

CANOE slalom

£1.00

MAGAZINE



EUROPA CUP PHOTOS & REPORT



HOT NEWS FROM
perception kayaks UK



THE NEW PERCEPTION REFLEX

The only thing that slows it down is the paddler!



perception kayaks UK

a division of **GAYBOE** Limited

Bellbrook Industrial Estate
Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 1QL
Telephone 0825 5892

CANOE slalom

1 Barnacre View, Highstreet, Garstang, Preston.
 EDITOR: JOE LYONS
 FEATURES: RICHARD FOX

The official magazine of the B.C.U. Slalom Executive,
 45/47 High Street, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey. KT15 1JV

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily
 those of the Editor or of the Slalom Executive.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions may be obtained at £6.00 for 6 issues post
 paid from Slalom Magazine, 1 Barnacre View, High St.,
 Garstang, Preston.
 Special rates for overseas readers.

ADVERTISING

Rates for the next issue are available from the Editor -
 Telephone 021 454 5690

COPY

Please send any contributions to the Assistant Editor
 Slalom Magazine, 23 Manor Road, Hastings, East Sussex,
 TN34 3LL.

Cover Photo:
 Ian Wiley, Europa Cup Final
 Photo: P. Astles

Special Features

EUROPA CUP
 by Joe Lyons

JUNIOR WORLDS
 by Brian Fuller

FOREIGN SCENE
 by Bill Endicott

Next Issue

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN
 by R. Fox

Regular Features

CURRENT AFFAIRS	3
BACKROOM BOYS/GIRLS	21
READERS LETTERS	22
ALANS ANSWERS	17
RESULTS	25



RUSS SMITH — DUBLIN. Photo: P. Astles



RICHARD FOX — DUBLIN. Photo: P. Astles

EDITORIAL

THE EUROPA CUP - WAS IT WORTH ALL THE EFFORT? MEDIA COVERAGE WORTH £50,000 BUT SUCCESS MARRED BY PUBLICITY FAILURE?

Success or failure is measured in column inches or seconds on the air.

No one will dispute that the BBC coverage was better than any of us could dream. To-date Nottingham County Council and our sport have had £50,000 worth of advertising time on television as a result of our efforts. Most of this is BBC Grandstand and Leyland Daf have had a good deal. But there was also local television pre-view coverage on both BBC Midlands and Central with the events at Holme Pierrepont featuring from Wednesday to Friday inclusive.

Transworld sport filmed Sunday's event and this time is excluded from the above figure - this programme goes out in the autumn to some 17 nations.

Added to television is the local radio coverage by BBC Radio Nottingham and Radio Trent. Raft rides on the course for V.I.P.'s stimulated media coverage as well as being good for public relations. Radio Nottingham's Jeremy Nicholas accompanied the Vice-Chairman of Nottingham County Council and Councillor Dobson, Chairman of Leisure Services, down the course in a raft as did journalists from some of the local press, while Nick Coleman of Radio Trent risked all by going down in a C2 powered by Colin Brown.

We stimulated the media's interest not only with the rafting but also with two 'good' stories - 'No rain - crisis at slalom course' was the result of the River Trent falling below the required level. And while Lisa Micheler of West Germany was rushing through the streets of Nottingham to hospital after her very serious car crash the fax machine and the telephones in the press cabin were in full swing on her story. A passer by popping her head through the door turned aside feeling sick. This reflects the sordid but realistic side of journalism which must be done if the column inches are to be achieved. Our press effort for the Europa Cup was rounded off nicely with everyone's romantic story 'Melvyn won for Elizabeth'.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH DID US PROUD. A good photograph and text appeared on Thursday incorporating the rain story, followed by a couple of column inches on Saturday, on Lisa Micheler, and then on Monday was another beautiful photograph and more column inches incorporating more on the lack of rain and Lisa plus the results.

SUCCESS IS ALSO MEASURED IN SPECTATORS and silver coins at the end of the day. Sadly on this count we failed. There were less spectators from the Midlands than we achieved for last year's event in spite of more media and general promotion and there were not the canoeists we had hoped for, why?

Some of the thinking to date is that we did not achieve the kind of coverage or build up to the summer's major canoeing events we should have done in the canoeing press. The BCU's Sports Management Committee have already been asked to consider the coverage given to the competition disciplines within Canoe Focus. There are some who consider that this was not adequate. Were all this summer's major competitions given adequate coverage?

COMBINED MEDIA EFFORT BY ALL THE COMPETITION DISCIPLINES IS VITAL

During the build up to the World Marathon, the Europa Cup (both Wild Water Racing and Slalom) and also the selection of the British Team for the Olympics the writer found herself having conversations with reporters from the national newspapers as well as BBC Radio 4 and the conclusion is that more coverage could have been achieved this year if it had been better co-ordinated. The media must be forgiven for not understanding the differences between the various disciplines with the close proximity of the World Marathon to the Europa Cup not to mention the complexity of the latter event which consisted of Wild Water Racing on the Awe and Slalom at Holme Pierrepont. This confusing state of affairs was exacerbated by the fact that each discipline has its own separate press officer.

Jennifer Munro
National Press and Publicity Officer

CURRENT AFFAIRS

GREAT BRITAIN WINTER TRAINING SQUADS

The selection committee propose the following policy for winter training 1988/89.

The Senior Squad:-

Size - up to a maximum of 6 per class (4 for C2)

Automatic selection for paddlers obtaining results in either Pre-worlds or Europa Cup as follows:-

K1 M ___ Top 10
K1 L - Top 5
C1 & C2 - Top 8

Remaining places to be decided by using a points system based on performances at Holme Pierrepont Premier (Saturday 1st October) & British Open *Except for the last place which will be discretionary.*

Any tie will be split by using results from Saturday event at the Holme Pierrepont Premier on October 1st 1988.

Intermediate Squad:-

Size - up to a maximum of:-

K1 M - 8
K1 L - 4
C1 - 4
C2 - 2

Selection to be based on results from Holme Pierrepont Premier (Saturday event) & British Open.

Age - Normally will only include those aged 17 by January 1st & under 23 by January 1st.

Junior Winter Squad:-

Size - reduced from last year and only one squad to be selected.

Selection to be based on results gained in National and International events in 1988.

The above policy will be put to the Slalom Executive for ratification at their meeting to be held on Saturday 17th September 1988.

R.J.G. Annan
Chairman
Selection Committee

JUNIOR WINTER TRAINING?

Last winter an application and selection North/South training for juniors was started by G. D. Nevin and very successfully run by Brian Fuller. It is thought that something similar will run this winter, although with all his other team duties Brian is no longer available to run it. When we know what is happening we will tell you! Meanwhile keep your eyes open for application forms as there are likely to be far more applicants than places.

INTERNATIONAL PADDLER NEARLY ELIMINATED BEFORE GETTING ON THE WATER.

Liz Micheler has a very narrow escape from termination at Nottingham during the beginning of the Europa Cup when the vehicle that she was driving was in a collision with a large truck near the centre entrance. Although injured and taken to hospital she was released next day. Another foot closer and the result could have been tragic.

It is worth noting that whatever the circumstances of that particular accident, lorries of considerable size were driving at speeds that were unsuitable for the narrow roads within the center all weekend and it is only a matter of time before another accident occurs unless something is done.

PENNY BRISCO OUT

Sadly Penny Briscoe is out of canoeing for an indefinite period due to wrist and elbow damage from over use. Hopefully she will make a complete recovery but it is likely to be some time before we see her on the water again.

"I DID IT FOR ELIZABETH"

This was the comment made by a certain top paddler after winning a recent international event. Although it is possible that he was referring to Queen and country it is considered probable that he was in fact referring to a particular international paddler that he is known to be particularly fond of.

