

# CANOE FOCUS

FOR THE PADDLERS

BY THE PADDLERS

No.2 August 1976

## SLALOM & WHITE WATER EUROPEAN ROUND-UP



Event winner Norbert Sattler in action at Merano

### EDITORIAL FOCUS

Have you played that game that's sweeping the country? It's called "IF ONLY THEY WOULD". It's very simple, and it is Carel Queife's article "M.O.V.E." which brings it to light. You each take an "if only they would..." phrase card and make up the rest of the sentence with a crisis-solving solution and the winner is the person whose solution most people agree with.

"If only they would..." get my membership card to me on time — reply to my queries — get VAT on canoes and canoe equipment reduced — stop spending their time organising competitions — stop spending their time organising coaching schemes/sprint races/slalom races — stop spending their time attending Committee Meetings — spend more time finding ways of reducing membership fees — organise more people to give a hand at Regattas — organise more people to help coaching youngsters —"

You can go on playing the game as long as you like but it doesn't get you very far. Its like all games — it thrives on escapism — a retreat from reality back into the good old days — forward into the golden age!

"If only they would..." is a game which appeals to us strongly because it takes us back to childhood to live out the fantasy again. There is always someone there to put things right — a Mr. FIX-IT — the headmaster, our parents. Even the problems you bring yourselves you imagine can be sorted out by "THEY", be it the B.C.U. Treasurer or the backroom boys of The B.C.U. Council, because we spent too much on the wrong canoe because we failed to renew our membership.

Going beyond the need to play "if only they would..." means realising the problems are not "theirs" but "ours" and the solutions will not come from "them" but from "us".

To us this must say cohesiveness. Cohesiveness thrives in the company of ordinary people — groups of "us" not groups of "them" — we have all the resources we need to make canoeing a vibrant and influential activity, providing sport and recreation for many. To do this we must work in communities — the club must become

the unit of influence within canoeing. Within the club we have to be the answer, the model of how to make it work. "If only we would do just that" and again the game is being played but we think that this is the way to play it.

### ALMOST HELD

Tad Owen — Chairman of BCU Council

The B.C.U. Council have for sometime held the view that subscriptions to the Union need to be stabilised to encourage the recruitment of additional members who are so vital to the Union's progress. It was in this context that your Council carried out their annual review of subscription rates at Holme Pierrepont on the 12th June 1976.

At an earlier meeting it had been agreed that individual membership would in future carry automatic third party insurance cover and that subscription rates would not be increased to cover this additional facility. It was felt that economies made over the last 12 months would cover the additional cost involved.

A review of likely increases in costs for the year ending 31st October 1977 were presented to the meeting. This revealed that additional costs in excess of £4,000 were likely to occur in that year. Part of these costs would of course be met by increased Sports Council grants. Even with inflation slowing down, the purchasing power of the subscriptions agreed a year ago has fallen by 25% and is likely to fall by a further 10-15% over the next year. Your Council found itself in somewhat of a dilemma, particularly as the reserves of the Union are somewhat depleted.

After considerable discussion it was agreed to freeze the subscriptions applicable to Youth, Family and Affiliated Clubs, and confine any increase to Full Members only. The increase for Full Members was itself restricted to 30p making a total annual subscription of £3.50. Your Council felt that the members would support this modest increase of less than 10% in the full subscription, bearing in mind the inflation rate of 25% since the last subscription revision.

To continue this policy of stabilising subscriptions, it is essential that we increase our membership considerably to finance the increasing demand for our services. Apart from the competitive aspects of our sport, which bring their own publicity, the problems of Access are becoming more and more evident. If your Council are to continue to speak with authority on these matters they must have a larger membership and adequate resources to support it.

Numerous correspondents say that our Slalom and White Water racing paddlers have had a busy time recently with events in Muotathal, Merano and Spittal. The copy desk at Brompton Road has been inundated with articles, results, photos and snippets of information — which is what we want — so let's get down to the details.

