

White Water News



ISSUE 8 Sponsored by MARSPOET LTD



Wild Walter goes break dancing?

.RUSE

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CANOE KAYAK SPECIALIST

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 FORTHCOMING EVENTS
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DATE	EVENT	*	AREA	RACES	ORG
19,20/1	Dee 3	4	N Wales	?B RT L	23
26,27/1	Tees 3	3	N East	BCO	20
27/1	Nene		Midlands	CO	26
27/1	Thistlebrig		Scotland	BCOT	27
2,3/2	Usk 2	3	S Wales	A OT	21
3/2	Clyde 2		Scotland	CO	28
9/2	Teme 3		Midlands	B OT	22
10/2	Teme 4		Midlands	COT	22
17/2	Teifi 2		S Wales	CO	29
17/2	Makerstoun		Scotland	COT	30
23,24/2	Canoe Exhibition		London		B
2/3	Washburn 4		W Yorks	B OT	10
3/3	Wharfe 2		W Yorks	CO	10
9,10/3	Grandtully 1	4	Scotland	AB T L	32

KEY TO RACES

A = Div "A" B = Div "B" C = Start Here
 O = Non-Ranking open to all
 R = Non-Ranking open to "A"&"B"
 T = Team Event ? = Reserve Div "A" if cancellations
 U = Under 14 & 16 N = Same as "U" but Non-Ranking
 L = Lowenbrau "500" Open Series
 * = Max River Grade ABOVE 2 noted in this column

RACE ORGANISERS

10	W Fraser	27 Marshall Terrace	Crossgates	Leeds	LS15 8E
20	A Barber	31 Tranmoor Lane	Armthorpe	Doncaster	
21	D Roland	40 Froghall Drive	Wokingham	Berkshire	
22	P Jones	14 Chaddesley Road	Halesowen	W Mids	B63 4PR
23	T Cannon	30 Elmwood	Sale	Cheshire	M33 5RN
26	A Rance	89 Lower Adelaide St	Northampton		NN2 6BB
27	Edinburgh	Univ Canoe Club	42 The Pleasance	Edinburgh	
28	L Smith	Stevenson Bldg	77 Oakfield Rd	Glasgow	G12 8LT
29	R Beaman	30 Bridge Street	Aberystwyth		
30	K Fraser	26 Trinity St	Hawick	Roxburghshire	
32	D Pettigrew	18 Warrender Park Terrace	Edinburgh		EH9 1EF

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EDITORIAL

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Happy New Year to you all! The first half of the domestic season seems to have passed very quickly ... and was in my opinion a success in the face of adversity in the form of the drought (now forgotten) that removed three Washburn events from the calendar (we also lost the first Usk race for other reasons).

The November races were accompanied by very good water levels PLUS mild weather (especially Aire 2, Wharfe 1, Dee 1 & Tees 1).

The split Div "A" season with three races upto December 9th appeared to be well received ... although it may have been even better had Tees 1 been the Div "A" (only a handful took advantage of the first Tees to practice for the Div "A"). Bill Fraser invites your comments on this or any aspect of the calendar.

The Dart appeared a fine Div A venue in most opinions ... with the organisers very keen to tighten up their performance in the light of this first Div "A" experience. With high water it could be our BEST Div A race whilst at a medium/low level it provided entertaining canoeing.

The Dee Regional (December 16) was very efficiently organised by Henry Syska with the cooperation of Tim Cannon (Manchester CC). At least four regions made serious attempts to field full teams and the competition was made especially intense because Henry was able to publish the "half-time" scores between the Individuals and the Teams (See Report). Some people did however feel that the Regional might best have been combined with the Div "A" in early November for maximum participation. Comments to Henry or to Bill Fraser.

Individual race attendances, especially at Div "C" level have been UP. Perhaps the Washburn cancellations forced paddlers to break their habits ... certainly Ironbridge 1 was a fine flat water event. Meanwhile three Lowenbrau 500 events have been held at Wharfe, Dart and Teme with especially good competition at the Dart.

Coming up in January we have two new and accessible Div "C" races (Thames & Goyt) plus the AGM at Dee 3 (Sat 19th at 4.30). There is the inevitable contentious issue to liven things up - provided this year by Denis Cooper. Along with Mike Phillp, Denis is lobbying for a revision of the 1985 World Champs Selection Policy - see his article in this Issue. High drama is virtually guaranteed, especially as it is rumoured that the Team Manager along with some class coaches and Exec members may resign forthwith if the Cooper motion is upheld. My only comment is that I don't recollect willing administrators being in very plenteous supply in this sport (or any other for that matter)!

GOODIES FOR ALL

Three items will be available from the Wild Water Stand at Crystal Palace and thereafter at races / by post whilst supplies last. They should be of interest to everyone.

(1) White Water Racing Handbook : Volume 1

This is a special White Water News publication full of information about training and equipment - as opposed to News. It will be about 32 pages and will be FREE to racers (although the public will be asked for 20p at Crystal Palace). The 500 copies have been sponsored by :

- Andrew Martin Paddles
- Apollo Canoes & Kayaks with John Handyside
- Cags & Bags (Juliana Beardsmore)
- Canoeest Magazine (Stuart Fisher)
- Engineering Systems Ltd (Denis Cooper)

(2 & 3) White Water Racing Tee-Shirts

Two designs will be available - both printed front and back in two colours on quality American style shirts and priced between £3.50 and 4.00. Any small profits will be for WWR funds.

