

VOL 6 NUMBER 2

MAY 1990

CANOE

Slalom

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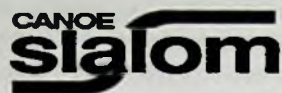
MAGAZINE



Inside This Issue: • Elle 1990 • Coaching Conference •
• GB Team Selection • Fox Saves the Race • Cranks •



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1 Barnacre View, High Street, Garstang, Preston
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 TYPESETTING: Slalom Magazine Inc (Hastings)

The official magazine of the B.C.U Slalom Executive,
 Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham,
 NG12 2LU

Disclaimer: 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 5 issues
 post paid from Slalom Magazine :-
 Sue Wharton, 1 Barnacre View, High Street,
 Garstang, Preston.

Special Rates for overseas readers.

ADVERTISING

Rates for the next issue are available from Joe
 Mulholland Tele: 0332 558 263.

COPY

Please send any contributions to the Editor at Slalom
 Magazine, 23 Manor Road, Hastings, East Sussex,
 TN34 3LL Fax Number: 0424-722387

*Copy date for the next issue is :- June 10th 1990
 But please send earlier if possible!*

COVER PHOTO: Emma Bateman, 10
by Andy Neave

INSIDE COVER: Ian Raspin, Selection Winner
by Joe Mulholland

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EDITORIAL

Organisers, Wake Up!

The new season is well under way and there is definitely a greater degree of professionalism in many events but there seems to be a gaping hole to be filled. Socializing and off the water entertainment on site is sadly lacking. We, as a Nation, are generally too conservative for the cheer-leaders and razzmatazz of American events, or perhaps even the beer tents of the Germans but surely we can manage a small marquee and a barbecue or rent a room at a local pub for a video show. Possibly if asked ahead of time the local publican would provide a budget meal?

Paddlers leave the sites in droves in the evening in search of food and entertainment, spending their pennies elsewhere. Events that regularly provide such functions, such as Bala Mill, seem to find good support from the families attending.

Although there has been an increase in publicity from above this year, after several years of no action, at local levels there is still a lack of awareness, or time, to attend to the needs of our dwindling supply of paddlers and supporters, or to inform local radio and television in a sufficiently professional manner to get the attention that the sport so desperately needs.

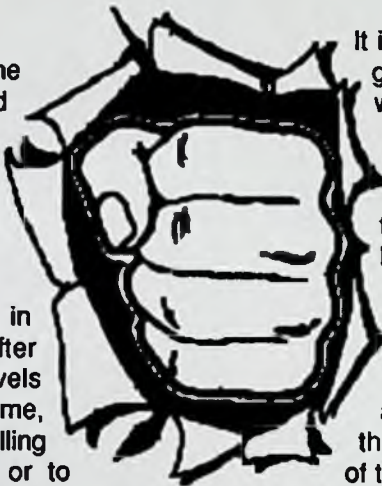
Of course those of you who are already doing your bit will let us know, won't you?

Foreign Paddlers

Are we to be over-run by foreign paddlers? Are all our selection places to go to the French, German and Cheko paddlers? You'd have thought so a couple of weeks ago when a European paddler applied to be ranked in this country and was given a bib number. Certain individuals (with vested interests) who should have known better raised a heck of a stink without any thought of what was involved. The paddler concerned, who is highly ranked in the world, would have had to have had the permission of their National Canoeing Authority to paddle for Britain, which would undoubtedly have meant that any sponsorship that they may have would be forfeited. In fact it appears that the individual concerned

wished to regularise competing in this country and pay entries like anyone else, rather than paddle free as a guest. Hardly surprisingly they have now withdrawn the request and will not have a bib number assigned.

All this was very unfortunate but it does raise some interesting points. Should top canoeists be allowed to join the BCU and apply for ranking status - and thus prizes - in what is essentially a National, not International competition, as they now can. As far as we can ascertain, in Europe, we would have to be a resident for a number of years before being allowed to do so.



It is also interesting that they apparently got their membership in two weeks when we were waiting for up to 14. There was undoubtedly a certain amount of high level dealing done on both sides but as far as we can see the procedures were followed to the letter, although perhaps not to the spirit, of the rules.

A further interesting point that did come out was that any one marrying an English person would qualify for the Olympics, irrespective of their length of time here, under Olympic Rules.

We at Slalom Magazine feel that British competitions should remain just that, British. However, that must not preclude competitors from other countries joining in at events - after all, what have we got to be afraid of except the truth?

Freedom of the Press

Curious about that symbol in the centre of the page? It is just to indicate that as Editor I believe in responsible reporting, not censorship, and while ever I am Editor the readers may rest assured that we will try to represent what you, the paddlers, want to know and not what others may think you should be told.

Mind you, if you do feel that the magazine **DOESN'T** represent what you want then let US know, after all it is your magazine, not ours.

It is quite co-incidental that we have just got a scanner and some 'clip art' that we were just dying to find an excuse to use.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Near Fatality on Tryweryn

The Tryweryn came close to claiming its first victim last month when a middle-aged man in a coat and wellies jumped in to rescue people spilled from a raft which flipped under Mrs. Davis's bridge. All the people in the raft were suitably equipped for such a mishap and in danger of no more than a good soaking and a minor bump or two, however this situation was not appreciated by the man in question.

Andy Stuart, who was helping people to the bank, was alerted to the man's predicament by a shout from downstream and went to see what the problem was. Seeing the man in the water he managed to get him across his boat but was unable to get him to the side. He kept him there until scaffold bridge were he slipped off and disappeared under water for 50 metres or more. He surfaced well on the way to Chapel and just as Andy got hold of him again a following raft smashed his canoe against the rock above the fall, resulting in a 9 inch split and causing him to lose his paddles and to go backwards over Chapel still holding on to his half drowned victim.

In the eddy below the fall the raft retrieved the man who had suffered considerable bruising and water ingestion and Andy retrieved his paddles. The Centre paid for the repair to the canoe and hopefully the man was appreciative of his rescue. Certainly the moral of the tale is quite clear and despite all the care taken by the Centre over people on the water there is little they can do about Kamikazi spectators.

Renting Change

The hire of a complete set of equipment to run a slalom which was available from the Herts Association of Canoe Clubs is still available but from a different contact. The person to telephone is now:-

Chris Carter on Watford 720836

England Team Trips 1991

It is hoped that the England Team will be able to arrange two tours in 1991. One for the Senior team and one for the Junior. In addition a short Junior Continental Tour is on the cards for this summer (1990).

Norway International

Div 1 or Prem and looking for somewhere different for your summer holiday? Well, how about the Sjoa International on the 10th - 12th August 1990 in Norway? This is the same site that is being used for the Junior Worlds in 1992.

Mind you the cost of living there is reputedly very high (so are protest fees at the event - US\$ 25!) and don't forget that entries must be made through Sue Wharton 8 weeks in advance, full details p 25 of the Slalom Yearbook.

Tryweryn Bibs

George Davis advises us that season bib extensions have been made to compensate for the lack of water last year. Unfortunately we apparently cannot claim any credit for this as it was already in hand when we went to press.

BCU Bibs Blunder

The BCU has been causing a real headache to bib issuers as they have been taking up to 14 weeks to process renewals to membership.

Apparently they are catching up now but all the excuses that we have heard for years about computer problems are hardly justified, after all it is only a medium sized data base that they are trying to run, not the weather forecasts - mind you come to think about it.....