### Muotathal — Switzerland, 12/13 June, Europa Cup Event

Low water conditions and tight course design made this slalom particularly testing on the competitors' skill in boat handling. The best British performance came from the Men's kayak second team (Lovelock, Thomas and Kerr) who, with a superb first run, collected only 20 penalties to finish with a total of 245. This could only be beaten by the East Germans in a time of 1.3 seconds faster. Britain also took the 4th place in the C1 Team event with Goodwin, Goldsmith and Hedges finishing behind DDR, Czechoslovakia and BDR.

In the individual competition the Men's K1 was won by Peters (West Germany) with fellow countryman Forsyth taking the silver and Horn (DDR) the bronze. Highest placed British paddler was Albert Kerr in 15th position. The C1 event was dominated by the Czechs who took the first 3 positions. Martyn Hedges was our best performer in 8th place.

Britain also had very encouraging results in the down river race with our C1 team Hedges, Goldsmith and Goodwin taking the silver, eleven seconds behind West Germany. In the individual C1 Martyn Hedges was 4th, 0.2 seconds outside the medals after having to roll on his way down the course. In the Men's K1 Iain Freestone finished 12th in his first senior international.

### Merano — Italy, 19/20 June, Europa Cup Event

Following Muotathal, the slalom team travelled

to Merano — again water conditions were very low. Fourteen nations competed in the event — Britain finished 4th which can be taken as a sure sign of our competitive improvement in canoe slalom.

Albert Kerr was again Britain's best placed individual K1 in 8th place. In the C1 Martyn Hedges was only 0.3 seconds behind the winning East German Peter Masalski with Peter Keane finishing 6th.

### Spittal — Austria, 17/18 July

The importance of this event is that Spittal is the site for next year's World Championships. The water level was extremely low in the week prior to the event although a large lake upstream was opened to provide a good level of water for the competition. This disadvantage was that our paddlers had to compete under vastly different water conditions than they had experienced during training.

The Mens K1 Slalom was dominated by the Austrians Peter Sauster and Norbert Sattler who finished first and second respectively. Highest placed British paddler was Nicky Wain, who despite a clear run finished 21 seconds down on the winner in 8th position. In the C1 Martyn Hedges again performed well to finish in 4th place, 10 seconds behind the winner Karel Tresnak (Czechoslovakia).

In the Down River Race, both the Mens K1 Team (Swallow, Fisher and Freestone) and the C1 Team (Hedges, Goldsmith and Goodwin) gained 4th place.

Two of Britain's C.1 team, Keane and Nardalli competing at Merano



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Correspondence: L. D. R.: Mike Carvell; Coaching: O. J. Cock; Youth: Ken Lovell; Touring: Ralph Tyas.

The statements and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the official views of the B.C.U. Council, or its official committees. We next publish in December, and copy for inclusion should be sent to the co-editors at B.C.U., H.Q., 70 Brompton Road, London SW3 1DT not later than 1st November. Advertising enquiries to the co-editors at the above address.

# ACCESS FOCUS

River Dart Access Arrangements  
(Newbridge to Totnes, 1 October, 1975 to  
13 February 1976).

There is now virtual certainty that through the co-operation of the owners of the River Dart Country Park, the arrangements with the riparian owners that were operated in past years by the Outward Bound School will again operate.

The agreement covers launching and landing points, size of parties and spacing of groups, equipment, limitations on parking and spectators, etc. Two weeks' notice (stamped addressed envelope, please) to the General Manager, River Dart Country Park, Holme Park, Newton Abbot, Devon, stating number of canoes, name and telephone no. of leader, date of trip and its character. Shorter notice may be accepted in special cases such as flash flood conditions.

All parties must check in and obtain a permit at the Country Park Office (MR 732702) before embarking on the river.

It is hoped to prepare a leaflet with more details. Availability will be notified in the next issue of "Canoe Focus" — *Ralph Tyas*

# YOUTH FOCUS

It was suggested some while ago that I write a column specifically for the young paddler. For the first time I find this somewhat difficult but hope that with co-operation that this little corner can develop into a lively and useful feature.

I hold no particular personal wish to become an Aunt Sally, (taken in whichever particular literal sense you wish) but it would be nice to hear from all you young paddlers who wish to express your own views or from those of you wanting to know what goes on within the sport.

