put the event even further behind - until it was running 1½ hours late on Saturday in miserable weather. The judges didn't help much either by staying away in droves - perhaps they would have liked umbrellas! The "paddles up" type event that had been planned for that evening was postponed until the next day, the pool being unavailable due to the date change.

Sunday was much brighter but the timing gear still would not co-operate and the event was not helped by the organisers apparently taking 20 or so late entries into an already impossible programme. Needless to say the event again ran very late and the idea of running the fun event at the same time took judges (who had re-appeared) off judging to compete and some who were left on duty for hours, only to find that the couldn't take their second runs when they finished. Computer display of results was on site for the first time but it seemed to be friendly with the timing gear and it stubbornly declined to agree with the written results. When prize giving eventually arrived many people were in no mood to appreciate it which was a shame because they provide a tremendous number of very attractive prizes at all their events and this weekend was no exception. Well, it was an event which will soon fade from memory and we all look forward to their next event when I'm sure that the usual high standard will prevail.

GDN

Results

Novice KIM

1st R Nicolle	RAFC
2nd S Clayden	Albany Park
3rd M Waddell	Brighton

Novice KIL

1st C Warner	Winchester
2nd D Harris	Millbrook
2nd C Smith	Winchester

Teams

1st Fickling/Fickling/Low
2nd Ellis/Thompson/Ley
3rd Harris/Jepson/Harris

Novice C1

1st C Weston	WDC
2nd T Legg	Newbury
3rd S Earl	Startrek

Novice C2

1st Birch/Feast	Worthies
2nd Holman/Terry	Woodhatch
3rd Sauders/Saunders	Woodhatch

STRATFORD WEIR

Over the weekend Stratford Kayakist hosted a National Ranking Novice and Division Four Canoe Slalom competition on the two weirs adjoining Stratford lower lock.

The event, one of the largest and most popular on the British Canoe Union Slalom calendar, was a resounding success attracting over 280 competitors plus huge numbers of spectators.

SOAK's best results of the weekend were Nick Smith's 19th in the division four event and Barrie Waller's 15th in the novice event.

Intense competition kept the club out of most prize winning places except in the division four team event where Mark Hancox and Julian Waller paddled into second place, with Martin Davis from Birmingham University completing the team.

This event was not without problems, including the invasion of the course on Sunday by a narrow boat which became stuck at the foot of the weir by Lucy's Mill, halting the event for half an hour.

Results

Nov K1 Men

1st M Fowler
2nd J Knight
3rd D Cooper

Ladies K1

1st C Carter
2nd L Williams

Nov C1

1st M Corbyn

Nov C2

1st Hope/Goodwin

Div 4 C1

1st C Wilson

Div 4 C2

1st Attenborough/Copestake

Div 4 K1 Men

1st A Goodwin

2nd C Marlow

3rd M Connolly

Div 4 Ladies

1st A Clayton

2nd J Barnes

Sheperton Div 4/novice June 29-30

The latest in the continuing saga of events here could well be titled "come back Jimmy all is forgiven" because it was well into Saturday before a course was up. Debate raged as to whether or not the event should run in view of the extreme water conditions. Fortunately for the 100 or so paddlers on site the decision was eventually made to go ahead. At this point the course seemed

RESULTS

unreasonable to say the least and the second half was virtually impossible for those who survived the cross. I think that all of the novice teams who finished the course received a prize and they certainly deserved it! The water was finally reduced too late to help the days events but at least paddlers could get out for some serious canoeing and it was good to see organised practice continue until quite late.

Sunday provided better weather but just as much water and there was quite a bit of sluice juggling first thing. Suddenly Saturday's course made sense and with the new configuration of sluices and a few minor gate changes the whole course was quite feasible. The cross looked easier but was actually tricky with the water periodically folding under itself, taking any paddler unfortunate enough to be within reach with it, and for much of the day rescue arrangements were totally inadequate. Food was available all day and reasonably priced, and camping fees were considerably less than many clubs now charge. The prize giving was the high point of the weekend and there were a generous number of the magnificent medals that Sheperton have made for them. All in all Saturday is best forgotten and Sunday's course was about as good as the water conditions allowed. The organiser, was over ambitious about the speed of the event's running but I understand that it was his first event and he remained un-flappable throughout the very difficult conditions. I for one am glad that the event wasn't cancelled and hope that he allows his arm to be twisted again to run another event!