Waterproof Cards Washout

Apparently we were wrong about having to show BCU cards at all events. This is something that the BCU itself has dreamt up and has not been ratified by any Slalom Executive committee.

This whole scheme was part of the plan to issue waterproof cards that you can wash with your Hellies but they can't figure out how to get your photo and signature under the plastic. Of course if they sent you the card with your renewal, you signed and fixed the photo and returned it with your fee; then they could send it back sealed and stamped. No, on second thoughts, lets just try and get the current ones back in under a month.

.....current affairs

Point System for Teams

The point system for Premier and Div 1 Teams was inadvertently omitted from the Yearbook. Points are awarded as follows:

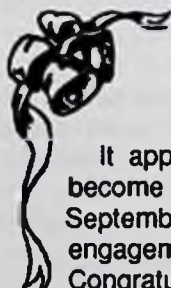
K1M teams	10	15
K1 L Teams	5	5
Canadian Teams	5	5

In all cases descending to 1 point.

The best 4 results (Premier) and the best 5 results (Division 1) will count for end of season ranking. Teams (unaltered) must have completed in at least 3 races in order to qualify for final ranking.

Incomplete Teams

Organisers are recommended to hold incomplete teams until the end of their class and make up complete teams as far as possible with the objective that there should be no more than one incomplete team taking part in each class.



Mrs Richard Fox

It appears that Myriam Jerusalami will become Mrs Myriam Fox in Marseilles in September. We understand that the engagement has already taken place. Congratulations to what will then be Mr. and Mrs. World Champion!

Thankyou!

A new trophy was presented at Crystal Palace for the highest placed Junior C1 competitor and we are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs Warden for their generous gift of such a magnificent trophy in memory of their son, Simon. Toby Morgan was this year's winner of the Trophy.

Team Timing

Timing of team gates is from the first body to

cross the gate line until the third and final competitor has done so. This is irrespective of any penalties that may have been incurred, including going through the gate upside down.

Youngest Div 2?

In answer to your question, Chris Reynolds, at 12 you are the youngest paddler in Div 2 at the moment. Chris was born on 1/5/77 and is a member of Shepperton and BADCC. Any other claims for the position let us know.

Too Late!

It is pointless complaining after an event to get a decision by the Jury or Organiser reversed, this can ONLY be done at an event. This is not to say that note won't be taken of your comments for the future, but the Jury's decision is final.

More Novices

Although some other divisions seem to be suffering the good news is that there is an increase in Div 4 and Novice entries.

WCA Takeover Tryweryn

The BCU has relinquished its share of the Tryweryn lease and the new WCA lease has been signed.



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FORTH -COMING ATTRACTIONS!

DOBBS WEIR 4/N SLALOM 2/3 JUNE 1990

This is a friendly event situated in the Lee Valley Regional Park.

This year a "Paddles Up" fun event and Bar-B-Que is being held on the Saturday evening and, as last year, barbequed food will be available all weekend.

Further attractions include: on-site camping, adjacent caravan park, free car parking, nearby shops and pub, easy access from the M25 and M11. and plenty of prizes!

Don't Miss It!

Advertise your Slalom here and give newcomers to the sport some idea of what you have to offer, attract judges with prize information etc..

Tell everyone about the great food served from 7am 'til 8pm, the free video show, the B-B-Q, the showers, the friendly help from control. Don't let your talents and efforts go to waste!

We can increase your entries just by putting your event on the map. No charge, first come first served!

Entries subject to room and may be edited to fit



Mini Slalom Series

26th April	24th May
28th June	26th July
30th August	20th September

All on a Thursday at 7.00 pm, (floodlit)

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National U14 and U16 Championships

**Cardington,
Monday 28th May 1990**

For the first time, a review of an event BEFORE it takes place, could this set a trend? Read on and find out more about the new look championships.....

After four years at Red Locks, Newbury, deep in the heart of southern England (hearts of oak etc.) the National Under 14 Championships has changed venue and changed format. It's new home is Cardington Artificial Slalom Course (CASC) near Bedford and its new format includes the first Under 16 Championships.

CASC is situated in lush green parkland to the east of Bedford and has loads of camping space and a loo that sings to you for 2p. (There is one a mile or so up the road that sings to you for 10p, but the tune isn't any better). There is very easy access from the M1 and A1 - hopefully it's new home further North will attract many more competitors from all over the UK who previously felt that it was too far to travel.

As at Newbury, the championships follow a Div4/Novice at the weekend, this event is made possible by the considerable improvements in the design and safety of the course. Last year 4 ranking events (Div 3s and 2s) and the Inter Club Champs were held there with no problems at all. The old baffle boards have been replaced with fibreglass rocks and now it's so safe we take our novices there at weekends to have their first taste of moving water. Youngest taken down so far by us was 10 years old, though I hear that even younger paddlers have had the benefit of it and even some parents have ventured on! I even saw a section judge paddle there last summer.

The standard of competition promises to be very good. The under 14 competitions look to be wide open for anyone to have a crack at and stand a chance of a good result and the Under 16 races should be hard fought events with at least 2 girls and 2 lads from the GB Under 18 squad eligible to take part, not to mention 4 U16 Premier men and 3 U16 Canadians. However, you don't need to be an expert, indeed, if you are good enough for the Div4/Novice on Saturday and Sunday, you are good enough for the Champs on Monday.

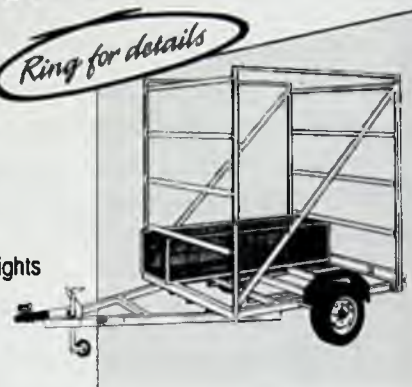
Prizes are on the table not only for the winners in each group but also first U12 and probably the

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... AND GO!

first Under 11, depending on entries, for 1st in each division (again depending on entries) AND a place in the British Junior Championships at Llangollen for the Under 14 and Under 16 Championship winners in each class (see page 72 of the Year Book for full details). So there's lots to go for!

Page 113 in the yearbook has all the entry details, so come along and race with the young stars of today and tomorrow at one of our sport's most pleasant sites. This event is fast becoming the show-case of our sport's future - bring Mums and Dads, aunts and uncles, grandparents, friends and club members to see you race and have a great day out. See you there!

Ray Croft

MOM

TRAINING ABROAD - Elle, 1990 - Mike Crosbee



Richard Comer, British Intermediate Team, 9th at Elle

Photo: GDN

Immediately after returning from the Intermediate Team trip to the Prague international in August, 1989 I began to consider Winter Training for the Olympic Possibles Squad for 1989/90.

Team Management agreed to my suggestion to take the Squad to Elle for the 1990 International there and on meeting Jean Yve Prigent at the 1989 Llangollen International put the organisation into operation. It was hoped that we would have cheap ferry crossings for the trip, but this was not to be, which meant that the trip had to be self-financing, even for the Manager, Video Operator and the Coaches as well as the paddlers. The trip eventually cost just over £100 per person for Mini-bus hire, fuel, ferry fees, accommodation and food.

We left Portsmouth on the 23.30 Brittany Ferry to Caen on Thursday 22nd February, 1990 and after an uneventful journey arrived at Elle on the Friday afternoon. On arrival we were informed that we would only be able to compete in the International on the Saturday and there would only be an individual event, no team event. Sunday's competition was for the French only, with a very large start list.