REGATTA RUMBLES

There have been rumbles of discontent over slalom paddlers taking short cuts over the regatta course at HP during times when the course is in use. Hardly cricket, chaps! (Nor very smart from any point of view if we don't want to end up carrying our boats all the way round!)

BCU HQ MOVE

It is now definite that the BCU dinosaur is to lumber to its feet and stagger to Nottingham before flopping down again at or near the white water site, undoubtedly strewing cardboard boxes of papers over several acres in the process!

What is not quite so certain at the moment is where their new home will be. Westbridgeford, the Elms, portacabins and tents have all been mentioned (some by the fatuous) but it is to be hoped that they will eventually get a larger building actually on the site.

FOX SQUEEZES IN (JUST!) The First World Cup Series

For most of us the World Cup races have passed us by, seeing as most of it happened in the US of A, and the Europa Cup was the high profile event for us. However 4 races 'over there' and the Europa Cup, plus the race last weekend at Augsburg, make up the new 'World Cup'.

Designed to raise the profile of canoeing. To give the media a link between each event to hook them all together, and to provide a test of consistency for paddlers, rather than a one-off event, and to wind-up the publicity in the pre olympic years. The US Races at Wausau, the Savage, the Gull, and South Bend, had given Richard a sizeable lead, with Laurent Brissaud and Melvyn close behind. Richard was on a bit of a decline in Europe, though, and despite 3 wins and a second, and a comfortable lead going into Augsburg, he only just held off Janez Skok of Yugoslavia, who had a good second run in the last race, by 1 point — 110 to 109. Melvyn finished 3rd with Brissaud on 86 points.

In the other categories no Brits were attempting to make a splash. Though Meikle/Browns last few results should help their overall standing.

Overall it seems to have attracted some interest, although its existence alongside the Europa Cup was not the easiest to explain to the media, and it didn't get the high profile in Europe that it deserved. It may be a problem next year too, trying to pass off a World Championship and this event as a World Cup, side by side — we can but wait and see!

FOCUS ON THE EUROPA CUP

You will probably have seen how much coverage slalom got for the Europa Cup in our 'official' BCU magazine. It has now been reported that the next issue of Focus went to press three days before the event. It will be interesting to see how much coverage we get after the event.

CAMPING PROBLEMS AT HP?

There have been mutterings about rude and unhelpful staff at the HP camping site. Jim Croft would like any complaints to be sent to him in writing so that he can sort them out, as he is on the relevant committee. It is worth noting that if you arrive after 10.00 hrs but before 23.00 hrs the centre will open the barrier for you. Also caravans arriving after then may park FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY in the centre car park. I'd like to add that during the Europa Cup I found the staff to be very helpful so obviously some are O.K.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10th/11th September

National Inter-Club Finals at Nottingham.

29th October

Motions and Nominations for the AGM must be in to Dave Morgan. (We will try and give you details of those applying for election to the Executive in next issue.)

26th November

AGM

DID YOU KNOW...

All Delapre blades are now made from special resins and are heat treated to a hardness approaching that of epoxy.

DID YOU KNOW...

All Delapre blades have a full length central spine tube of pre-formed aluminium alloy.

DID YOU KNOW...

Premier blades for slalom are made in two sizes for both K1 and C1, in red, blue or pink. Competitive in any company and cost around £67 for K1 and £56 for C1.

DID YOU KNOW...

Powerblades* are the most efficient blades available – more British team paddlers use them than all other makes put together. Three sizes for both K1 and C1. C2's are specially made to order. Polo and asymmetrics also available. Powerblades are pale blue and white and cost around £76 for K1, £65 for C1.

DID YOU KNOW...

That you can buy a true slalom economy paddle for as little as £29; also spare blades; carbon, glass and alloy tubes or DIY kits.

**THE BEST IN BOTH PERFORMANCE
AND VALUE FROM
DELAPRE BLADES, Fetter Street,
Northampton. Tel. 0604 22175.**

JUNIOR WORLDS

— Brian Fuller

JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SEU D'URGELL SPAIN

9/10 July 1988

The journey to the Junior World Championships at Seu d'Urgell in July 1988 did not start well - due to an accident en-route (not involving the team fortunately) the two mini-bus convoy missed the evening ferry and subsequently arrived in France in the early hours - however the dawn was delightful!

The next overnight stop was at Angouleme near Bordeaux. Here we stayed in the youth hostel in the town and enjoyed the facilities of the local canoe club who, in anticipation of our arrival, had arranged for us to use their training gates for a very welcome cooling-off evening paddle.

Accommodation was comfortable and the only mishap involved the slight re-arrangement of the concrete entry bollards to the club car park after the coaches had got lost in their journey across Angouleme from the club to the hostel - escorted by the local gendarmerie after some typical French coaches' hospitality.

After an early start the following morning the second half of the journey across the Pyrennees

and into Spain was completed without incident and we arrived in Seu on schedule - Only to discover that our hotel accommodation just outside Seu had been double -booked!

Following protracted discussions between a hotelier who spoke no English and a team manager who spoke no Spanish - by dint of 'pidgeon French' and a great deal of arm waving we negotiated one night's stay there. "But you must leave tomorrow before the German team arrive as you are in their rooms" - or words to that effect!

Subsequently the local hoteliers association apologized profusely for the mix-up which obviously caused them some embarrassment. In the meantime however the organisers, with an early demonstration of efficiency, which was to be repeated many times during the week, had organised us alternative accommodation in the local College in the town of Seu.

This worked to our advantage as it was cheaper (but still comfortable), provided security in the courtyard for vehicles and boats as well as a repair and recreation area, and had the facility of a swimming pool next door.



JUNIOR TEAM 1988. Photo: Warren Holding



COURSE AT SEO. *Photo: Warren Holding*

We had a job convincing the locals that we really did want to get the bus out at 7 a.m. for an early morning training session and use the pool before breakfast. Eventually they made arrangements with the local police patrol (the only ones up that early) to open the gate, and gave us our own key to the pool!

This cheaper accommodation meant that we could afford to eat a little better than had been planned (within the budget) and so almost every evening the team dined at Bambola's - the local pizza parlour - where we were made most welcome and where the team could stoke up with good food to compensate for the typically rather meagre continental breakfast provided at the college.

Arrangements for training on the course were good with free access at most times but on low water release level plus one hour each day allocated to groups of countries at full release. We were fortunate (or had it been arranged with Spanish efficiency?) to share with four of the smaller countries so our training sessions proceeded without hitch.

We have to thank those parents who 'played the

game' and co-operated by staying in the background when asked to but who nevertheless provided splendid support when called upon to help with video, split-timing, van and kit security - and even nipping back to the college to fetch a forgotten video camera.

The Opening Ceremony and Parade in nearby Soft was carried off in style by the GB Junior Slalom Team who were congratulated by the ICF officials on their bearing and turnout.

The Spanish organisers had gone to great lengths to impress with their efficiency - probably with an eye to the Olympics being held there in 1992 - and were very hot on protocol. It was perhaps a little unfortunate that this may have been at the expense of the young paddles. Over-long ceremonies in very hot sunshine; no trophies or mementoes and worst of all no team event.

This latter omission caused complaints from several countries but to no avail. The organisers blamed the ICF and the ICF said it was up to the organisers. What we did agree on was that it should not be left out in future.

THE EVENT

A kidnap incident locally resulted in nearby Andorra clamping down on its border controls with resulting traffic tail-backs almost as far as Seu. So the efficient Spaniards provided a police motor cycle escort for the team buses to get to the course. This allowed Roger Irwin to give full expression to his latent rally-driving skills much to the entertainment of the passengers.

On Saturday, the first event ladies K.1 brought us a silver medal courtesy of Lara Tipper. This was followed almost immediately by Gareth Marriott winning his C.1 category - a gold medal!