- Sue Hornby design similar to 1984 GB Team issue
 - Dave Ruse / Neil Stamps very original design
- (Guest appearances by both Wild Walter & Sid Slammer on back!)

The Crystal Palace Stand

The Stand will be displaying a variety of photographs, drawings and cartoons by Don Player, Dave Ruse, Neil Stamps & Jeannie Tracey. If you are able to spend an hour or so helping to man the Stand on either day PLEASE contact any Exec Member.

APPOINTMENTS

Mike Tordoff has been appointed successor to John MacAdam as Treasurer. Mike and his wife are seen at many events - having two sons, Alan and Ian, racing successfully in the Youth and Junior classes respectively. Locate the Tordoff family by the violent purple boat covers! To recuperate from his many weekends at race venues Mike works for ICL and is involved in Scouting. Thanks go to John for his hard work and in anticipation of a lot more in his new role as National Competition Coach.

Meanwhile Peter Sellwood (father of Guy of 'Sid Slammer' fame) has offered to be the Press Officer. He will no doubt be outlining his plan of action in the near future. Certainly Slalom has achieved a great deal through its organised assault on the press since Jennifer Munro was appointed Press Officer.

CALENDAR CHANGES

Thistlebrig 2 on January 27th is now Div "B" Ranking as well as Div "C" and Open.

Grandtully Div "A" & "B" (March 10th) entries to
Mr D Pettigrew 18 Warrender Park Terrace Edinburgh EH9 1EF

Tryweryn British Open / Div "A" (May 12th) entries to
Mr G Fellows 84 Brooklands Ave. Gt. Wyrley Walsall WS6 6LG

Washburn weekend of 13/14 April.

Organisers as per Year Book and status of races as follows :

Saturday :

Div "A" Ranking AND Div "A" Teams. No Open runs.

Sunday :

English Open (no ranking status needed) including Div "B" ranking event AND Open Teams.

1985-86 CALENDAR : YOUR VIEWS PLEASE!

The compilation of the 1985/86 Race Calendar has already begun and I would welcome comments at this stage to assist in the process. I particularly want peoples views on the Div.A calendar and on the ranking status that some races carry.

Regarding Div. A I would like to know peoples opinions about the "split season" that we have this year as well as the venues. The number of races is a matter for the Exec. but it would be good to hear your thoughts now.

The ranking status of some events has caused some comment this season. Certain events have been felt to be too difficult, others too easy, what are your views? Comments either direct to me or aired in White Water News.

Bill Fraser.

SLALOMISTS' REVENGE

Last Issue we boasted of Melvin Swallow's success in the three premier Llangollen slaloms. Not to be outdone, three well known Slalom Squad members have proved that the reverse is just as possible. Congratulations to Melvin Jones (Winner : Teme '500'), Gail Allen (2nd Tees "A" & 3rd Dee "A") ... and a certain R Fox (Winner : Dee Regional). M Swallow is rumoured to be applying for life membership to the FAC Fan Club.

WELCOME TO BRITAIN

Yugoslav C1 paddler Strecko Masle is visiting Britain as a guest of the WWR Exec between 13 and 20 January. As well as being 2nd overall in the 1984 Europa Cup, Strecko gained enormous respect at the Merano World Championships in 1983 by not only winning the Bronze medal but also leading his C1 team (all from his home town of Lublijana) to a Silver ahead of the West Germans.

This effort offers rare evidence that it is possible for paddlers from a country with relatively poor financial or training resources to break into the "big time". The Yugoslav position is in many ways similar to the assumed GB position and therefore we can learn a lot from Strecko's experience. As well as racing the Dee, he will spend the preceding week training with any interested C1 and C2 paddlers.

AND WELCOME TO SWITZERLAND

Helen Grogan is now in her second year of working in Switzerland and has significantly improved her racing performances during that period. So much so that she has been invited to train with the Swiss Team prior to the World Champs selection events ... at their expense. Well done!

EDITORIAL ADDRESS

Dave Kay 14 Lake View FURNESS VALE Stockport SK12 7QD

POSTAL "NEWS" : On account of the more economical format you need only use a standard stamp (13p) on SAEs sent for copies of the "News". A5 envelopes are still recommended.

NEXT ISSUE : The Crystal Palace Exhibition issue will be sponsored by Rapid Racing Ltd. Copy Date is 7th February.

YEAR BOOKS & ENTRY CARDS : A5 SAEs (plus £1.00 for Year Book) to
Ann Gillespie 13 Spring Hill WORCESTER WR5 1BL

DIV "A" RANKING LIST - FIRST THREE RACES

Please note that these "old style" points based rankings are not official and that they may differ from the true M.S. rankings in some details. Furthermore National Squad members have been chosen (as per policy) on their best TWO M.S. results and squad membership is not final - being on a 'Hire & Fire' basis (see for example Bill Fraser's notes on the Mens K1 squad).