On arrival it was shirt sleeve weather which turned cloudy, but remained mild, on Saturday. The water was a good level, the course rather tricky and there was a strong Czechoslovakian and French contingent.

Although we won no medals the event was very useful as a pre-season event, giving good start line experience against some strong opposition. Our results were as follows:-

RESULTS

LK1

1. Stepanka Hilgertova	Czech	185.79
2. Zolenka Grosmanova	Czech	189.30
3. Anne Boixel	France	194.24

11th Claire Daniels	GBR	221.5
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MK1

1. Vincent Fondeviolle	France	161.84
2. Lubos Higert	Czech	163.93
3. Jean-Michel Regnier	France	164.10

9th Andrew Fuller	GBR	172.21
11th Kevin Campbell	GBR	174.38

19th	Shaun Pearce	GBR	182.97
		C1	
1.	Thierry Humeau	France	181.83
2.	Carlo Faloci	France	182.18
3.	Hervé Delamare	France	183.33
6th	Martin Hedges	GBR	189.68
9th	Richard Corner	GBR	194.63
10th	John Willacy	GBR	200.87
22nd	Richard Domomey	GBR	301.36
		C2	
1.	Saidi/Delrey	France	187.84
2.	Simek/Rohan	Czecho	188.13
7th	Clough/Clough	GBR	206.58
11th	Osborne/Shreeve	GBR	237.27
12th	Mitchell/Cooper	GBR	242.42

Jimmy Jayes gave valuable advice to the Kayaks as paddler/coach, and Martin Hedges did the same for the Canadians.

After the event on Saturday, while the French were changing the the course for their Sunday event, we took the squad to L'Orient on the coast where a number of the paddlers enjoyed

themselves surfing on the 5m breakers.

Before leaving for home on the Sunday the French gave us the opportunity to paddle the course for their closed event, before the start of it and presented us with a box of goodies for our return trip.

The return ferry crossing can only be described as eventful as the ferry was 1 hour late leaving, due its late arrival in Caen. On boarding we were informed that due to adverse weather conditions in the channel the company disclaimed any liability for passengers swept over board from the decks and that we would be arriving in Portsmouth at 2.30pm. On leaving the harbor it did not take long for a number of the Squad including the Manager, to become seasick. At about 2.15 when everyone was thankfully looking forward to docking shortly, we were informed that we were 2 hours behind schedule!

Overall I consider that the trip, although tiring, was successful in its intended purpose and a number of the paddlers have asked if I was going to run it next year. If we do we will consider going earlier so that we could train on the site and returning immediately after the event.

Mike Crosbee, Team Manager



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COPY for the Magazine should arrive as early as possible, marked **URGENT** on the copy if publication has a time limit. It is not always possible to publish everything we receive but we try to make use of as much as we can.

PHOTOGRAPHS should be 5x7 or (preferably), 8x10 black and white or colour; gloss finish is best **LABELLED IN FULL ON THE BACK, PLEASE.** If a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed unsuitable photos (we receive very few of these) will be returned immediately. Others will be kept for up to 8 months. We cannot handle transparencies, I'm afraid.

ARTICLES and ideas for articles are always welcome, it is not necessary to produce a finished product. *Thanks for it all!*

On the Move? - 1

New Job? New House? New Town?

Having sorted out the milkman, papers, told the Bank etc. please, PLEASE don't forget to tell your Divisional Ranking Officer as well.

On the Move - 2

Sue Wharton is also on the move to a new address. You will be given the new number when you phone and mail will be forwarded. However, there may well be a delay in your mail being received and processed, so please be patient!



Burt/Elsworth - Junior C2

Going to Splttal, Austria, U 17 Team

Photo: Joe Mulholland

BRITISH TEAMS SELECTION

No Slip-up for Raspin

Following the months of intense winter training and sharpening up at the early season competitions selection races suddenly arrived with their own brand of nerve tingling excitement. Dreams and aspirations of summer events in far-off places came and went as the second of the two races reached its climax at the Tryweryn. This years results proved just as unpredictable as any other year, especially among the junior paddlers where several hot favourites blew out at one or the other event.



Shaun Pearce -

- Photo: J Mulholland

Grandtully

For most people the highlight of the Grandtully event was the return to action in Britain of World Champion Richard Fox. Leading by 3 seconds after first runs, he amazed everyone by pulling out another 5 seconds on his second run and, despite a penalty, won easily from Jones, Raspin and Crosbee.

The Ladies competition this season has seen Lynn Simpson take pole position, beating Karen

Davies and Maria Francis to the top spot - this race was to confirm her current good form.

The battle for places among the Junior paddlers was always going to be very tight, Paul Ratcliffe, the outstanding junior so far this season finished outside the top 3 juniors and possible trip to the Junior Worlds seemed to be slipping away. Peter Francis was taking no chances, claiming the top junior place.

Not the case with the Canadian classes however, which were going to form with the top paddlers holding their places.

But would it stay this way.....?

Tryweryn

The Tryweryn race was as tense as any Wembley Cup Final, so much to gain... and so much to lose.

Ian Raspin, who narrowly missed out on a Senior Team place last year stormed home to win with a brilliant clear run, closely followed by Russ Smith and David Crossbee. Melvyn Jones could only manage 5th place - was this Dave Crossbee's big chance?

Lynn Simpson maintained her top form with Maria Francis taking second and Karen Davies 3rd. Maria's run was all the more creditable as she had to use her spare boat when her race boat was damaged on her practice run. The Graveyard was living up to its name.

The Junior Team competition proved to be the making of Paul Ratcliffe, who flew down the course with a clear run to claim his Junior worlds place, but who still couldn't stop Peter Francis's winning ways.

A big surprise in the Under 17 selection was Chris Wetzig (U16 and Div 1) who put together a steady series of clear runs over the two races and had paddled himself into a team place for Spittal. Nice one, Chris!

The Selection Committee certainly had plenty to think about and no doubt with so much at stake there would be some disappointments. After many hours of deliberation, the full list of selected paddlers is as follows:

Europa Cup and World Cup Teams

Europa Cup

K1 Men

I. Raspin
M. Jones
D. Crosbee

Reserves K1M - R. Smith S. Pearce

C1

G. Marriott
M. Hedges
M. Delaney

Reserve

B. Horsman

K1L

L. Simpson
K. Davis
M. Francis

R. Smith S. Pearce

C2

Meikle/Brown
Richardson/Thompson
Arrowsmith/Brain

Reserves

Clough/Clough

Junior World Championships (Grison)

K1 Men

P. Francis
P. Buckley
P. Rarcliffe

Reserve

P. McDermid

C1

J. Scott

K1 Ladies

C. Daniels
R. Doherty
E. Player

Reserve

S. Masters

N. Gray

H. Lloyd

Pre-World Championships - all above paddlers are eligible.

World Cup Team as above including Richard Fox in Mens K1.