The following day the K.1 men had some personally disappointing runs although Kim Gaster's run time could have earned him a silver medal. Then as a final our C.2 crew of Justin Bennett and Brian Holden - at one time even doubtful for the competition - put in a splendid first run to hold off very strong competition, especially from the Czechs, to win a gold medal!

Medals in 3 out of 4 categories and our National Anthem being played twice was the best result of any nation. There was strong competition from 19 countries in all.

RESULTS

K1 LADIES

1. Sandra BERGER	FRG	237.15
2. Lara TIPPER	GBR	242.32
3. Katja SOSNOWSKI	FRG	244.96
7. Lynn SIMPSON	GBR	258.52
21. Sue MARRIOTT	GBR	292.86

C1

1. Gareth MARRIOTT	GBR	217.90
2. Michael DOETSCH	FRG	224.28
3. Adam CLAWSON	USA	224.75
7. Michael WHARTON	GBR	233.22
13. Richard COMER	GBR	258.73

K1 MEN

1. Scott SHIPLEY	USA	195.33
2. Claudio ROVIERA	ITA	203.08
3. Andraz VEHOVAR	YUG	203.16
14. Kim GASTER	GBR	212.18
23. Matthew STEPHENS	GBR	226.41
45. Michael GREEN	GBR	254.27

C2

1. Brian HOLDEN/Jason BENNETT	GBR	258.57
2. Juraj MIKUS/Marcel KOLLAR	TCH	259.27
3. Marck LUBUSKY/Martin KRAL	TCH	267.02



MEDAL WINNERS
HOLDEN/BENNETT

Photo: Warren Holding



MEDAL WINNERS
MARRIOTT/TIPPER

Photo: Warren Holding

The poles seemed to be set very low and despite remonstrations from several nations the organisers confirmed that they were in accordance with ICF rules which state that they should be *approximately* 150mm off the water. Although this was obviously the same for all it may have inhibited one or two of our more flamboyant paddlers who had to negotiate several of the 10 upstream gates with some caution.

The results were achieved by a good all-round team effort. Good team spirit and mutual support amongst the paddlers was helped by the arrival of Richard Fox who provided a boost to morale as well as some invaluable advice.

Penny Briscoe did a good job with her coaching of the ladies both in paddling and welfare while fending off the comments of her chauvanistic colleagues. Jano Stephens had a most successful event with his canadian class, Mark Stallworthy stayed cool among his K.1 men. Len Smith controlled the whole of the coaching operations with efficient, experienced calm. Roger Irwin despite being extremely busy with driving, communications and refreshments still

managed to find time for a little 'bronzing'. He applies the same professionalism to sun-worshipping as to all his other team management skills and throughout provided splendid support to Brian Fuller on his first tour as Junior Team Manager.

The team worked extremely hard all week and achieved well-deserved results and were then able to apply similar enthusiasm to the celebrations which took place around (and in) the town's swimming pool and well into the early hours on the last night.

John Gosling, the General Team Manager, had sent us to Seu with the thought that 'a medal for one, is a medal for all....for we are the Great Britain Team!'

I think that all those who participated in the 1988 Junior World Championships - paddlers, coaches, parents (those there as well as those at home who had done so much preparatory work) can all be proud of being part of the GREAT BRITAIN JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM of 1988.



JUNIOR WORLDS OPENING CEREMONY Photo: W. Holden

1988 Europa Cup — The Technical End

by Tony Arrowsmith

When I was first asked to write an article on the computers used for results and the hook up to BBC Television my first reaction was 'Great I can explain all the technical bits'. When I settled down to think about it I came down to earth thinking 'Hey wait . . . what about all the people who processed the results?', for without them I could put in all the electronics I liked but would achieve nothing.

Who are they? Well they go from the guys like Colin Manton who sit at home and design and build the communications to all the judges and judges clerks who actually score the event and the timekeepers who time it. Even the lads who sat on finish with the horn are part of the team necessary to run the event and produce the spectacle for the television viewer.

It is worth noting that due to the speed and accuracy of all the staff we were able to supply the BBC Producer with a paddlers result (should he choose to use it) within 1 second of the paddler finishing his run. The results were out on the course between 2-4 seconds later.

"IBM loaned 8 computers"

I started working on the technicalities of the Europa Cup back in September last year, a full 11 months before the event. With an outline idea of how I would like to have the Leader Board Displays I approached IBM (who I work for) for the loan of eight Personal System 2's (IBM's new name for the PC or Personal Computer). I also asked for £30,000 on the basis that if you don't ask . . . not unexpectedly I did not get that, but after some 5 months the manager responsible for external events agreed to the loan of the PS/2's.

At the same time David Goldstrum was starting his negotiations for BBC Grandstand to take the event. We all know now how well he succeeded, but at that stage I was doubtful. However, around March time I found myself involved in discussions with David and the Omega people on the subject of 'Data Handling', a new term for me. This is simply the collection of the results data on a central computer and its distribution to the television and the site.

So how did it all hang together?

1. There were 2 Omega Timers, each connected to their independent Start and Finish beams, operated by Brian Tipper's team of ladies. The output from the Timers was distributed several ways:

- a. Running time via an Omega Character Generator to the BBC
- b. Running Time to the Scoreboard out on the course
- c. Paddlers Run Times to the Data Handler.

2. The penalties were keyed into the data handler, an IBM PS/2 Mod 80 operated by Steve Groeger and my daughter Christine Arrowsmith, before the paddlers crossed the finish line. The paddlers times were received electronically from the Omega Timer.

The Data Handler then computes the paddlers total time and position to be fed out around the site. This system deserves its name as it was the centre of all the electronic distribution of the results data. The information from the data handler was fed out:

a. Via the Omega Character Generator to the BBC, this was the display at the top of the television screen at the end of the paddlers run.

b. To seven Remote PC's which displayed the Leader Boards:

1. The BBC Commentators Hut
2. The Apple Sound Course Commentator
3. Under the first wooden bridge, this also drove the Top Three Public Scoreboard on the bridge
4. The Finish
5. The Press Office
6. The Results Print Room near the start
7. The No Limits Cabin, this also printed results for local display and provided input for the BBC Leader Boards produced on their Aston Graphics Computer.

For the technically-minded:

I wrote all the programmes in the BASIC language but, of course, they are all compiled to produce fast run time programs.

All communications links were on 2 wire 20 mA Current Loop and we designed and made our own RS232 to Current Loop converters.

“... we laid 6,000 metres of cable ...”

The equipment in use (other than the BBC's) valued at around £60,000 was:

Two OTR7 Omega Timers
(one BCU's/one Omega's)

Two OVG4 Omega Character Generators
(Omega's)

One IBM PS/2 Mod 80-041 (IBM's)

Two IBM PS/2 Mod 60-041 (IBM's)

Four IBM PS/2 Mod 30-002 (IBM's)

One PS/2 Mod 30-021 (IBM's)

One IBM Quietwriter III Printer (IBM's)

One IBM 5216 Wheelprinter
(mine - used for print room)

One PC/AT for programming backup (mine)

One IBM PCC for conversion from 5.25" to 3.5" diskettes (mine)

Six single receive/transmit RS232 to 20 mA Current Loop converters

Three single receive/triple transmit RS232 to 20 mA converters

As well as the cable permanently installed along the course at Holme Pierrepont we laid 6,000 metres of 'Tutti' cable above ground and several hundred metres of mains cable to make it all work.

What of the future?

Well for me it is back to our single PC Results Service. There is no doubt that the Data Handler has its uses, with or without the television hook-ups, and we will probably use this technique at events like the Llangollen International. In the meantime we are recruiting both technical staff (unpaid voluntary as usual!) and operators to support Brian Tipper and his team at Premier Division events. So if you have a bent for wires and things or fancy operating the timer/computer at our top events please contact me or Rod Gordon, we are both in the Slalom Yearbook.