Pos	MENS K1	Dee	Dart	Tees	OVERALL	Squad?
1	Melvin Swallow	1	1	4	6	Yes
2	Andrew Martin (NZ)	2	6	1	9	
3	Kenny Bain	5	5	7	17	Yes
4	Neil Stamps (ul8)	11	7	8	26	Yes
5	Chris Ballard	7	8	13	28	Yes
5	Bill Bayliss	9	10	9	28	Yes
5	Henry Syska	18	4	6	28	Yes
*	Jeremy Hibble	3	-	3		Yes
*	Jonathan Dunseath	4	2	-		Yes
*	Chris Humpage	6	3	-		Yes
*	Mike Smith	8	-	5		Yes
*	Dave Taylor (The Real)	-	-	2		Yes

Did Not Compete : DRH Taylor & Bob Campbell

MEN'S K1 SQUAD

The Training Squad for M. K1. this season is by invitation only. Details were circulated at the beginning of the season and the first session has taken place to which all those in the top 10 of the Ranking List after the first series of races were invited. The next session on Feb 16/17 will be open to the top 8 paddlers at the Usk Div.A.(if for any reason this is cancelled it will be the top 8 on the RankingList) The final session on March 16/17 will be open to the top 8 on the Ranking List after Grandtully (best 3 results to count) and these people will receive financial assistance for World Championships selection.

Pos	LADIES K1	Dee	Dart	Tees	OVERALL	Squad?
1	Anne Plant	1	1	1	3	Yes
2	Fiona Mitchell	2	2	3	7	Yes
3	Julia Harling	7	4	5	16	Yes
4	Ann Gillespie	5	7	7	19	Yes
5	Shirley Farnden	9	5	6	20	Yes
*	Gail Allen (Slalom Sqd)	3	-	2		Yes
*	Corrine Helm	4	-	4		Yes
*	Cynthia Berry	6	3	-		Yes

Did Not Compete : Sue Hornby, Gill Berrow & Helen Grogan

Pos	C1	Dee	Dart	Tees	OVERALL	Squad?
1	Steve Wells	1	1	1	3	
2	Nick Pink	3	2	3	8	
3	Mick Fletcher	5	5	6	16	
4	Mike Phillip	6	7	5	18	
*	Dave Williams	2	-	2		
*	Dave Ruse	4	3	-		
*	Chris Horrod	-	5	4		

Did Not Compete : Martyn Hedges & Mick Peatfield
 No C1 Squad announced at press time

Pos	C2	Dee	Dart	Tees	OVERALL	Squad?
1	Kay / Pearton	1	1	1	1	Yes
2	Goldsmith / Evans	2	2	2	6	Yes
3	Stagg / Harvey	3	3	3	9	Yes
4	Halliwell / Fox	6	4	7	17	
*	Cooper / Wilkins	7	-	4		Yes
*	Terry / Cooper	-	-	5		Yes
*	Farr / Nicholas	-	5	6		Yes

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MEN'S K1 : PROMOTIONS TO DIV "A" & DIV "B" LEADERS

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Includes these races :

Wharfe 1, Royal Dee, Dart, Teifi, Eden, Tees 1, Dee 2

Promoted to Div "A"

Mike Bentley (Accrington)	Brian Melia (UMIST)
R Luke (Leeds Uni)	Andrew Martin (Chester)
Peter Prichard (Shrewsbury)	Dave Fogg (RAFCA)
Peter Kelly (GUAC)	Gary Carter (Leeds)
Steve Tucker (RAFCA)	S Norman (ACU)
Mark Sanderson (Sunray GP)	Gregory Slater (Lichfield)
Stephen Bleasdale (Adlington)	Nick Boyd (Adur)
Paul Turner (Adlington)	Graham Swadling (Windsor)
Ian Crozier (MUCC)	Roy Woodruff (RAFCA)

Leading Div "B"		Pts	(Races)
1	Simon Ford (Staffs & Stone)	281	(3)
2	Phil Player (Leeds)	272	(3)
3	Paul Kelly (Manchester)	268	(3)
4	Dave Dugate (Rona Raiders)	257	(3)
5	Andy Lipscombe (Adlington)	251	(3)
6	Paul Schur (Northwich)	246	(3)
7	Steve Timms (Dereham)	193	(2)
8	Neil Blackman (RAFCA)	192	(2)
9	Mark Wood (Northwich)	189	(2)
10	Terry Benton (PHGS Otley)	187	(2)

TEAM RANKINGS

Positions are based on results from the Dee, Dart and Tees races. Mixed teams marked * have not indicated that they wish to participate and may not be included in future rankings unless they inform me that they do.

Many Club teams are again failing to comply with the rules. Please read page 27 of the Yearbook, especially section 8.4. Club teams marked * may be eligible for more points if they can satisfactorily answer some queries. In addition, the following Clubs appear from results to comply with the rules but have not indicated that they wish to take part in the Club Team Championships.

Leeds Aire Team, RNKA A, RNKA B, Swansea Uni. , Jubilee Waterside, and RKC Koln Tornados.

These will be included if I am informed that they are eligible for points.

All Club Team Rankings are also subject to confirmation that they are affiliated to the BCU or other National Association.