European Jnr C - U17 (Spittal Austria)

K1 M

J. Croft

L. Hoare

S. Moffitt

C. Wetzig

P. Ebrey

G. Mulholland

C2

Burt/Elsworth

K1 Ladies

S. Masters

T. Warman

Intermediate Team

K1 Men

K. Cambell

A. Raspin

A. Fuller

C1

T. Morgan

R. Comer

R. Moss

R. Domoney

R. Wright

M. Stevens

C2

Rouch/Ambridge

Osbourne/Shreeve

Green/Green

K1 Ladies

Joan Jayes

Rachel Fox

Under 16 Training Camp

All registered paddlers not selected for any other team who are eligible and who took part in the nominated Division 1 events will be invited to a training day to be held at Llangollen on 13th May, 1990

Joe Mulholland



Arrowsmith/Brain - Going to the Pre-Worlds

Graveyard Selection

Photo: Joe Mulholland

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Please contact Melvyn Jones

Information on all other requirements, Personal and Contract, including Ace, Prijon, Pyranha, Perception, MI, Coleman, Arrowcraft (new Aquabat) and accessories from Chang, Tornado, Helly-Hansen, Javlin, Lendal, Schlegal, Kober, New Wave etc.

Please contact Tim Houghton

Telephone: 0902 634567

**West Midlands Canoe Centre,
112 Newhall Street, Willenhall, West Midlands WV13 1LQ.**



CRANKS - Godsend or Gimmick?

The quite recent appearance of cranked paddles has opened up a lot of interest in what initially seemed strange and now, to some, the norm. Certainly Richard Fox's and Melvyn Jones' use of them lends credibility to the idea; in fact Melvyn was a great help in preparing this article and also loaned a set of his blades for use, which gained quite a few converts.

Where did the idea come from? Surprisingly perhaps not a canoeist but an engineer and part time inventor, Bruce Andrews, who first approached Chris Hawksworth of Wildwater several years ago.

His first design was considered unworkable and there the matter rested for a couple of years while Bruce further developed his basic Theories on Applied Mechanical Physiology.; he then came back to Chris with his modified design. Still keeping an open mind, Chris said that Richard Fox would spare him 5 minutes to try them and from then on there was no turning back. The actual theory behind them is too complicated to

be discussed here (we don't understand it either!) but it involves axially driven four dimensional solid geometry, designed to work as we do rather than in opposition.

One of the major disadvantages of the normal straight shaft is that it has no solid abutment for applying the power as does the cranked shaft; ie. the angle of the shaft puts the wrist in a stronger pulling position and the power is also earlier in the stroke - in fact almost immediately. On a conventional shaft the wrist comes into a strong position about 8-12 inches into the stroke. Actually there are four different versions of the crank shaft (all with 'handles' at 11° and 22° offset), balanced and reactionary ("unbalanced"), left and right in each, all of which are covered by extensive British and European patents. However, at the moment only the reactionary paddles are on the market. Bruce Andrews considers that there may well be further changes in time, perhaps with the amount of feather on the blades decreasing further or even disappearing all together.



Cranks - Coming naturally to hand

Photo: GDN

Aside from the power advantage there is also a tendency for wrist problems to be relieved or prevented by the angles on the shaft. There have also been reports of the grip causing a slower build up of lactic acid in the forearms, enabling training sessions to be up to 15% longer. Confirmation of this will have to await physiological analysis. Because of the increased power the length of the paddle has been decreased, with the recommended length 1-2 cm shorter than your normal paddle. The use of grips is not recommended as the control of the paddle is bilateral but some prefer to try them that way first whereas a few others use a double grip.

Paddling with cranks is undoubtedly different, how different depends on who you talk to - one paddler in Prem claims that 10 minutes was enough - others have found more difficulty. However, few have not found them to be better on moving water and especially in stopper moves; some have found more difficulty adjusting to flat water paddling. Converts to the new shaft have found that they have to get two sets as they no longer feel comfortable with a straight shaft and so carrying their own spare is a must.

Paddling technique is definitely different and Melvyn has found that there is a tendency for other muscle groups such as lats (back), shoulder and triceps muscles to be used more; this he has found to be a natural progression. Bruce feels that the twist to the shaft should come from each hand alternately, with the grip varying between grasp (holding tightly) and clasp (holding loosely).

So are there any disadvantages to cranks and who should use them? With the cost of paddles already high cranks add another £20 or so to basic cost - £100+ seems to be the going price of reasonable blades - and cheap ends do not respond well to the force exerted by cranks. Bruce feels that they should be used from Novice up and has found that with work with the blind the blades have fallen into place naturally. Due to the single spacing between the 'handles' that is currently available a small youngster would not find them suitable, but there does not yet seem to be any serious disadvantages in using them although undoubtedly information is still coming in as they become used more extensively.

At the moment about half the British Team are using them and a smattering throughout all the

divisions. Really it is a matter of trying them and seeing for yourself; there are noticeable differences - which may not at first feel comfortable to the very experienced - but try them on moving water before rejecting them, that's where they really come into their own.

□□□□

Coaching Corner

Due to lack of space it has been necessary to hold this section over until next issue, which will feature a special double spread.

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Notes to Event Organisers

Your attention is drawn to rule 50 on page 62 of the yearbook.

In order to produce a reasonably balanced programme of events for next season it is important that as much information is available as early as possible, especially provisional date, status and organising club. **DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL OCTOBER OR EVEN NOVEMBER - Please think about it now.** Help us to help you and your event.

Organisers are also reminded that the holding of additional events, e.g. Slalom Sprints, Grand Prix, etc. is only possible if the event has been approved at the AGM when the full calendar is approved. All such events must be published in the Yearbook under rule 50.3 and please note the ultimate penalty. So far Jury Chairmen have been lenient, but this will not always be the case!

All individual ranking classes must be run on the Sunday of an event, except in the case of Premier events, or where an alternative has been published in the yearbook - e.g. "Canadian classes will be run on Saturday".

The Detail of the new point system for Divisions 1 to 4 incorporates the proviso that where an exact tie occurs on best runs then the points awarded for such ties paddlers will be the same as for the highest placed paddler. Positions are still determined by reference to the "other run". See below for a class with 10 starters. Note that a paddler that starts, but does not finish, counts for calculations but receives no points.

For example, a class with 10 starters:-

Position	Run 1	Run 2	Best	Pts
1.	187	185	185	1000
2.	194	186	186	900
3.	186	201	186	900
4.	194	192	192	700
5.	203	194	194	600
6.	213	206	206	500
7.	207	208	207	400
8.	219	218	218	300
9.	222	228	222	200
10.	Capsize	Scratch		0

Mike Carter, Secretary
Competition Review Committee

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JUNIOR JOURNALISM

Slalom Kayak

Suddenly its serious, all the practice hours done,

When the starter calls my number, the countdown has begun.

Did I check the spraydeck; memorize the course?

Is the paddle right way round, ready for the force

Of sprinting off the start line, going for gate one.

Upstream turn, keep it clean and push for the fastest run.

Rapid water, weirs and rocks, try to give me fright.

So don't touch poles, don't miss gates and stay, oh stay, upright!

Careful of the stopper as I shoot across the wier,

There's no way back, so no point in showing fear.

The kayak struggles wildly as the water foams the deck.

Its like an icy shower as it tumbles down my neck.

Confusion reigns; I've overshot and have to double back

Seconds lost and seconds count if I'm to get a crack

At coming near the leader's time; I know she's very fast.

So its up to me to keep it clear and try 'till very last!

Twenty gates are nearly done

- its been a thrilling fight

I've only clipped a single one -

hope the judge was out of sight!

Sprint, sprint to the finish line

with aching arms and thighs

I gasp for breath, the race is mine

And yes - I've won first prize!

Elizabeth Finch, age 13

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.....Junior Journalism

Who's Afraid of Cardington?