**STINGRAY CII.
REVOLUTION
CI.**

**THE
'EDGE'
KI**



concept
fibreglass design engineers

**UNIT 25 TRENT SOUTH INDUSTRIAL PARK
LITTLE TENNIS ST
NOTTINGHAM
NG2 4EL
TEL NOTTINGHAM (0602) 480467**

AND ALSO

THE

DEMON POLO

For the Winning Team



EUROPA CUP 88

— Joe Lyons

The circus arrived from Dublin with a mixed bag of results — Liz with a win. Richard with a 3rd behind Skok and a new Italian name Ferrazzi. Melvyn Jones finished in 5th. Other results were disappointing — Dublin's short course and relative flatness didn't really favour our team, who seem to perform on the rougher water.

Olympic preparations had meant Liz had little gate practice, but Dublin had seemed to work OK and we had high hopes for her. On his home course Gareth Marriott had to be in with a chance of a good result, and both Karen Davies and Rachel Fox paddle Holme Pierrepont well. Expectations were high, though French Slalom is on a resurgence (as their wildwater team declines!) and they had some good results — they must be benefitting from Richards frequent visits!

The action at these events normally starts with the non-stop practice — and so it did, but not on the river. Elizabeth Micheler - bronze medallist at Bourg, driving Melvyn Jones Arrowcraft van, was on her way from the centre to the course when one of the large trucks that thunder up the road smashed into the van - a right off and Elizabeth off to hospital with Melvyn, just before practice runs. The crash was bad enough to keep Elizabeth in hospital till Sunday, and out of the race. Melvyn, shocked, returned with about 2 minutes to spare, for his practice run. With hardly a look at the course he jumped on the river and stormed to victory in the non-stop, by some 7 seconds, on a wind blown, overcast day. We could only hope he would repeat it the next day, but the weather was going to have to improve to get the crowds out.

Ken Langford had set a tricky little course, about 180 seconds long — with no mega move, rather consistently tricky and with some alternatives to choose, though most would end up doing it the same way. Double upstreams were a feature, and a tough finishing move to test endurance looked to favour the long distance people, rather than the speed merchants.

C1 paddlers must be getting used to the early start by now, as the rest of us gathered at 9.50 to watch the British boys come down. Mark Delaney set the poles swinging, as did Gareth Marriott - though Gareth's time was quick - perhaps he could clean up. Bushy too, was dogged by penalties. We then sat back to enjoy the 'awesome' Americans, and the old firm

Lugbill/Hearn stormed down into first and second, with Yugoslavias Vidmar 3rd, pushing the 3rd yank into 4th. Prentice, who had come 1st in Dublin, needed to come at least second to take Lugbills title. He would have to improve his second run. Times of 180.42 by the Americans left the Brits with a lot to do.

The weather wasn't glorious, but the wind was low and it was mild. There were plenty of canoeists on site, but a shortage of paying public. The knowledgeable crowd had appreciated the CIs, and were now keen to see Liz follow up her Dublin victory. Rachel Fox was nervous and tight - and it got to her in the first half of the course, and penalties accrued, but Karen Davies got only one 5 penalty and went into the lead with a total of 200.54. Clear runs were hard to come by — only Chladek and Stone the Americans managed to clear the course in the first runs. Chladek's run was quick enough to go second behind Karen, though this lasted only moments as Myriam Jerusalemi 'home town' girl from France, in the impressive time of 188 + 5, slipped into a 7 second lead over Karen. We gathered to watch Liz, but her lack of gate practice showed and though her time was OK, 15 penalties pushed her well down the order.

British C2 results didn't seem to be stunning — 8th and 12th in Dublin — but remember these are the best in the world racing in the Europa Cup. The Germans, Hemmer and Loose, racing the radical concave hulled C2 had come first in Dublin, and took a first run lead over the French and American boats. Langford's tricky course meant no clear runs in C2, through Meikle and Brown had the speed if they could clear up.



RACHEL FOX. Photo: P. Astles

The reverse seeding of the Dublin results meant that all the British Kayaks were at the end of the class, along with all the other fast paddlers. This meant that the results started quietly, as we all expected the fast times to come in the last few paddlers, though the Pole Gawlikowski, set the pace with 176 clear - the standard for everyone to beat. The Frenchman Brissaud moved in front, and was only pushed into second by his brother Laurent. Russ Smith had moved into 3rd place, and we waited for Melvyn and Richard. They obliged with fast times, but both fell foul of gate 16, trying to cut the stagger too tight. Ken Langford standing next to me on the hill, above the gate, shook his head knowingly. By the end of 1st runs it was France 1, 2, GB 3, 4 & 5 — and to retain his title, Richard had to get in front of the Frenchmen.

The C1 second runs seemed to be a forgone conclusion. It was an American 1, 2, 3 — but John Lugbill has Davy Hearn to thank for keeping his title — for by pushing Jed Prentice into 3rd, by 0.18 of a second, Lugbill was able to retain his title. Gareth Marriott produced the goods with a time only 3 seconds behind Lugbills, they must be conscious that as a youth he is becoming a serious threat.

Confidence in Liz remained high, despite her first run, but Myriam had set a good time — with her third place in Dublin, Liz had to come at worst, third here. But first, Rachel Fox was able to produce one of the few clear runs of the day, which pushed her up the order, to a final 8th place, with a lot of good paddlers behind her. Karen Davies was unable to improve and you can't hold a second place in this kind of field with 5 penalties. Hearn, Grange-Prigent and Chladek pushed past into 4th, 3rd and 2nd place, but Myriam remained on top. Back to the top of the hill for Liz — who needed a top 3. A five on gate 9 - but she was fast - fast enough, until gate 17 caught her out - time lost, and a touch, cost her the title - she finished 7th, disappointed, but with an Olympic place secure.

We were still talking about it when Meikle and Brown went down. They looked clean and fast, and there they were, second place — an excellent result in a class international field — and only 4 seconds behind this years class crew, the Germans Hemmer and Loose. Time together makes a good C2 crew, and we are getting some crews who have that time, and the results will follow.



MARTIN HEMMEL. Photo: P. Astles

Fritz Sins, the Dutch paddler, popped a good run into 3rd place — his best performance in the series. Plenty of fast boys to come — Yugo's, French, Italians and our own. Brissaud (M) failed to improve but Abramic, the Yugo, squeezed in front of Russ, who then squeezed back in front of M. Brissaud, into second, finally fourth. The next boat was Melvyn, and he was electric — well up on the mid point split, clear and fast, and into a 4 second lead. Laurent Brissaud improved, but not by enough to take Melvyn's lead, so now Richard had to come second to Melvyn — or Melvyn would move in front of him in the overall title race. Richard was next on the course, slower than Melvyn, but clear, and with a time of 0.49 faster than L. Brissaud into second place. It was now up to Italian Ferrazzi, Yugo Skok, both of whom had blown their first runs. Ferrazzi, first down, was fast, but an early touch cost him any chance, and he finished 8th. Skok flew down, 1.19 seconds slower than Melvyn, faster than Richard — enough to take the title, if he was clear - but he wasn't, 5 penalties make him 7th, and 4th overall. Richard had done just enough — it was Melvyn's day, and Richards Championship.

The final champions, Fox, Lugbill, Jerusalmi and Hemmer and Loose, gave a nice spread to the points for the overall nations trophy, but French consistency gave them the best set of Slalom results, with GB second. Adding in the wild water results, where the Germans had dominated everything, gave the nations trophy to Germany, 63 points, with French second 66 points and GB 3rd, 86 points.

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE REGION

May Day - the Bank Holiday Monday that nobody really knows what to do with, was chosen for the first Yorkshire and Humberside Region Inter Club Slalom Championships and was also our eliminator for the Holme Pierrepont National Inter Club Slalom Championship Finals in September.

We had been kindly loaned the excellent facilities of the Halifax Canoe Club at Sowerly Bridge.