Club Team Championship

		<u>DEE</u>	<u>DART</u>	<u>TEES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1	Chester	24	25	25	74
2	Birmingham Uni A	23	24	24	71
3	Birmingham Uni B	22	23	21	66
4	Leeds Frog 1	25	-	23	48
5	PHGS	-	22	15	37
6	Accrington B	19	-	17	36
7	Accrington C	17	-	16	33
8	Gateshead A	-	-	22	22
9=	Accrington A	20	-	-	20
9=	RAFCA A	*	-	20	20
11	Gateshead B	-	-	19	19
12=	Worcester	-	-	18	18
12=	Adur	*	18	-	18
14	Glasgow KC	*	16	-	16

Mixed Team Championship

		<u>DEE</u>	<u>DART</u>	<u>TEES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1	Birmingham Uni	25	25	-	50
2	Gaybo Allstars	24	24	-	48
3	Ladies Scratch	22	-	25	47
4=	Mersey Canadians	23	-	23	46
4=	Hounslow C1s	*	-	22	46
6	Wee Lassies	*	21	23	44

Dave Mylett

Dave Mylett

(Team Ranking List Compiler)

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS/DEE II

Cold, overcast weather and a low, tricky water level (and Christmas shopping!) combined to make this an event for the dedicated paddler. The only practicable shoot of the Town Fall was over the intimidating ledge on the right, with the twin hazards of the central hole and the prominent rock wall below the fall proving difficult to negotiate successfully. There were many chilly swims during practice on Saturday. The conditions did not deter Richard Fox who won the Open Event from Andrew Martin and Melvin Swallow by an impressive fourteen seconds. No doubt prospective Team paddlers are hoping that Richard restricts his interest in WW Racing to Rapid Racing.

The Regional Event turned into a duel between the efficiently organised North West Region, well represented in all the classes, and the K1 strength of West Midlands Region, with Combined Services pressing them hard. North West established a small lead after the individual events, aided by the versatile Dave Kay and Andrew Martin who raced in both K1 and C2 classes. In an exciting team event West Midlands challenged strongly, placing five teams in the first seven, yet could not manage to overhaul the North West total.

Paddlers who contributed to the North West score were Julia Harling, Mike Bentley, Dave Kay, Mike Lang, Andrew Martin, Mark Mashiter, Vaughan Sherrah-Davies, Colin Smith, Mark Stallworthy, Melvin Swallow, Andy Tomlinson and Alan Tordoff. Phil Dean, who organised and motivated his team so admirably, accepted the Regional Trophy on behalf of North West Region.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULT

1	North West (NW)	2339
2	West Midlands (WM)	2280
3	Combined Services (CS)	2065
4	Eastern (E)	1366
5	London & South East (L+SE)	750
6	Wales (W)	563
7	Southern (S)	501
8=	East Midlands (EM)	388
8=	Yorkshire & Humberside (Y+H)	388
10	South West (SW)	88
11	Northern (N)	42
12	Scotland	no competitors

Highest possible total points = 2540.

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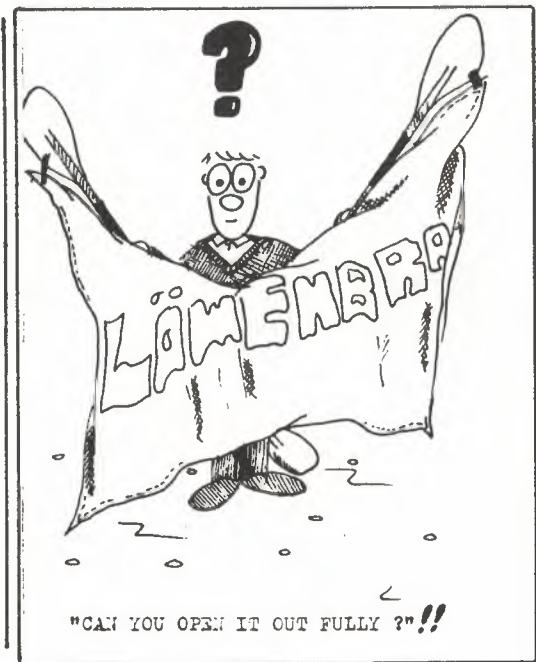
LOWENBRAU 500 LEADERS

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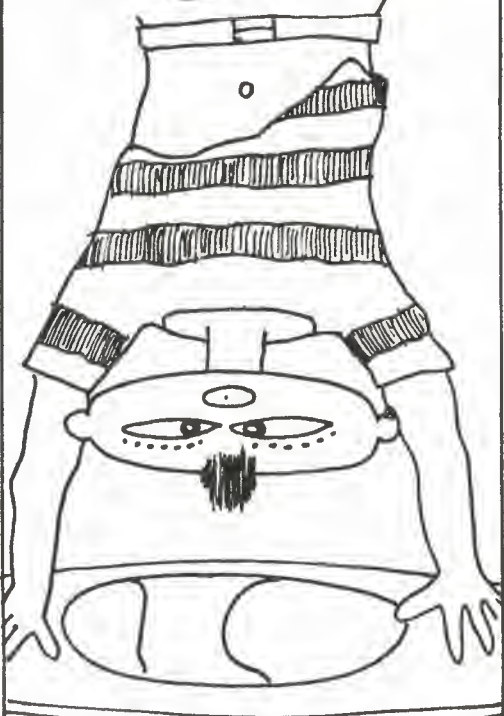
After FOUR races with BEST THREE to count. There are still two races in the series (DEE on Sat 19 Jan & GRANDTULLY on Sat 9 Mar). Whilst Cynthia Berrow is as good as home in the Ladies, Andrew Martin needs one win to be sure of the Mens trophy. The Youth competition has developed into a final race cliff-hanger involving Neil Stamps and Andy Curtis.