I first went down Cardington as a Novice when I was only 11 years old. This was for a fun day on the Slalom course with our club, Stevenage CC. I have not got my own slalom boat, but Ray (our club coach) said that I could borrow a club boat. We got to Cardington fairly early to help with moving things up to the slalom course. The water was only about 3 inches deep and the men were starting to put the fibreglass rocks into place, so when the sluice gate opened the rocks would be covered in water and make the stoppers.

The gate was opened and I was now getting a bit frightened as the water was looking very rough. Ray said I would be alright and he would go in the water if I was not sure. I still did not want to go so the next was for me to just go in the water without the canoe.

I was quite surprised as I could stand in the water without any troubles. Ray said the water was not as bad as it looked. I sat there for a little while as I was still not sure. Then came the time for me to get in the canoe. Ray stood in the water and I only went when I was sure he could help me. I did this for quite a long time. It was not that bad, I was getting a little braver and started to take the canoe further from Ray. He had to go and help someone else so I decided

that maybe I should have some lunch.

I was just getting out when my Dad arrived to see what I was doing, so I got back in but still not at the top as that still frightened me. He said when was I going from top to bottom? I said after dinner but I was hoping I could get out of it somehow. I had my dinner by the course and watched everyone else going down and no one else seemed to capsize. This is when I decided to get in at the top and paddle down to the bottom. As I started off there was a fast flow of water with a stopper and I just had to go when I got on the water. This bit was quite good and the course was flowing fast but you could control the canoe; what ever had worried me in the morning had now gone.

The end of the day was now coming and I decided that I should put the canoe away. I then had an idea. I jumped in at the start and went down the course with out a canoe. I wish now that I had not taken so long to get going as I would have had more time to enjoy myself. At first I was afraid of being capsized by the bigger paddlers but they had more sense.

I think that it would be nice to have a whole day on the course just for young people. I can't wait to go back again.

James Perrier, Aged 12
Stevenage Canoe Club



This is a new section where our younger readers can write articles or ask technical, or other, questions. Don't worry if you can't spell, neither can we, but fortunately the computer corrects most of it for us!

The best articles sent every issue will be published here. Congratulations to the two who are published this issue, an excellent standard has been set. - ED

Andy Davies, Viking CC "The New-Look Cardington" Photo: Clive Mason

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

South West Selection Event

The selection will be held in conjunction with the

Holme Pierrepont Div 1 on May 18/19 1990

Any paddlers other than Div1 wishing to be considered for selection will enter the officials event and judge.

Please send entry cards well in advance to the organiser of the event.

Any more information can be obtained by contacting me by letter or telephone.

Danny Danieles

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Elizabeth Vowles, Div. 1

Southern Junior Winter Training HPP

Photo: Robin Vowles

.....regional roundup

Scottish Youth Squad

The story goes on.....

Following the winter coaching programme outlined in the last issue, the question of turning coaching into competition results has been put to the test and came through with terrific results.

John Brown and his coaching staff could not have wished for a better start to the season than that given them by their junior paddlers.

At the first Div 4/N competition at Middleton, Scottish Juniors took 1st,3rd,4th and 6th places in the Div 4 event, Gareth Farley winning and his brother Jeremy winning the U14 prize.

Next time out Colin Scotland came 2nd in Div 4 with Gordon Duff missing promotion by one place each time.

Cambell Walsh came 4th at Comrie Novice, gaining promotion and the U14 prize, with Gordon Duff promoted with 2nd place at Richmond Div 4 /Novice. Meanwhile Gareth and Colin got 7th and 9th in their first Div 3 at Fairlee

The girls too were giving it a go as well with Diane Mitchell and Laura Smiley coming 2nd and 3rd respectively at Fairlee Division 2 event.

As if this wasn't enough, the same weekend Graham Mulholland made the GB U17 team and Mark Galbraith stormed home to first place at the Div 1., winning by four seconds.

Success at all levels

"Its very pleasing to see the younger paddlers doing so well, the cold days at Grandtully proved worthwhile" said John Brown,"and the parental support has been terrific."

The Scots are not just sitting back and letting things happen, John Brown is MAKING it happen and with some pride too..... well done.

Joe Mulholland

England Canoe Slalom Team

The selection for the England Canoe Slalom Team for the whole of 1990 took place at the Grandtully Selection event on April 14/15 1990.

The 1990 Team will be:

Team Captain - Ian Raspin

K1 Men	L1Ladies	C1
Ian Raspin	Lynn Simpson	Bill Horsman
Dave Crosbee	Karen Davies	Chris Wilson
Shaun Pearce	Claire Daniels	Rob Moss
Kevin Cambell	Lindy Spiller	Andy Halliday
Andrew Fuller	A. Runnegar	Pete Bell
Rob Wright	Lara Tipper	R. Domoney

C2

Arrowsmith/Brain
Clough/Clough
Green/Green

K1M Jnr	K1L Jnr	C1 Jnr
Leo Hoare	R. Doherty	Joel Scott
P. MacDermid	Emma Player	Nathan Gray
P. Ratcliffe	Helen Barnes	
- -	- -	
James Croft	Sally Masters	
Kev Kerswell	Claire Fox	
Ben Gray	Anne Stobbart	

The selection of the above paddlers to compete for **ENGLAND 1990** together with the enlargement of the Junior Teams from 3 to 6 is subject to the ratification of the English Regions Management Committee. At the present time it is hoped that the Juniors may get the opportunity during 1990 to take part in a short continental tour.

The team chosen in April will compete for England in the Home Internationals at Holme Pierrepont in July and at Llangollen in October.

Team Manager: Ian Janes

Assistant Manager: Bill Simpson

Administrator: Mrs. Annette Daniels

Publicity: Richard Kerswell

Coaching Advisor: Liz Sharman MBE

In 1991 it is hoped to run the English Slalom Championships again, last run in 1983 or 1984. If you have any trophies, or know of anyone who has, from the last time that the event ran please contact the Team Manager as soon as possible.



Elnor Hardman Div 3

Southern Junior Winter Training

Photo: Robin Vowles



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National Coaching Conference 1990

Or How Can People Compete If They Don't Know How Their Bodies Work?

If you weren't at this year's National Coaching Conference you missed a fascinating, informative and very cheap weekend. For a cost of £25 for the conference you got the time of 9 very well qualified and senior experts in their fields; just under £3 each for top quality advice and guidance - must be the best offer the BCU has put to its members in years (well at least since last year's conference!)

On top of that you could, for an additional £10, have accommodation and quite respectable meals thrown in as well! One club coach that I know on his first trip to the conference commented afterwards, "Is it always this good?"

Given the excellent value for money and the topicality of the subjects presented it was interesting to see who attended (and who didn't). From the slalom side, the Junior Team management was well represented, Alan Edge was there as a presenter and about a dozen club level coaches attended, but there seemed to be a lot of regular national and club coach faces missing - a shame because the presentations were excellent in an ever changing field.

It is not possible to condense a weekend's lectures into a couple of pages, but a brief overview of the weekend is useful, if only to persuade you to come next year.

Drugs in Sport - Dr. David Mottram - Liverpool Polytechnic

This was a wide ranging, up to the minute and comprehensive review of which drugs are banned, which are not, which common over-the-counter remedies that contain banned substances are to be (hopefully) taken off the list soon (when taken in recommended dosages) and what some lunatics risk doing to their bodies. The big message was that drugs are designed to cure or relieve the suffering of illness, not to improve performance and that ironically that there is little or no objective proof that they actually do improve performance anyway.