The weather was true to form for a Bank Holiday Monday but the water was good; being challenging for the Novice and not too tame for the Premier Paddler.

This event - the first one which is to be held annually or as supported by eight clubs who provided teams and officials. This new competition on our Slalom Calendar gave organisers and team managers more than the usual headaches, however, once the event had got underway, it progressed smoothly and successfully.

Congratulations should go to Sue and Steve Ackroyd and also Lancs. Poly who ran control for us.

The Club results were :-

Leeds 311 pts. Halifax 255 pts. Hull 254 pts. Kingston 212 pts. Sheffield 197 pts. Grimsby 148 pts, Huddersfield 43 pts, Bradford & Airedale 15 pts.

Leeds & Halifax will represent the Region at Holme Pierrepont.

Bill & Mick Simpson

EAST MIDLANDS REGION INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

When Holme Pierrepont became available on 23rd July (or so we thought) a hastily arranged competition between the region's slalom clubs was organised.

Disappointment - only *four* clubs entered plus a lonely David Crosbee representing North Notts. K.C. However we accepted over 60 entries from the four clubs.

A mix up over the slalom course booking followed by essential course maintenance meant that the event did not get started until 12.30 p.m. With the programme organised to be completed in one day (2 individual runs + 2 team runs) it looked dodgy.

The course on almost full volume was designed without any difficult moves so that all levels of paddler could complete. It was good to see high ranking Premier and Novice on the same course.

We completed the event by 6 p.m. with lots of tired paddlers. With the results being used as selection for the Interclub event in September the order was:

1. Midland C.C.
2. Notts. K.C.
3. Leics. O.P.C.
4. Mansfield C.C.

The slalom proved an interesting first, enjoyed by everyone and I hope we can make it an annual event.

Thanks to our volunteer helpers - Brian Tipper, Irene Osbourne,, Mike Crosbee and others who made it work.

J. Stephens

WEST MIDLANDS SCENE

This year's Regional Slalom series has been dominated by Staffs and Stone CC. Having already secured one of the West Midland places in the Inter-Club Championships they confirmed their superiority by winning their home slalom on the Regional Weekend. The other place was fought for to the last by Kinver CC and S.O.A.K.; Kinver in the end coming out on top. Best wishes from all in the region go with both clubs to Nottingham for finals.

This years selection event for the Inter-Regional Championships on the Llangollen International weekend will be the first race at the Holme Pierrepont double-header on October 1/2. Would all people who wish to be considered please let me know. NONE-PREM PADDLERS GET YOUR JUDGES ENTRIES IN.

Martyn Gibbons.

The following have come from sources other than the regional reps themselves:-

**Southern Region Championships,
Hambleton Weir, 24th July 1988**

Shaun and Dave Pearce set a testing course on which saw few clear runs. The event was organised by Roy and Phil Lawrence with able assistance from the Hambleton Weir Association and with all competing clubs lending a hand.

One of the most interesting results was the junior C2 crew of Simon Crook and Andrew Dancer of Banbury beating those old hands Martyn Hedges and Jim Sibley!

Club Team Results

1. WINDSOR 64pts
2. BANBURY 62pts
3. NEWBURY 56pts
4. WARREN 54pts
5. CHALFONT 52pts

Based on the individual results the Southern Region's Representatives will be:-

1. National Inter Club Championships at HPP on Sept. 10/11 - WINDSOR and BANBURY

2. English Inter-Regional Championships, Llangollen 29/30 October:-

K1M Seniors: SHAUN PEARCE/ANDREW FULLER/PHIL LAWRENCE.

K1M Juniors: KEVERN KERSWELL/ANDREW BIRTWHISTLE/PETE JANES.

K1L: CORRIE JOHNSON

C1: PETE BELL

C2: SIMON CROOK/ANDREW DANCER

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST REGION

This event organised by Vince Lamph took place at Shepperton. It is understood that the clubs going to the Inter-region Finals will be Canterbury and Marlin, with Shepperton going to defend last years trophy.

EASTERN REGION

Only Viking KC entered by the closing date, with Cambridge CC entering late but before the event. Therefore although the event had to be cancelled the clubs to go forward are Viking KC and Cambridge, together with last years trophy holder.

Nothing has been heard from the following regions:-

South West North West North



JON LUGBILL JUST HELD OFF THE JED PRENTICE CHALLENGE. Photo: P. Astles

From one extreme

Melvyn Jones — 1st in the Europa Cup Final 1988
in a Carbon Kevlar Lightweight Race Boat



Melvyn raced an Arrowcraft built extreme and left a lot of less perceptive paddlers in his wake!

. . . . to the other

Arrowcrafts boats have an enviable reputation for durability, reliability and affordability, matched by service and support that helps turn novices into superstars.

Arrowcraft boats are available through agents all over the country.

Ring them and ask how you can start to follow in Melvyns footsteps, or write to the address below.



Arrowcraft Marine Ltd.,
P.O. Box 15,
Cannock, Staffs.
WS11 3DH

Designs from Britains Top Quality Manufacturers

ALANS ANSWERS

MORE ON SLALOM TRAINING

No questions this month so I thought it may be a good idea to write something specific on short term preparation for slaloms. The following points were originally prepared for British squad paddlers, and obviously some don't apply. For instance Training Camps abroad are slightly 'over the top' for Novice events! However the principles are exactly the same, so read on carefully.

SPECIFIC COMPETITION PREPARATION

Approaching 'peak' competition time, emphasis should be on merging together all the component parts of your training programme to achieve the correct blend that works for you. What you do in the final phase will be influenced by your budget, work or college requirements and by your overall commitment to getting it right on the day. What was adequate in the winter, might not be acceptable in this final phase.

LAND-BASED TRAINING FINAL PHASE

It is not a priority over the final run-in to competition. Waterwork will have gradually taken over, restricting land sessions to the following:-

1. Fast repetition work on isokinetics/gym/light weights.
2. A long warm-up/flexibility session.
3. Short, timed runs 3-3½ mins. flat out.

WATERWORK — FINAL PHASE SPEED & QUALITY are the essentials

Typical workouts would be:—

1. Specific sessions simulating competition, involving full length courses, mental rehearsal, then 3 timed runs on each course . . . FAST AND CLEAR!
2. Speed intervals on the gates and on the flat. The essence of speed-work is that you work on a distance shorter than race length. Recovery is long — somewhere in the region of 1-3 or 1-4. It should be possible to work maximally all the time. . . 100% - 110% is the target! Course design is critical, sequences needing to be more open than normal to allow the paddler to be accelerating to maximum for most of the time.

These sessions are aimed at developing raw speed between the gates. Sessions like these are useful psychologically as well, due to the fact that the paddler almost invariably goes clear and also feels to be going his fastest to date. All good positive stuff just prior to THE BIG DAY!

3. I would include some mixed intervals in this phase as well. Speedwork obviously takes precedence, but not to the exclusion of all else. I would try to work all 3 major energy sessions, aerobic, anaerobic and ATP-PC (explosive speed and acceleration) varying work intervals between 15 secs and 3 mins, and rest intervals between 1-½ and 1-4. Done in a group/mass starts etc. this type of session is less tedious and ensures that there is some progression between phases.

TRAINING CAMPS

. . . some thoughts for and against.

In this final phase it might seem particularly useful to attend or even organise a training camp of some kind. This is usually at a site where full length comp. runs and good circulation gates are guaranteed. Advantages would be:-

1. A welcome change from home base.
2. An acceptable water size and speed to condition your reflexes and judgement.
3. Clean water!!
4. An opportunity to acclimatise to a new site, test your warm up and dietary plans (if any).

Possible problems:

1. Too far and too tiring to travel.
2. Accommodation not suitable.
3. No coach or bank support available.
4. Climate not conducive to serious training.