Pos	Mens Kl	Pts(75)	Pos	Ladies Kl	Pts(75)
1	Andrew Martin	60	1	Cynthia Berry	75
2	Mick Gillham	56	2	Julia Harling	50
3	Kenny Bain	52	3	Debbie Stapleford	49
4	John Handyside	40	---	Youth (U18) -----	
5	Al Heaume	38	1	Neil Stamps	70
6	Dave Kay	37	1	Andy Curtis	70
7	Melvin Jones	25	3	Matthew Febrey (ul6)	50

Amongst the useful prizes presented by Rapid Racing on behalf of Lowenbrau have been some coveted larger than life (DRH size?) beach towels. David Goldstrom's request for the winner to open it out FULLY for the cameras have caused a few problems ... as captured by this Stamps cartoon. No embarassment if a C2 wins one of these.



SID WHAT ARE YOU DOING?.....

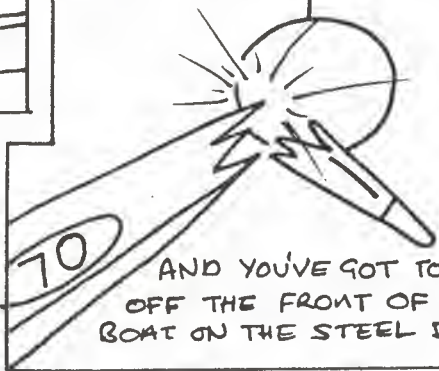


OH, I'M TRAINING FOR MY NEXT EVENT WALTER.



WHATS THAT SID?
WELL IT'S CALLED "BOTTOMS UP"
YOU HAVE TO START OVER HERE
AND THEN RUN TO YOUR CANOE.

THEN YOU PADDLE ACROSS THE RIVER

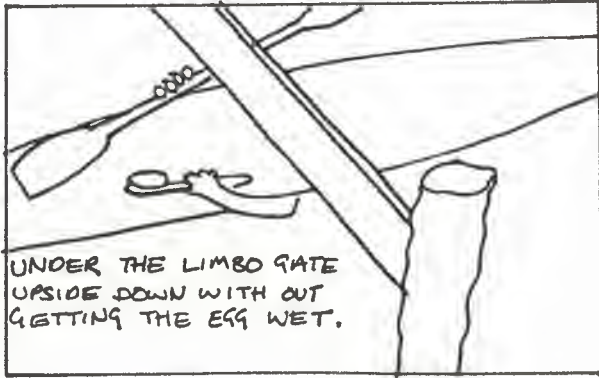


AND YOU'VE GOT TO KNOCK OFF THE FRONT OF YOUR BOAT ON THE STEEL BALL.

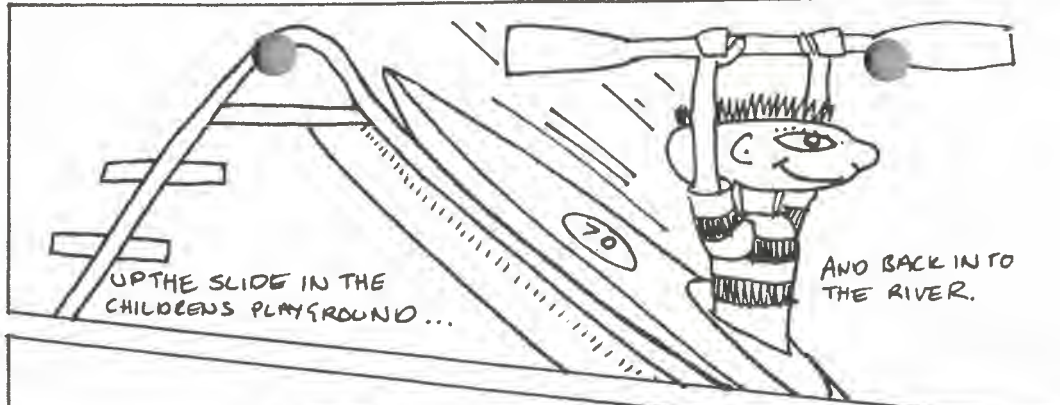
THEN GET INTO YOUR BOAT AND PUT AN EGG IN TO THE CUP.



THE CUP IS STUCK TO THE BOAT.



UNDER THE LIMBO GATE UPSIDE DOWN WITH OUT GETTING THE EGG WET.



UP THE SLIDE IN THE CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND...

AND BACK INTO THE RIVER.



GET THE BALL AWAY FROM THE PERFORMING SEALIONS.



PUT THE PADDLE THROUGH THE TYRE WHILE GOING OVER A FALL.



OVER THE LINE STANDING ON YOUR HEAD TO RING THE BELL, AND.....