The Drugs Testing Procedure - Michelle Veroken - Sports Council

Michelle explained in considerable detail the drug testing procedures carried out by the Sports Council at Sports events (ours included) the training involved and the tricks that they already know about. Techniques for selecting, collecting and analyzing samples are getting very sophisticated and if you use drugs and are tested there is no way out. It was a great shame that Red Star failed to deliver her hand-outs.

Physiological Testing of Paddlers and Interpretation of Results - Dr. John Koutedakis - British Olympic Medical Centre

John began with a brief review of how muscles are made up and work and then went on to present the results so far available on a project analyzing paddling rates and effectiveness. Early days with a promise of good interesting data in the not too distant future.

Weight Training, Paddles, Ropes and the Specificity of Strength - Wilf Paish

Wilf introduced himself as the scrap-yard coach, so named by friends because of the strange places that he gets his equipment. No need for thousands of pounds of high-tech kit with Wilf in the room - 5 yards of shockcord and a medicine ball will keep him and a squad of athletes busy for hours. General body fitness and conditioning ranking as important as (and perhaps more important than) specific skills training is his philosophy - food for thought over next winter.

One good and reinforced point; weight training should not be started too young and must be under control of a qualified specialist. He's seen too many crippled athletes in their mid twenties.

After a good dinner Wilf was the after dinner speaker, very entertaining and full of wonderful stories and a few hints, of our countries top athletes and sports men and women. I'm not sure which would be more exhausting, a physical workout with him or a mental one!

....coaching conference

Use of Video - Alan Edge - National Coach, Olympic Slalom Team

Alan started Sunday's session with more good advice from the man who needs no introduction; not just ideas on what to do, but also why, how, when and where to use video were well covered with good hand-outs. These were very much appreciated since my brain was full to bursting after Saturday's sessions.

Brian Greenaway - Wing Paddles - National Coach, Olympic racing Team

On the surface this was not expected to be too relevant or interesting to the slalom interests in the room but as Brian went through the history of the development and use of the Wing paddle it became clear that the racing boys were not alone in having found themselves in the position of having available to them a new type of paddle which worked better than those previously available but not understanding why this was better or (even more perplexing) why the old ones were not so efficient. Such dilemmas make you look hard at your past coaching principles and your new ones.

Dave Kerwin - A Bio-Mechanical Study of Paddling - Loughborough

Dave presented the progress so far on a project to analyze what paddlers do when they paddle by tracking the path of the paddle, the arms and other important parts of the body by means of a very involved computerized system that had taken a year to set up. The main problem was to film foreign paddlers on the HPP racing course from one point and then calculating it to show it as if filmed along side the boat. This being the only way to analyze others' techniques without wiring them and the boats up to testing equipment. The aim being to show where techniques can be changed and improved to produce more efficient paddling.

The team has a lot more work to do yet and we can look forward to an update next year perhaps. Unfortunately there seems to be no way that the system could be adapted to slalom.

Andrew Bruce - Cranked Paddles

With the aid of a bent screw driver, a two legged walking frame, Chris Hawksworth and a selection

of paddles, Andrew described how he had conceived, designed and developed the cranked paddle shaft. Hair awry, shirt tail out, Andrew came over as a very clever and intelligent engineer who doesn't suffer fools gladly; at first being deadly serious and then relaxing to be an amusing and entertaining lecturer. Kayak cranks are here to stay and now Canadian paddles and sculling oars are attracting his interest. I wonder what he could do for boat design if he put his mind to it?

It was Andrew who said, "How can people compete when they don't know how their bodies work? It makes me really cross." He's right of course.

Ron Johnson - Osteopath and Physiotherapist, Olympic Racing Team

The Racing Team struck gold with this chap (although he is also available to slalomists). The basic lesson is; don't come to the coaching conference in your old under wear if you have a back problem and intend to tell Ron about it. The well muscled chap who did, ended up stripped on the table having it (successfully) fixed. Mind you it almost resulted in another injury when a female coach at the back nearly fell off her chair (she may have been standing on it at the time) trying to get a better view of the procedures involved.

In discussing and explaining about common sports injuries, particularly spine disorders, Ron had a goodly proportion of the conference attendees stripped to the waist (some more, much more) and spread out on any available flat surface. Joints cracked and vertebrae leapt about as he warned of the dangers of not warming up and set about righting the audience en masse.

In conclusion, this was a very worthwhile weekend, suitable for anyone at any level of coaching, from parents with one paddler to train, to club coaches with lots, to national coaches with the elite. This probably could do with emphasizing more next year - another one as good as this one please Alan and Brian, and thanks very much.

The only part that was stuffy was the HPP air-conditioning!

Ray Croft

SLALOM

LATE NEWS

Canoe 90

July 7-15 1990

A Week of Canoeing at Holme Pierrepont

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Slalom

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Watersports Centre, Curent Trends,
Nottingham Kayak Club or Roger Fox

Motion to BCU Council from Slalom Executive for ICF Congress

1. That the International Canoe Federation have in its International Calendar, an annual World Cup series to consist of between 5-7 competitions to commence in 1991 and to relate to both Slalom and Wild water racing. A simple points system to be devised to determine world ranking

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for those competitors participating. (BCU would consider such series a replacement for the existing Continental Cup, which appears to have served its useful purpose)

2. That the International Canoe Federation provide a written specification of its requirements for the organisation of its World Championships and all major International events.

3. That the International Canoe Federation have within its International Calendar, a Junior World Championship event in both Slalom canoeing and wild water racing every year. (BCU feels that there is a tremendous advantage for competitors to have the opportunity to compete in their 18th year. However under the current rules, certain competitors are denied this chance.)

4. BCU welcomes the possibility of a fourth competitor being permitted to attend a Junior World Championship in Slalom canoeing and wild water racing as a reserve. However they request that this competitor be allowed to participate in the individual events. (There would be considerable expense involved in a 4th competitor travelling and it appears logical to follow the principle set in the Senior World Championships.)

FOX SAVES THE RACE

It is a rare event to run the Fox to earth and have the kind of chat with him that the author had last Saturday. This is because he is busy and not because he spends his days lazing on some Riviera beach. It is easier to criticize him for what he does not do than to appreciate what he does do for British Slalom. He is a shy person and we prefer it that way but sometimes the criticisms get out of hand.

Richard Fox, like all patriots, wishes to see British canoeing at the centre of the world stage and has always done what he can to support the British Internationals.

For several years British Slalom has hosted two International events; the Welsh one at Llangollen has received sponsorship from the Welsh Tourist Board, the Welsh River Authority and considerable assistance from White Rabbit Productions. The English event at Nottingham's Holme Pierrepont has received valuable sponsorship from Nottingham County Council.

Richard was, therefore, concerned to learn from the organiser of this year's British international that the race was in jeopardy. Richard asked a few relevant questions and after seventy two hectic hours a high powered meeting was called and the event is back on course, thanks to his efforts.

The 14th and 15th July, the date for this event, the Robin Hood and Maid Marion Slalom at Nottingham, was arranged before the British Schools and the French Championships with which it now clashes. However, what is more important is that it will now happen. Britain can now keep its head up in the International Scene and continue with its bid for a World Cup Slalom in 1991 and the Junior Worlds in 1994 - both bids at risk if this year's event failed.

One has to be realistic and it is sad, therefore, to admit that the world's international paddlers do not put the British events in their diaries in the same way as they do the Augsburg event. Richards initiative coupled with his international standing is doing much to change this.