Provided money and time allow, such a camp can be very useful, bringing you on quite quickly, at a time when needed. 5 days is about right, any longer and it becomes a drag being away from Mother's cooking! The best sites in Britain are Grandtully, Tryweryn, Holme Pierrepont and Llangollen. Possibilities abroad would be Landeck, Augsburg, Mezzana, Bourg, Spittal and Liptovsky. Problems with the continent are again

to do with diet, travel time, length of time away and the very real possibility that water conditions will be too heavy, preventing any really valuable quality work. A camp abroad is almost an end in itself, instead of being a sharpener for your real target.

COMPETITION PRACTICE IN THE FINAL PHASE

I believe it to be of the utmost importance to have 2-3 start line practices before your first major event. It helps you sort out warm up, equipment, course appraisal, mental rehearsal, and to just generally sit on a start under a bit of real pressure. Club mini-slaloms, open and judges events are the possibilities.

Conclusions

As we have seen there are many varying choices to be made if we are going to use our training facilities to the best advantage. It must be very clear to you what you are doing and why you are doing it. Only then can you be sure of where you are doing it and when that should be. If you can be confident of these 4 questions then you're on the right lines.

Remember all training, especially in slalom, is remedial and totally specific to the individual concerned. Everyone is different and will have different needs and problems. . .thats for the coach to decide. . .So find one and ask. . .!!!

The BUSINESS

is now at

UNIT 14, FERRY COURT, FERRY LANE, BATH,
AVON. BA2 4JW TELEPHONE 0225 445326

BUSHSPORT

FOREIGN SCENE

BASIC STROKE DRILLS FOR KAYAKS

William T. Endicott

It has come to my attention that a lot of kayakers could use some work on the basic strokes. If these fundamentals of slalom are not really efficient, then there is the danger that this will haunt you through whatever else you are trying to do.

The general problem as I see it is that people are not getting enough extension on their strokes, nor enough 'summation of body forces'. The latter is my term to mean essentially getting your whole body into the stroke and not just some parts of the body.

Here is a list of drills that you can do to get more extension and summation of forces. They can best be executed on dead flat water where you can control everything well. Thereafter, of course, you should be able to do them on whitewater, too.

You can make an entire workout of these drills, and/or you can use some of them as part of your warmup before every gate workout.

Remember, they should all be done smoothly, with complete control, and without rushing.

1. C1 FORWARD STROKING

a. Paddle your kayak C1-style. This forces you to learn more dexterity with each hand. Try to steer by using the J-stroke, the way C1s do. Do it even in gates to force you to blend strokes together via feathering.

b. Weaving forward. Take 4-5 strokes on one side, without any steering stroke. Lean slightly to the stroke side. This way the boat will turn constantly toward your stroke, but not having to worry about going straight facilitates makes it easier to concentrate on reaching way out at the beginning of the stroke, which is the main purpose of this drill.

2. **CROSS-BOW STROKING.** This is good for a warmup stretch and dexterity.

a. Do some easy cross-draws to stretch out your back.

b. Paddle 4-5 cross-bow forward strokes on

one side, then 4-5 on the other side, feathering the blade in the water in between strokes. On the last stroke, do a cross-bow sweep to get the boat's momentum started in the other direction. Then switch sides and cross-bow sweep, too. By doing this, the boat will weave forward.

3. **BOW SWEEP.** The real power on the sweep should come from the top arm driving across the body and the torso twisting, not just the lower arm pulling. Do 3-4 sweeps all on the same side one after the other in a very controlled manner, without rushing. Emphasize the following:

a. Start with the paddle blade close to the side of the boat, and arc it way out to the side in the middle of the stroke, then pull it back in. A common flaw is to not hold the paddle horizontally, or flat, enough and as a result do more of a forward stroke than a true sweep.

b. Drive across with the top arm. It helps to think of this whole process as starting with arms fairly straight and rotating them around an axis which is your spine.

c. Really feel the strain in your torso.

d. Feel the power coming even out of your legs.

Practice it sometimes with the boat dead flat, other times with a little pivot turn obtained by leaning into the stroke more.

4. **REVERSE SWEEP.** The principles here are similar to those in the bow sweep; the power should come from the top arm pulling across the body and the torso twisting, not just the bottom arm pushing.

a. Twist around at the start, reach toward the stern and look back at it.

b. Arc way out to the side in the middle of the stroke.

c. Pull the top arm around the body. Once again, it is better to start with the arms in a fairly straight, extended position, and think about rotating them around your spine. Feel the power coming up from the legs.

d. Emphasize the twisting of the torso to add power.

- e. Push way forward toward the bow at the end of the stroke.

This exercise can be done either with the boat flat on the water or with a little bow pivot action.

5. **VARIANTS.** Variations of the above drills are the following:

- a. Combine them both together. Do a bow sweep on one side, followed by a reverse sweep on the other, all done with or without a pivot turn. If you use the pivot turn, remember the important thing is to get the boat to turn quickly, not just to get the bow way up in the air!

- b. Do them as weaving forward or weaving backwards. Do a sweep on one side followed by a sweep on the other. Or a reverse sweep on one side, followed by a reverse sweep on the other side. With or without the pivot action.

6. DUFFEK STROKE DRILLS.

(BOW RUDDERS — Ed)

The objective here is to insert the blade as far away as possible from the side of the boat at the beginning of the stroke in order to increase your range of motion, while at the same time keeping the paddle shaft reasonably vertical. If you try this, you will feel a stretching down your back on the side of the upper arm.

- a. Duffeks in a circle. Reach out away from the side of the boat, and do a draw motion. At the end of the draw, convert it into a little forward stroke. This both helps to keep the bow from sinking into the water and providing resistance as well as sets you up for the next phase. Feather out to the side and repeat the whole process. This can be done either keeping the boat flat, or by keeping it constantly leaned up on the edge closest to the stroke in order to practice carving eddy turns, or leaned away to practice duffeks on a pivot.

- b. Duffek/Sweep Weave. Do a sweep on one side, followed immediately by a duffek on the other. Feather the duffek forward and to a sweep on the same side, immediately followed by a duffek on the other, etc. Be careful when you quickly switch from the sweep to the duffek that you do NOT extend your lower arm way forward. If you do, you will have no room to feather the blade forward in the water to set you up for the next sweep. Instead, just start the duffek with a bent arm, then feather it forward.

Now that you know the drill, try to get the blade far away from the side of the boat on the duffek part. Reach way over with the top arm and feel

that stretch down your back. Actually try to look at the stern while you are doing this -- it will encourage you to get even more extension.

This can be done keeping the boat flat or with a small pivot action.

7. **REVERSE PADDLING.** The idea is to get good powerful reverse strokes.

- a. Look over each shoulder at the start of the stroke, to get extension and rotation.

- b. Get a smooth, powerful drive, while keeping the boat moving straight back.

8. **COMPOUND REVERSE STROKING.** Here you are again going C1-style, with the point being to get a lot of extension and dexterity.

- a. Reach way back towards the stern at the beginning of the stroke, and pull with the power face of the blade.

- b. But be careful not to reach so much that you sink the stern, this will provide resistance which will make everything a lot harder.

- c. As you pull the blade to your hip, quickly flip it over and push it way towards the bow.

- d. do it first on one side, then on the other, and try to keep the boat moving backwards in as straight a line as possible.

9. **EDDY TURN CARVING.** The objective is to paddle the boat forward while maintaining it in an extremely leaned up position.

- a. Lean forward in the boat to lower your center of gravity a bit.

- b. Paddle forward on both sides, keeping the boat leaned up. The boat will turn gradually to the side the boat is leaned to.

R.F. comments

Finally, remember to concentrate whilst doing the exercises - focus on the stroke and feel the muscles involved stretching and contracting. Also think about what is happening to the blade and the boat throughout the stroke. This uger feeling aspect of stroke exercises very important. It is the difference between a smooth controlled powerful paddler and an average paddler who simply goes through the motions.