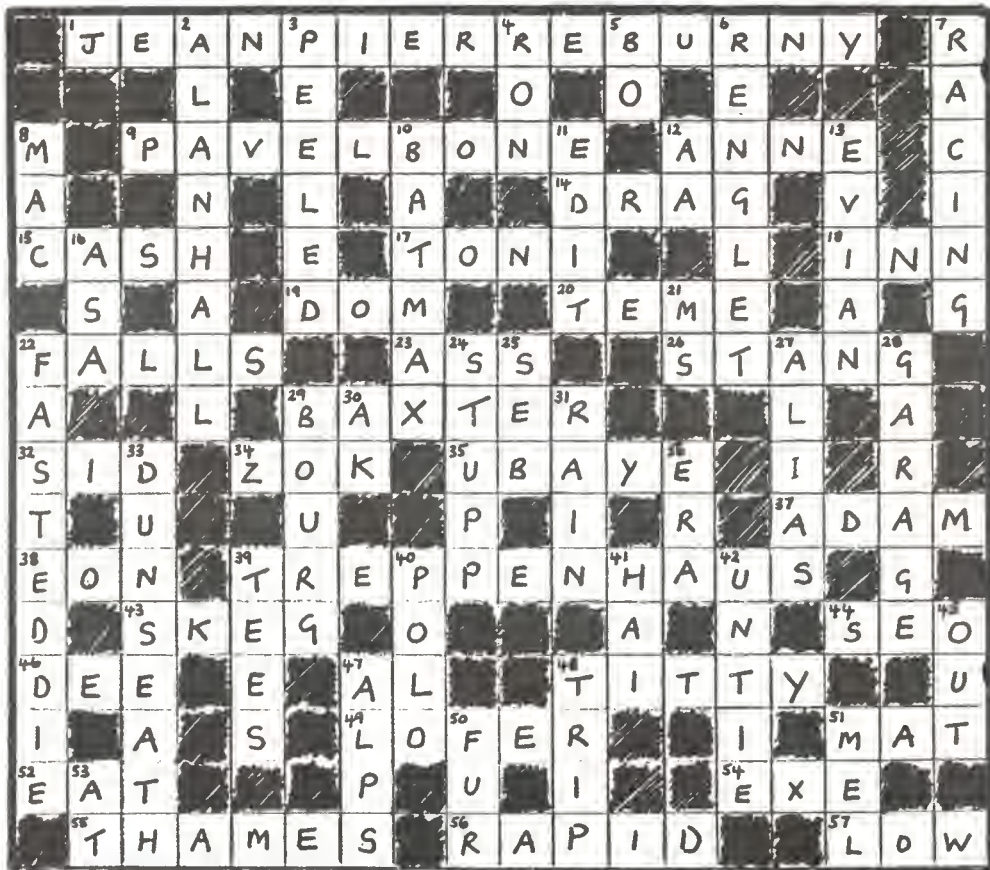
THATS HOW THE EVENT GETS ITS NAME, "BOTTOMS UP."

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ISSUE 7 PRIZE CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Despite two typos (for which we apologise) a fully correct solution was received from Mike Smith and Nig Morley (joint and unaided effort) within 24 hours of publication. No other fully correct entries were received. GAYBO LTD will be supplying their prize. Next time we'll make sure the content is less biased towards the European racing scene ... and in the meantime here are the correct answers ...



Some points for discussion at the W.W. AGM, DEE III, January 19th 1985

This year's 1985 Wild Water Racing A.G.M. Agenda contains a proposal regarding British Team selection policy for 1985. This policy is stated in the 1984-1985 WW Race year book; briefly:- British Team selection takes place in Southern Germany (Garmisch, river Loisach) in April and is followed by a compulsory 4 days paddling.

The policy was finalised and apparently ratified in June 1984. Limited finance, for the selection event, is available to some pre-selected paddlers.

1984 Team paddlers were aware of the policy (which was formulated mostly by some of the regional coaches) at the pre-world championships in June 1984, some discussions took place and some opposition was made.

The proposal included in the 1985 A.G.M. Agenda is:-

This meeting finds the selection policy for the 1985 W.W. World Championships unsatisfactory and directs that the selection event be held in Great Britain.

Some of the points made for the present selection policy are:-

There is no guaranteed water release on the Tryweryn at selection time.

Selection is on the same course as the World Championships.

Some of the points made against the present selection policy are:-

Heavy water is unlikely on the Loisach, which is a British type river in terms of depth, flow, equipment required etc. paddlers that do well at home should also do well on the Loisach.

The slalom team are selecting on the Tryweryn.

A foreign selection camp uses up more of the available resources, both team and personal, than a home selection event.

Equal opportunities are not open to all (DIV A? paddlers) to take part in the selection event and an elitist group tends to be formed into which it is more difficult for up and coming paddlers to break into.

A £10 fee must be paid by paddlers wishing to be considered for selection (£5 if paid before 31st December).

Some prospective team members (i.e. teachers) cannot attend the present selection event without giving up their job.

More prospective team members cannot, or do not want to, attend the compulsory 4 days' training after selection.

Selection camps abroad adversely affect team spirit.

Adverse weather and water conditions may prevail in Southern Germany in April.

A training camp planned to take place after the Bourg (France) selection race in 1983 did not succeed.