That there are only twenty-four hours in a day is a sad spin off from all his 'back room' work for slalom. There are many in the sport who consider it Richard's duty, as World Champion, not only to paddle in all Premier events but also to attend other events such as the Inter-club and Junior Championships.

To most of the criticism which reaches his ears Richard will shrug his broad shoulders and say, "that's life", but after a while criticism can hurt, not only Richard but his family and friends who know something of how he spends his time. Voluntary work for the Sports Council can take up to as much as one whole day a week. There is a group of some of Britain's Olympic squad who receive regular and voluntary coaching. He has to spend some time earning his living and paying his mortgage and of course there is his own personal training programme - so necessary if he is to win that Olympic medal for Britain. It is tough, very tough at the top. Too tough in fact for most to get there, let alone stay there.

Jennifer Munro

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Richard Fox is the greatest kayak slalomist the world has ever had. It is undoubtedly shameful that he should be criticised unjustly, especially by those at high level who should have more sense. However, perhaps those with less understanding would be more enlightend if he would just give more information on the tremendous work load that he operates under. After all, although representing the face of British Slalom abroad, he still has some moral obligations to his loyal fans in this country.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

England Slalom Team

Dear Editor,

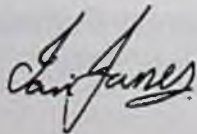
Further to your article in February's Canoe Slalom Magazine regarding the youth squad training in Scotland, we from the English side must congratulate the Scots on their efforts and only wish that we had the same facility available to us that they are able to command.

In Scotland, with the the backing of the SCA, youth training is structured throughout the age groups. I have no doubt the Welsh could do the same. but in England we only have the BCU which looks after Great Britain's interests. The amount of money from the BCU to all the nine English regions is only £128.00 per region per year for all England activities. Paddlers will appreciate, therefore, that the amount of money out of that budget which can be set aside for ENGLAND SLALOM TRAINING is nothing.

This is the reason why a group of voluntary helpers have got together to form and co-ordinate an England Slalom Canoe Team. Their efforts will ensure that there is an ESCT next season, but with precious little finance from England in the form of the BCU to fund it virtually every penny will come from out of the pockets of the paddlers and the management team themselves.

If the England Canoe Slalom Team can secure sponsorship then it will so so to ensure that England is adequately represented by enthusiastic paddlers, properly trained and supported to further the cause of English canoeing.

If you wish to join that team please contact the undersigned, Ian Janes, Team Manager.



We understand that the SCA gave £700 to the Scottish Junior Team Tour - ED

Pre-season Slaloms

Dear Ed,

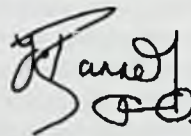
Before the slalom season opens in March, Staffs and Stone CC held a series of mini-slaloms, the

first of which took place in January. There were three slaloms in the series and each one had a different course design and made excellent use of the water conditions available.

The slaloms were all held on a handicap basis and the handicaps were fairly calculated. The courses could be run a number of different ways and many paddlers (and non-paddlers) could be seen deep in thought contemplating different moves and strategies. Each slalom was over 20 gates long and run on the Sunday only with free practice in the morning (depending on what time you got there) and two runs later in the day. Results cards were up very quickly and times were displayed on a computer screen in the warmth of the clubhouse. Bibs were used as well giving people more time on the water (no illegible numbers to stick on or judge)

These slaloms were a good taster for the coming season, they also showed some of us just how out of condition we were and although the weather was mixed everyone had a great time.

Well done Staffs and Stone.



Julian Barrett

P.S. How about some more clubs following suit next year?

A quick look in the "Forth-coming Attractions" will show that Hemel are doing just that and during the summer too. -ED



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EVENT REPORTS.....

Shepperton Div 2 March 3/4

Always an interesting event this. People half awake after their winter hibernation, organisers included; cobwebs still on the boats dragged out of garages, snow on the ground.... So what went wrong this year?

Well, the organiser was bright eyed and bushy tailed, many paddlers seemed to have spent the winter training and the weather was unseasonably warm! On top of that the gates were new and adjustable from the bank and Sundays events were timed using beam start and finish and the cafe was equipped to feed an army.

A flawless weekend? Not quite. Judges were kept waiting on the water rather a long time on the Saturday while the organiser changed his mind about when the runs would be, the hamburgers were definitely not up to last year's standard (but Wendy Stuart excelled, yet again, in the hundred cake department) and Nev Unwin failed to turn up at the Prize-Giving (possibly one of the first times when he was really wanted). However this is only nit-picking and having spent years ripping their events apart Shepperton would be disappointed if I didn't find something to moan about; but even with it being the first event of the year and most of the entries late they coped well and even handled the new computer program for results, bugs and all, thanks to resident experts Dave Wain and Chris Hendy. Interestingly enough they had to close the Judges entries because they had so many, including 7 prems, 17 Div 1s and 2 Novices.

But I digress. Back to the event. The course was a good one, requiring skill and aggression, but it could be done fast and clean with care and without needing as much luck with the water as is so often the case here. Paul Kavanagh had made allowances for the water to fall during the weekend in his course plan and even with the necessity of one sluice being closed late Saturday no changes needed to be made until after first runs on Sunday when the Jury decided, with the organisers, to move gate 8 half a metre away from the encroaching stopper and standing wave. This caused a certain amount of muttering, primarily from parents of people who had been getting the gate and following cross without problem and it certainly did eliminate most of the penalties that had been occurring there.

Although the water level was not as spectacular

as last year it was suitable and the many paddlers who didn't make the event missed a good start to the season and a wide range of prizes - even the new points were produced with the results. *(to date something we have rarely seen here from other non-prem events. - ED)*

GDN

RESULTS

LK1

1. S. Chadwick	BADCC	184.8
2. J. Worby	Nott'm Univercity	201.2
3. A. Mann	ACU/WDCC	207.5

MK1

1. J. Gregory	Batchworth	130.0
2. R. Mason	South Shore	137.9
3. Ian Day	Ind	138.9

C1

1. G. Woods	Shepperton	151.3
2. C. Pinder	Leeds	166.3

TEAMS

1. Pimm/Flower/ McCormick	SE Paddlers	166
2. Mason/Muir/ Bennet	South Shore	170
3. Simmons/Ro- binson/Harris	Reading	170

OFFICIALS

1. C Hendy	Shepperton	115
2. P Kavanagh	Shepperton	118
3. P Gooding	Hemel	119

Holme Pierrepont Premier 17/18 March 1990

This was our first prem and we would like the rest the same please! For paddlers, supporters and judges it was a tremendous weekend, due mainly to the Almighty for the weather and Julian Patrick for the course design.

It was different. Gate 5 was a breakout below the pyramid, gate 6 was a breakout on the far side, but gate 7 was close to gate 5 ready for a pre-touch on the way from 4 to 5 and from 5 to 6. It wasn't in the way, just in the flow and in they flew!

.....event reports

Of the 101 K1 Men, almost a third took 50's, so did over half of the 26 K1L, nearly half of the 28 C1's and 12 of the C2's. as the section judge (one of a matching pair that hardly paused for breath all weekend) dishing out some of these penalties I anticipated some howls of protest and much hunting of Julian, but in the main the paddlers enjoyed a hard course and kept smiling.

Here's a heart stopping move to judge - one kayak and later a C1 as well, hit the stopper wave above gate 7. The nose dug into the wave which spun the boat and spat it out backwards. The gate was negotiated without a touch, in reverse, upside down, 3 feet above the water. Clear or 50?