Efforts are constantly being made to include young people in various development plans. A good example, was the winter training weekends organised jointly by Sprint and L.D. The Director has gained permission from the Council to call a conference of young paddlers! I hope he is able to arrange this soon.

In the meantime just stop sucking your Kojak lolly for a moment and drop me a line with your news, your views and your questions. This is your spot in the paper and it is up to you to use it profitably.

*Ken Lovell.*

## Espada 10000 Metre Award

At long last, the ten thousand metre enamelled badges are available. Cost 40p including postage. Apply to: Mrs Iris Wooton, 104 Norton Lane, Great Wyrley, Walsall, West Midlands. A certificate goes with the badge.

# HENRY THELEN 1907-1976

It was in 1940, as invading German troops landed in the Norwegian port of Bergen that Henry Thelen slipped out of the town into the mountains, with his wife Friedel and young son Hannes, for he knew that his name was on the Gestapo list. Over the mountains, down to another fjord, then a long anxious journey by fishing boat to a northern rendezvous with the British Navy and transport to Scotland.

After various vicissitudes Henry finally settled in London as a representative of Associated Press; a tall and misleadingly serious man who might, under different circumstances, have become a very able politician. He was very much a family man with a long attachment to the recreation of canoeing, and one of his first actions was to build a double kayak for himself and young son. As a young man Hein, as he was familiarly known amongst his friends, had canoeed widely in Germany and Northern Europe and as soon as the war ended he joined the newly formed 'Canoe Fellowship', a club on the Thames at Weybridge, and began to get involved in canoeing affairs.

He was particularly concerned to break down the feeling of isolation imposed by the years of war, and he took the lead in encouraging participation by British canoeists in the international canoe cruises being organized by clubs and associations on the Continent, and led one such party to Denmark in 1950. It was in that year also that he was persuaded to undertake the production of the BCU News Bulletin, a duplicated news sheet introduced the previous year. The following year this news sheet underwent a transformation and re-appeared as a printed quarterly with the title "Canoeing in Britain" and Henry edited this for the next 12 years.

Although his own personal experience had been primarily in the field of touring, he was very interested in canoe racing and particularly in encouraging young people to take up the competitive branches. In 1950 he joined the Paddling Racing Committee (now known as the Sprint Committee) and was involved from the beginning in the International Sprint Regattas on the Serpentine in London. Later he took full responsibility for organising these canoeing events over a period of ten years until they ceased when the sponsoring newspaper, "News of the World", withdrew its backing. It was largely through his many contacts with individuals and clubs on the Continent that he was able to attract overseas teams to the Serpentine Regattas, and in 1961 when the BCU celebrated its 25th Jubilee, the team leaders of the Italian and Yugoslav Teams made presentations of bronze statuettes which we have this year adopted as challenge trophies in Henry's memory.

# SUPER CANOEING



"Superstars" say Canoeing is "Super" left to right. David Hemery (Athletics) Dave Starbrook (Judo) Malcom "Supermac" MacDonald (Soccer) Gareth Edwards (Rugby) John P. R. Williams (Rugby) Stan Bowles (Soccer) Jonah Barrington (Squash) John Conteh (Boxing) David Duckham (Rugby)

Sometime in October Superstars will grace your T.V. screens! Such are the problems of assembling so many top sports men that three "episodes" have already been shot in this country. The European countries will run their heats at about monthly intervals. This year one of the events is canoeing and naturally the B.C.U. were asked to provide the umpire. Fortunately our Director, Gordon Richards, was able to fit the events in, and as well as cruising about in a launch, managed to spend quite a while chatting to the competitors and trying to sell B.C.U. membership; informed rumour has it that John Conteh is joining the paddling fraternity.

Since most of the Superstars had never even sat in a canoe before, some instruction was called for. As I was transporting the five Ottersport T61 canoes to the three events I was able to combine this with teaching "beginners". All the competitors were given a short swimming pool session complete with at least one capsize and then it was time for the warm up and into the event.