The same or a very similar team will be selected whether selected at home or abroad.

For the best world championship results, the selection event should cause as little disruption to the paddlers training schedule as possible, a Home selection causes the least disruption.

Free discussion on route finding (important on the Loisach) will not take place during the selection week.

A training camp (rather than a selection camp) at Garmisch will produce better overall world championship results.

This is an important issue for the British WW team, performances are somewhat behind the G.B. Slalom team, do we have the right policies? Make your views known at the A.G.M.

The Denis Cooper Motion :**Some Comments from Nig Morley (National Team Manager)**

The Selection Policy for 1985 was finalised on June 15 1984 by the Selection Committee as per the Wild Water Racing Committee Constitution paras. 2.3 and 8.1 and 8.2. This policy has been well published in the Year Book and White Water News, and by myself to 60 interested persons.

I assure you that the Committee was well aware of all the points raised in the motion, but the considered view was that the best interests of the Team would be served by holding the Selection Event on the World Championship course for 1985.

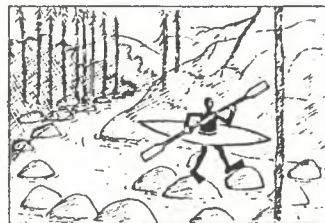
The motion is frankly inaccurate in much detail, biased to suit the point of view of what I believe is a small minority and in many ways shows a self centred approach to Team affairs.

Such actions brought about within 16 weeks of selection taking place not only undermine the morale of the competitors aiming for selection but also make the very onerous tasks of the Team management and coaches more difficult to carryout. To put it very bluntly I have much better things to do with my time than to spend it typing out a defence of what I firmly believe is a good selection policy. Those who are fortunate enough to gain selection will have worked very hard to achieve that aim and although a selection event on the Loissach is going to be very hard on the paddlers as well as on their equipment, it will be nothing to the effort that will be required of them 5 weeks later in the actual World Championship races.

This Team Management has no wish to change the stated policy and would ask for the wholehearted support of the silent majority in confirming its actions.

ANOTHER VIEW OF GARMISCH

Regardless of the water level this cartoonist's view of canoeing is frighteningly true of the Loissach ... Courtesy of Private Eye



The Denis Cooper Motion

Some Comments from John Handyside (National Ladies Coach)

The Selection Policy was originally drawn up by myself and then altered in discussion with the regional coaches and some exec members, therefore perhaps I ought to explain the thinking behind it.

The 1985 World Champs is an ideal opportunity to optimise the psychological and physical preparation of the team. WHY? Because of the location and nature of the river Loissach, we shall have had the chance to learn the river completely prior to the final trip for the Championship. Therefore we are in a position to take advantage of the peaking and periodization processes used by athletes and swimmers. They do very little work immediately before the event, concentrating on the final taper, recovery and acclimatization. The better we taper and the fresher we are, the better our results. Incidentally, that is why we shall fly out and stay in a hotel where we are at home (having stayed there for the post-selection training camp).

There are other reasons for planning that training camp immediately after Selection :

- 1 For the Team to go out any later would definitely interrupt preparation.
- 2 Realistically our best medal chances are in the Team events. Team event training on the river will be a priority in these days - especially important for C2s (ie big boats). This will also allow people do check out best routes (see Denis' point).
- 3 We would hope to start functioning as a Team. Team spirit and commitment to a goal beyond our own performance has gone a long way in previous Worlds. Denis suggests that such training camps adversely effect Team spirit - I believe that PEOPLE with adverse attitudes effect Team spirit!
- 4 Furthermore Management need to get very close to the psychology and needs of the chosen paddlers if they are to be effective under Worlds pressure.

Furthermore there are other reasons for selecting on the Loissach other than tying in with a training camp and therefore finalising river learning prior to the Worlds trip :

- 1 The water on the Loissach is not likely to be heavy BUT it is still not a British type of river. The turning and boat placement required in the first six minutes (out of approx 17) has no equivalent on the Tryweryn (for example).
- 2 Paddlers who did well at the Tryweryn selection last year will confess to being amazed how badly they did at the Loissach Pre-Worlds.
- 3 They would also confirm that racing the Loissach is a world apart from practicing it. Even our most experienced have only done 3 Loissach races (eg 1980 EC, 1984 April, 1984 Pre-Worlds) and some have only done one. The Selection offers TWO truly pressurised races - just like the real thing as opposed to time trials!

Most people have a fascination for the names, events and legends of the past. Taken from Canoeing Magazine, Mike Clark's report on the January Dee race of 1974 involves both legend and famous names. Bill Fraser, Stuart Fisher, Gay Goldsmith, Jim Sibley, George Parr and Denis Cooper are still heavily involved in WWR - as are Jim Dolan, Albert Woods and Alan Edge in Slalom. The legend is the river level for the race and that amazing winning C2 time!

Down River Championships

Mike Clark

With Force 9 and Force 10 gales all round the country during the second week in January, plus torrential rain almost across the whole of Britain, it seemed a reasonable chance that the River Dee in North Wales would produce high water for the National Down River Championships held over the weekend 12th/13th January...!