GDN

Results

KIM Novice

- 1st P Siggins HFCC
- 2nd M Howser Reigate
- 3rd Childs Scout Assoc

KIL Novice

- 1st Green Adur
- 2nd L Emmerson St Johns
- C1 Novice
- 1st D Stevens Sheperton

C2 Novice

- 1st Hunt/Patrick Perivale

Novice Team

- 1st Howeser/Howeser/Howeser
- Mix
- 1st How/Herriott/Cox
- 2nd Childs/Yates/Stover

KIM Div 4

- 1st M Patridge GSCC
- 2nd A James Newbury
- 3rd B Gaster HFCC

KIL Div 4

- 1st D Roberts HFCC
- 2nd P Newnham Regent CC

C1 Div 4

- 1st A Jones Startrek
- 2nd R Boughton Marlow

C2 Div 4

- 1st Whitefield/Rescud Soton U

Div 4 Teams

- 1st Boncey/Hill/Hendy
- 2nd Meakins/Davidson/McElroy
- 3rd Gaster/Dookie/Roberts

**FINCHALE ABBEY
SLALOM 6 - 7 JULY 1985**

Again this year the slalom originally scheduled for Pipe Bridge had to be run at Finchale Abbey due to problems with the local fishing club. Low water levels and a wide river gave some problems on the course, but where possible rocks were moved to channel the available water, but the course still favoured the lighter paddler.

After the team events a Grand Prix, sponsored by Silverscreen, printers from Newcastle-upon-Tyne took place. The event was won by P Senior from Durham, the first twenty paddlers also receiving a 'T' shirt from Silverscreen.

The individual events on Sunday took place in hot sunny weather with the greatest hazard being members of the public walking and swimming in the river as Finchale Abbey is a popular place for a day out.

Novice K1 Men

- 1. P Ellis
- 2. D Smith
- 3. D Johnstone

Novice K1 Lady

- 1. A Pallister
- Novice C1
- 1. P Irvine

Division 4 K1 Men

- 1. D Atkinson
- 2. C Field
- 3. P Marshall

Division 4 Lady K1

- 1. P Swaine

CHESTER WEIR SLALOM - 6 - 7 JULY

Despite high tide mid afternoon on both days about 150 paddlers enjoyed a keenly fought slalom. This year we were happy to welcome a contingent of Irish paddlers in England for the British Schools Championship.

Team events were completed early to avoid high tide on the Saturday leaving time in the early evening for practice before the annual club disco. The effects of this gathering were most apparent when the judges arrived for the 9.00 am start!

Six hours of non-stop canoeing on the Sunday attracted a large crowd of spectators on both sides of the river. Novice men K1 was won with a clear 10 point lead by D Richardson (LDCC) while Division 4 men was a tight-competition with only 2 points different across the first four. Novice ladies was won by C M Benjamin (Liverpool University) with a score which would have won the Division 4 event. Prizes were presented by the Deputy Major concluding another successful Chester Slalom.

Novice K1 Men

- 1. D Richardson
- 2. L Smith
- 3. N Sandwith

Novice K1 Lady

- 1. C Benjamin
- C1
- 1. S Gelder
- C2 Hawhes/Ashley

Division 4 K1 Men

- 1. T Mather
- 2. R Pumphrey
- 3. C Parker

Division 4 K1 Lady

- 1. S Haughton
- C1
- 1. M. Wharton
- C2
- 1. Fisher/Pratt



N. MITCHELL at Linton Locks on his way to a 2nd place.
Photo s. Simpson



TRACEY BERRY/ANDREW FULLER Winning the Novice C2 at Offenham
Photo Myles Singleton

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