The Backroom Girls

This Month - Mrs Jim Croft and other women at the Europa Cup

Catherine Croft has a full time job as a secretary at a secondary school as well as running Slalom Sports UK. On top of this she has supported Jim not only throughout the months leading up to the Europa Cup but during the whole ten days of the event itself. Cool and calm herself she was a most soothing influence on us all. Coffee was supplied for the daily site meetings with a smile as Jim would ask her to phone this firm, chase that for him. Wife, secretary, go between, dogs body, she was everything and a vital pin in the whole organisation.

We met on Thursday, the day of the opening ceremony at County Hall. 'The first job I did this morning' she said, 'was to lay out Jim's clothes for tonight - his clean shirt, his suit and his polished shoes, because I know he will be in a rush at the end of the day and he must not be late.' What other wife in this day and age is so dutiful?

Monday when we were in the throes of clearing up I spoke with her again - it was about eleven in the morning. 'Jim's been too busy for breakfast but I've just put a ham sandwich in his hand and that will keep him going for a while.'

JEAN MACINNES took on the job of finding accommodation for the foreign teams. She was still smiling during the event but one must wonder whether she would have taken on the job had she known! The Italians arrived in dribs and drabs and could not remember whether they had booked or not - they hadn't and she had to get on the phone quickly to sort them out. An Austrian or two arrived at the last minute and the Germans kept changing their minds and their accommodation.

JENNY PEARCE had the job of running the Information Point which turned out to be serving the organisation more than the general public. Jenny recruited a large number of other wives and organised them into an efficient rota. The job grew as staff to man the photocopying cabin and other telephones were required not to mention standby folk in the press cabin.

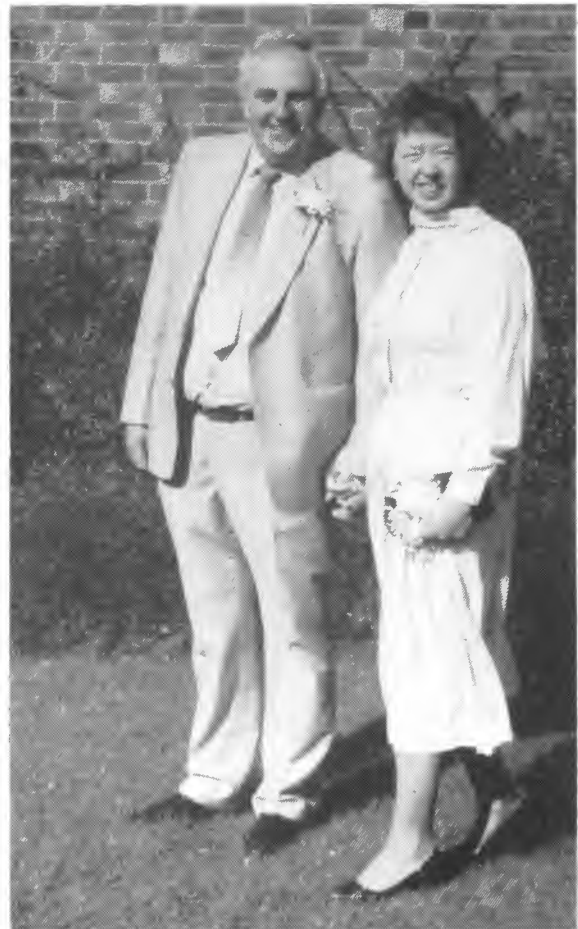
PAT ATTENBURROW was in charge of the scoring office. With the grandstand coverage this was a particularly demanding job as there was not time allocation for errors.

SUE WHARTON was o/c Site Administration and began the week working in the Information cabin where the telephone was but moved down to the hub of the organisation where there was an intercom to 'Information' but no telephone.

MARY CROSBEE did some PR among the paddlers, looked after BBC Radio Nottingham and the TV firm Transworld Sport.

JENNIFER MUNRO was part of the 'gang of four' the organising group with the particular responsibility of Publicity and Public Relations with a particular interest in getting raft rides going for VIP's.

MURIEL CUNNINGHAM AND THE CHEADLE NORTH RANGERS received an award from the BCU for past services to the sport at Sunday's prize giving.



LETTERS

U16 SELECTION — COMMENT & REPLIES

Dear Sir,

As the parent of an U16 paddler I would like to comment about the selection policy. My son is new to the sport having come up very quickly last season, this leads us into a minefield. We are asked if he is going to try for the squad. What squad we ask if there is only an U17 team in the year book. Luckily someone takes an interest in my son and helps us. We are told he should apply for the selection events. How do we know if he is eligible? He is Div 1 so that hurdle is over come. He competes not too successfully, and realises he needs to learn more about Nottingham & Tryweryn never having competed on them before. We expect the squad to be selected on these results until we get a phone call from a friend saying he must compete at H.P. 1 if he wishes to be considered. This causes alterations of plan as he was not going to compete due to exams the following day. At the Div 1 there were some invited Div 2's. How were they chosen? Did all Div. 2's have the opportunity? If so how did they know about the event?

My son did not make the squad, perhaps he is not yet good enough but that is not my complaint. What I feel is wrong is not having everything about selection laid out in the year book. We should all know who is eligible and what are the criteria for selection. Only this way will it be fair to everyone. Could I also suggest that Junior Paddlers for any squad that is discretionary are also asked to submit a C.V. which would help the selectors in their deliberations.

Finally may I thank Sue Whanton (not our previously mentioned friend). Without her help we and I suspect many other parents new to the game would have floundered every more...

Name & Address supplied.

SELECTION COMMITTEE PROCEDURES - 1988 SEASON

The editorial in the last issue of Slalom Magazine contained so many errors of fact and such a total misconception of selection of selection procedures that I feel I must make a detailed reply.

In 1987 at the AGM, by a small majority a selection policy was passed that precluded any

discretion by the selection committee after it had determined selection policy for the year. Detailed consideration of the policy indicated the most serious problems to the Executive and we asked permission to override the policy. The Slalom Executive by a majority of 10-2 agreed to three propositions directly against the policy:

a) To pre-select Liz Sharman so that she could go for Olympic Selection (Liz was successful!)

b) To allow discretion to the Committee so select a Junior C2 should the standard be sufficient (Holden and Bennett were subsequently selected and gained the Gold Medal in the Junior Worlds)

c) To allow discretion in the selection of an intermediate team - the alternative being not to send such a team (the team was selected and at the time of writing is in Czechoslovakia)

Additionally the Selection Committee decided to select, as is its right, a junior training squad for the summer - something which has been done before, and I hope, will be done again. The Committee had many other concerns but felt that it had gone as far as it reasonably could in over-riding the AGM policy. These included varying the size of the C2 senior team according to results; filling vacant places in various teams, picking groups to represent GB at other class A internationals and encouraging international canoeing generally.

To turn to the specific criticisms in the Editorial. Selection for British teams in canoe slalom has always been based on the results of Selection events, in Junior and Intermediate teams other factors have been considered and for Senior selection, for the final place only, some paddlers have been passed over for a variety of reasons.

The Under 16 squad this year was selected on the basis of results at Selection events including an event to which Division 2 paddlers were invited. The debate at Selection committee was whether or not there were any division 2 paddlers who justified selection and the paddlers selected on the day were the ones who produced the results. It seems to me inconceivable that anyone who has not produced quality results at a selection event can be considered. Slalom is about the performance on the day on appropriate water and course under the pressure of performing for selection.

There may well be other junior paddlers who will in future produce such performances but on the evidence available no-one else could have been considered that other factors may influence junior selection - performance in the winter, subsequent promotion, coaches views of potential, etc.