Being at the International Boat Show all the week, Robin Witter came in on the Thursday to say that certainly the Dee was running hard and great water for the event. That settled it, although I had to pack up all the gear on the Canoeing Magazine and not vacate the Exhibition until 7.00 p.m. on the Saturday night, I just had to try and get up there. In fact, I had already booked in at the Bryn Derwen Hotel and indicated I expected to be late... Late was right, I cleared Earls Court by 8.00 and managed to crawl into the Bryn by 1.25 a.m....

With the race start not until 10.00 a.m. and the top Down River Class not until 12.00, there was time to look over the course and see what was going to be the best place for photographs. A long walk through thick mud and the occasional heavy shower of rain along the bank opposite the Chain Bridge Hotel gave the only reward of the Serpent's Tail being completely covered by flood water, with all the rocks on the left going downstream being covered. However, just one superb wave and stopper looked as if it would produce a few spectacular shots. Alas the only position below was too low to show the size of the water in any photograph, while above, although very good, one was only going to get canoeists' backs—unless some hapless canoeists went down backwards...! With the slalom class paddlers already coming down, I reeled off a few shots, but decided maybe the Town Bridge would give better prints. Indeed the bridge produced some good shots, but the TV cameras (recording for the Grandstand programme of the following weekend) had plugged for the rocks on the right of the Mill Rapid—it seemed like a good idea to join them...

Covering a Down River Race is very difficult. The Llangollen site is only short and it is not possible to follow a paddler down or see him at more than just one place, unlike an L-D, the race is over in a matter of minutes and, with paddlers following at minute intervals, it is impossible to say who is the winner until the results appear. Thus one goes on form and hopes that the right paddlers are captured on film... And when the race is over, what does one report? Joe Bloggs looked great on the water? Or, John Thomas certainly took a wrong line down the main fall? Neither, one reports that,

after almost ten years at the top of rough water sport in Britain, year after year winning the National Slalom Championship and the Down River Championship, Dave Mitchell of the Chester Canoe Club is still the best in the country...!

Your young Avery's, Dolan's and Hignall's, even the great Long Distance and Down River paddler in the shape of Jackson from Grappenhall, could not match the brilliance of Dave Mitchell. With a superb 9min 49sec, Dave took the K1 Championship, just 5sec clear of Jackson in second place. Chris Avery of Guildford took third with a time of 10min 11sec—17sec behind Dave... while less than a minute covered the first ten places. When the chips are down, and the event really counts, Dave still seems to be able to pull it off. Great Dave, just great...

In the Womens K1, it was yet another Championship win for Pauline Goodwin, holding off none other than Peggy Mitchell, while in the Mens C1 the name of Goodwin appears again in first place! Taking the Mens K1 and C1 and the Womens K1, the Championships proved what you might call a family affair with both the Mitchells and Goodwins taking home a 1st and 2nd place...

Sibley/Hewitt took the win in the C2, while in K1 'A' the win went to A. Edge of Manchester with team mate P. Mansell winning the class 'B'

With the water high and spectacular, the rain holding off long enough to get good photographs, certainly the rush up to Llangollen was worth it...

Mens K1

1. D. Mitchell, Chester, 9.49;/ 2. N. Jackson, Grappenhall, 9.54;/ 3. C. Avery, Guildford, 10.11;/ 4. B. Fraser, Leeds, 10.13;/ 5. J. Dolan, Edinburgh, 10.17;/ 6. R. Hignall, Manchester, 10.19;/ 7. D. Smith, Worcester, 10.20;/ 8. N. Timmins, Manchester, S. Fisher, Wirral, 10.21;/ 10. A. Campbell, 10.24.

Womens K1

1. P. Goodwin, Staffs, 11.05;/ 2. P. Mitchell, Chester, 11.27;/ 3. B. Sattler, Chester, 11.37;/ 4. F. Roberts, Edinburgh, 11.50;/ 5. J. Clark, WYM, 12.25.

Mens C1

1. J. Goodwin, Staffs, 11.33;/ 2. G. Goldsmith, Brighton, 11.35;/ 3. B. White, Army, 11.46;/ 4. A. Woods, Nottingham, 12.14;/ 5. D. Denton, Leeds, 12.48

Mens C2

1. Sibley/Hewitt, Windsor, 9.44;/ 2. Parr/Cooper, Nottingham, 11.21;/ 3. Howarth/Farr, Chiver, 11.38;/ 4. Evans/Edwards, Gloucester, 12.05.

Mens K1 'A'

1. A. Edge, Manchester, 10.32

Mens K1 'B'

1. P. Mansell, Manchester, 10.58

Denis Cooper Motion - John Handyside Comments continued :

We must consider the weather and water level issues raised by Denis very seriously. We can only go on experience - but that is quite well founded as I have been racing the Loissach with Germans for a number of years.

Consider last year for an example. In our April trip we had an excellent range of river levels from high to low. In March Bill Fraser's trip had more snow and a generally lower level but still trained for some days at over the eventual Pre-Worlds June level! No paddling days were missed by either trip.

Finally a word of moderation about the "Compulsory" nature of the post-Selection training camp. Whilst Management really believe in the positive value of this - as outlined - no one should let their job over it. I suggest that if anyone has a real problem about this, and that they inform their class coach in advance in writing (and discuss it with him). then common sense will prevail.

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