Gates 5-7 wasn't the only hard section; there were other tight and technical, slightly unfamiliar, moves which ensured that this was not a course on which you could have a lucky run, There were too many sections needing a high degree of skill for that to happen.

In the Mens K1 the top 10 were bibs 1-9 (jumbled) plus JJ, places 10-20 contained 4 ex-Div 1 juniors.

The Ladies event was equally dramatic, won by Lynn Simpson 12 seconds ahead of Karen Davies.

C1's found the course favoured lefties rather to much and C2 found it rather tight. Newcomers Shreeve/Osborne won the C2 class by .1 second, and C1 winner was only .1 sec slower than Mens K1 winner Shaun Pearce. Timing was to 0.1 seconds due to a technical hitch with the generator during first runs. **RESULTS**

LK1		
1. Lynn Simpson	Hull and District CC	174.4
2. Karen Davies	Yat Racers	186.6
3. Joan Jayes	Llangollen	195.7

MK1		
1. Shaun Pearce	Newbury	151.0
2. Andy Raspin	Tees	151.7
3. L.Shackleton	Concept	153.8

C1		
1. G Marriott	Arrowcraft	151.1
2. R Corner	Windsor	169.6
3. M Hedges	Windsor	171.5

C2

1. Osborne/ Shreeve	Concept	189.3
2. Richardson/ Thompson	Shepperton	189.4

1st J18	Paul McDermid
1st J18	James Croft

OFFICIALS

1. Hugo Davis	Marin	178.1
2. Simon Crook	Nott Univ	178.3
3. Mike Jesson	Arrowcraft	182.

Ray Croft

Comments received on this course ranged from "Brill" thru "Off-beat" to "Micky Mouse"-ED

Tryweryn/Graveyard Premier 24/25 March 1990

This isn't meant to be the alternative jury report, but it must be said that Saturday didn't start well, even aside from the bitter weather - at 8.00am the Jury found the course to be unpaddlable, much of it picking its way over the rocks instead of round them. New boats went back on the roof racks and those with old ones with them fondly dusted them off and checked for death-watch beetle and osmosis.

Course approver JJ rebuilt the course with the help of paddlers, spectators and parents, with the exception of one parent whose response to a plea for help was "not me mate, I ain't helpin' no-one".

The release was a bit low (3/4?) and after a practice run Richard Fox withdrew to avoid the risk of injury. Gate 11 was taken out and an almost impossible breakout at 3 (almost impossible to get into and if you did, even harder to get out of!) was changed to a forward down. Judges runs were deferred to Sunday, which was just as well since by then the event was over an hour late and many of the paddling judges had defected to the Div 2 on the Intentional which was also having the odd problem.

Having run out of things to go wrong, the event started half an hour late and again proved to be excellent spectator sport with a very testing 6,7,8 sequence with 7 as a great forward down, if you could get it. The alternative spin was safe but

.....event reports

slow and with the leading K2M time at the end of first runs being a very fast 137.30 clear, time was of the essence.

For the men it was a good race, won by Melvyn Jones with a very good 10th place for Paul Ratcliffe.

After last weeks disappointing run, Maria Francis struck back to win the Ladies event by 6 seconds from Karen Davies with junior Treena Warman finishing a good 9th. Their race was somewhat marred by gate 23 falling down during their first run forcing 4 ladies to be stopped and to have to race again.

Gareth Marriott triumphed again in C1 - 2 wins out of 2 so far and Meikle and Brown won the C2 class by clear 6 seconds from Clough and Clough. Again not a terribly satisfactory course for C2s who suffered from shallow breakouts in quite a few places.

Judges - Wake up Div 1 paddlers!- here was a chance to see the best in action and get 2 free runs and loads of practice time on the Graveyard (get it while you can!) yet we only had 20 judges - we could have taken many more. Don't miss out next time!

All clubs have problems at times and Aberavon made a valiant effort to recover from the bad start that was forced on them by lack of water and the weather conditions. Many thanks to them for keeping going and managing to keep smiling to give us an exciting and testing event.

RESULTS LK1

1. Maria Francis
2. Karen Davies
3. Lynn Simpson

MK1

1. Melvyn Jones
2. Andy Raspin
3. Dave Crosbee

C1

1. Gareth Marriott
2. M. Hedges
3. R. Comer

C2

1. Meikle/Brown
2. Clough/Clough

- 1st - J18 Paul Ratcliffe
1st - J16 James Croft



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Matlock Division 3 - April 7/8

We were blessed with good weather for the time of year. The river level was unusually low, but after the hot, dry summer of last year we must be grateful for what we get. The course they had was well designed and appeared fair for all classes. It was long with tricky staggers and tight sections of 4 or more gates. Gate 17-18 was a little bit of a tester to sort the men from the boys and more than likely to separate the girls from their boats but eventually only one paddler capsized.

Up to the closing date the entries were very low - 70% down on last year and running the event was in doubt. I spoke to other event organisers and their feeling was that the general trend this season is for smaller entries. (Are there now too many slaloms on the calendar?) Eventually the numbers rose sufficiently to run the event with late entries and that at all slaloms DOUBLE entry fees MUST be paid after the closing date, its becoming increasingly difficult to run a viable event - something must be sorted by next year.

Saturday morning saw the team event run smoothly, along with the usual problem of getting judges to their position still getting the Judging Organiser hot under the collar. A cold night discouraged many paddlers from getting gate practice in after the team runs.

Sunday started with the computer failing to boot up (a technical term for when a good kick won't make it work - ED) due to the dampness within the caravan which was the accommodation for three or more paddlers who had insisted on breathing all night. However the remainder of the day went smoothly with bright sunshine blessing us and it was nice to have some free time to walk down the course and talk to competitors.

By 2.30 pm the last paddler went down and we were into protest time and of course someone did. Fortunately it was rejected and we were soon ready for prize giving.

Prizes were presented by Mr. Ralph Dickin, local Manager of the Royal Bank of Scotland and for the first time for a number of years a senior paddler actually won the K! Mens event! In the first twenty paddlers only five were over 18 - perhaps we should have a first senior prize to encourage them?

Thanks to the judges and the helpers in the "Café" for the great food. and Royal Bank of Scotland, F. H. Drabble & Sons, GA Property services, Hellison Trophies, T. H. Bakewell, Spondon Caravans et al.

Chris Martin

RESULTS

LK1

1. Helen Platts	Midland CC	195
2. L. Embleton	Tees Kayak	197
3. K. Rossington	Matlock CC	199

1st J 14	Diane Woods
1st J 16	Isobel Wain
1st J 18	Natalie Martin
1st Veteran	Jennifer Smalley

MK1

1. John Cooper	Matlock CC	166
2. S. Drinkwater	Mercia	168
3. Carl Bradford	Mansfield CC	168

1st J 14	Andrew Moore
1st J 16	Julian Barrett
1st J 18	Dave Hart
1st Veteran	Hugh Pashley

C1

1. Dave Clark	Sheffield U	173
2. Simon Weitz	Shepperton	180

C2

1. Green/Lyford	Swinfen	216
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TEAMS

1. Taggart/Drinkwater/Shepherd	Mercia208
2. Butler/Bennett/Clark	Birmingham
3. Turner/Brockway/Jarman	Scratch

OFFICIALS

1. Paul Terry	Sacha	146
2. P. Osbourne	Broadland	154
3. C. Weightman	Mansfield	154



Back Cover :Lynn Simpson
Photo: Joe Mullholland