I should like to reassure those selected for the Under 16 squad their parents and supporters that their selection was merited on results and they should be proud of it. To those not successful the answer is to provide the performance on the day - you won't win the Worlds, at any level, on any basis other than results.

So, why choose on any other basis ever. There seem to me to be three reasons:

Illness or injury for competitors of established standard

Pre-selection of established competitors for sound competition reasons - e.g. preparations abroad, clashes with other selections, concentration on the championship concerned by competitors whom it would be inconceivable to leave out.

Supporting tomorrow's rising star against today's (or even yesterday's) veteran - a difficult decision when dealing with people who have given enormous time and effort for slalom are passed over in favour of those perceived to be of future potential and only used to fill the last place.

Slalom canoeing in Britain, till this year has operated a selection policy, virtually unchanged in format, for over 10 years. In that time we have consistently been one of the, if not the most, successful British sports. In that time virtually every paddler who has received discretion has gone on to gain a gold medal in a World Championship.

Roger Annan
Chairman
BCU Slalom Committee and Selection Committee

Selection, and all executive decisions, must not only be fair. There is no room for secrecy, either intentionally or by omission in policy considerations that effect paddlers — Ed.

DRY GEAR FOR WET WEAR

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
IN ACCESSORIES

DISCERNING PADDLERS
CHOOSE


SPLASHSPORT

SHOWROOM:
OPEN MON-SAT 9AM-5PM
24 HARWOOD STREET, DARWEN,
LANCS BB3 1PD TEL: 0254 75737

AMATEUR RULE

Dear Editor

I have been asked to comment on the letter (August 1988 issue) from Guy Gratton about amateur status in relation to coaching.

It is not appropriate to comment on individual cases since these can only be considered on the basis of fully documented submissions to the appropriate body — the Eligibility Committee of the BCU for UK application. It is our belief that no useful purpose would be served by pursuing an individual case unless a challenge were to be raised by a National Federation against the eligibility of a competitor in major International competition. Such challenges are virtually unknown in canoeing.

So far as the UK is concerned, the general issue, in my personal opinion, should be seen against the "advantage factor". Does a competitor gain an unfair advantage as a result of being paid for

assisting others in their preparation, training and competition? I do not believe that any one is actually in that position on a full time basis. Involvement in coaching and training, full or part time, is unlikely to confer an unfair advantage — the reverse if anything.

However the rules to appear to preclude a "professional coach" from participating. No where is this term defined by IOC, ICF or BCU. We have therefore to speculate on interpretations in the absence of specific case law (to my knowledge). In my opinion a professional coach is one who is employed (or self-employed) wholly and exclusively on competition coaching at a high level. Administration of coaching schemes, training at lower levels and part time coaching would not be within that definition.

The IOC rule is interesting; it disqualifies those who have "been **registered** as professional athletes or professional coaches in any sport" (Guideline B1 to Rule 26) — my emphasis. The BCU rule specifically permits being ". . . a physical education or sports teacher or a member of the Coaching Scheme who gives elementary instruction" — elementary is not defined.

The BCU Amateur Rule booklet is available from BCU. Thank you for raising the issue which points out the need for clear interpretation of some phrases. We are confident that we are keeping within the rules and that no one who is currently involved in competition coaching should fear any challenge to their amateur status.

Yours sincerely
R. H. Fox
Vice Chairman
BCU Slalom Committee

Splendid Isolation

The inter clubs Slalom weekend was also the inter club sprint — did you notice those funny shaped boats on the flat? — WATCH THIS MAGAZINE FOR A CHANCE to take the Flat Water Racers on — and show them who is the best canoe club.

9 Lower Adelaide Street,
Femilong,
Northampton NN2 6BB

Dear Sir,

With Reference to a letter in "Alan's Answers" in the August Edition from Simon of Northampton.

May I point out that this person has not done his homework very well. If he was that concerned to help his son he would he would have got in contact with his local canoe club. He would have found that Northampton Canoe Club has a very keen and active Slalom group amongst its membership who are trained and coached by an ex-member of the British Team. Coaching sessions consist of flat water gates every Tuesday night and moving water on Thursday nights at Holme Pierrepont. At present most of the paddlers are in Div. 3 to Novice but that is rapidly changing as they gain promotion.

Perhaps this information will be of use to Simon D. and any other aspiring slalomist in the area!

Yours sincerely,

Andy Rance,
Northampton CC Slalom Coach

Britain's friendliest mail order company

We can supply you
with the right
canoeing product
at the right price

SLALOM

Look out for our trade
stand at events



12 Holmscroft rd Luton LU3 2TJ

Tel(0582) 571841

Results

WASHBURN DIV 1 July 2/3 1988

The attendance at this slalom was excellent and the weather though variable made the event enjoyable. In fact on the first day inspite of occasional threats from the sky of a storm none appeared until just before we finished the judges event at the end of the afternoon when the sky opened up and all gear including the team bibs received an unscheduled laundering.

Sunday saw clear skies but unfortunately this seemed to call out all the various insects who make their traditional appearance at Washburn, one feels that when trade stands are eventually permitted at the site a fortune will be made by who ever gets the concession to supply insect repellent.

Apart from the usual carparking hassle which is really a pity and often seems to occur at this slalom everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time.

If only paddlers would realise that without the voluntary efforts of many non paddlers slaloming at all levels could not occur.

Paddlers found the course even though it was the typical Washburn course, a little different from that they encountered a month ago, gates

were frequently in the shallower water near the rocks. This favoured those with good technical skills and prevented very fast runs by the sprinters. The course therefore tended to separate the field with 5 point penalties.

Some paddlers welcomed the attempt to produce a variation on the old Washburn formula but others seemed unhappy with the course.

Holme Pierrepont Novice 6th/7th August, 1988

Course setting for a novice event on the main course here is a ticky compromise between maintaining enough depth of water and frightening the new-comers away! At this event a flow of 11.4 cumec was set and most gates were more than 5 foot wide.

The Timing Team was testing for the following weekends Europa Cup and so there was full photo-electric/computerised start and finish. Judges were plied with drinks and filled rolls and parols protected them from the hot sun (90°+).

Novices seem to be in short supply this year, only 38 K1M in this event, more than half entering on the weekend. However, the small

entry ensured everyone had the opportunity to practice for hours and many youngsters thoroughly enjoyed over 6 hours of free water time.

Sadly the ladies event was inquorate and young Jo Dutton was unfortunate to miss promotion in the Mens event due to two touches. The only paddler with two clear runs was 12 year old Nick Hilton was also just missed promotion but is now throughout bitten by the sport!

K1M (Promoted)

1. M. Ormand	J16	Milton Keynes	138
2. J. Folland	J16	Kesteven	142
3. A. Padgett	J16	Notts KC	148
4. G. Bartlett	J18	Shepperton	149
5. S. Cooper		H. P. Waterman	152
6. A. Moore	J14	Charnwood CC	155
7. D. Morris	J14	Tees KC	159
8. S. Warren	J18	Banbury	161

K1L

1. J. Dutton	J16	Olney	168
--------------	-----	-------	-----

C1

1. M. Ball	J18	Forward Paddlers	153
2. M. Jessom	J16	Olney	157

C2

1. Mantle/Leeson		Three Rivers	152
2. Macrae/Williamson		Olney	216

Officials

1. P. Huntsman		Tees KC	106
2. Pete Bell		Arrowcraft	111
3. P. Macdeerviel		Proteus	112



M. BRISSAUD, FRANCE. Photo: P. Astles

PERFORMANCE



OUR COMMITMENT TO
DEVELOPMENT, ENSURES
THAT YOUR PERFORMANCE
IS IMPROVED
DRAMATICALLY

FREEBLADES

51 KING EDWARD RD.
NORTHAMPTON
TELEPHONE 0604 38673

Congratulations
Melvyn Jones
on your performance
in the pre-world
champs