How did they fare? Well, there were capsizes, Gordon disqualified a few and there were photo finishes, but you will have to wait until the Autumn to find "The Superstar". Between now and then there are heats in Sweden, Holland and France, and then the final; let's hope that Keegan, Shilton, Conteh, Hemery, Hunt or some other British sportsman can be the European Superstar this year — certainly Conteh and Hemery looked good in canoes. — *John Adams*

## White Water Magazine

Canoeists new to slalom or white water racing may not be aware of the existence of "White Water Magazine". Published quarterly it caters specifically for the rough water paddler with feature articles, news, competition results, and a liberal sprinkling of illustrations.

Single copies at 30p or annual subscription at £1.20 are available from Treasurer Maurice Rothwell, 21 Windsor Road, Clayton Bridge, Manchester, M10 6QQ.

## National Canoe Exhibition

After the outstanding success of the last Exhibition which was a direct result of co-operation between the British Canoe Union, members of the Sports Council, and members of the British Canoe Manufacturers Association and others, we advise you to make a date for your diary — 26th-27th February 1977 at Crystal Palace. Information from: Jeff Sheridan, Greater London and South East Region Sports Council, 160 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 5TB.

# LETTER FOCUS

Dear Sir,  
Re your Guest Editorial in "Focus" I heartily agree with (a) re two-tier membership. I do not compete. I am just an independent (mainly sea) canoeist... I am indifferent to notices of Slalom, Sprint, L.D. Competitions etc. So I hope some time this will materialize — good luck to any efforts in this direction.  
G. Tree, Hastings.

Dear Mr Richards,  
In reply to the first "Canoe Focus" editorial let me put suggestions forward. First of all let me refute suggestions that Slalomists etc., should pay more than the average B.C.U. member, they do already in the form of high entry fees — (and they receive no Year Book — at least not so far this year).

My suggestion is therefore that the B.C.U. organisation should be broken down into its various Committees and membership should be paid to them. If a canoeist participates in Slalom then he should pay to the Slalom Committee — if he also participates in Sprint then an extra fee should be paid to the Sprint Committee. This would make each Committee responsible to the demands of the membership and give them the chance to produce something tangible for its membership — (a page in "Canoe Focus"?). The keenness of the Committee could then be harnessed and use could be made of the B.C.U. administrative set-up. Non competitive canoeists could be served by the Touring Committee.

Incidentally — I am all in favour of the new Insurance Scheme — something constructive at last!  
J. A. G. Hall, Aberystwyth University Canoe Club.

Dear Sir,  
After reading the Guest Editorial in "Canoe Focus" it has set me thinking about joining a club in my area. Could you please send me a list of clubs in my area, and any other information about which day the club meets, fees, etc., I have been canoeing on and off for about two years. Also we were asked our feelings about how our fees are spent, so that if the fees each year are well spent, providing that the member can get a discount on canoeing goods, through belonging to the B.C.U. Also he is kept up-to-date on comment and current events through the newspaper, which in colour or not.  
T. Hand, Southend-on-Sea.

Dear Sirs,  
At the last meeting of the Tiverton Youth Centre Canoe Group I put forward some of my own personal ideas regarding the administration of the British Canoe Union, ideas I have put forward before in the various questionnaires that come round from time to time. On this occasion our Canoe Group felt that it was necessary now for me to write to you so that other canoeists could consider these views and possibly help to put some of these ideas into practice.

People now cannot afford to travel long distances just to talk about canoeing. If you live near where meetings are being held it does not cost too much in time and travel to attend, but in the far flung corners of the country it is different and the B.C.U. members there cannot be so fairly represented.

What I would like to see happen is the organisation of a Regional Structure, based locally on counties, regionally on groups of counties and nationally by fixed numerical representation from the regions. In other words your clubs, when they grow sufficiently large, elect committees to run them; the Club Committees detail a couple of representatives to County Associations and/or Regions; then the Regional Councils select some my delegates, perhaps one per County, to represent their Regions at National Council level.

The cost of sending delegates should be borne by each tier of administration, but specialist committees set up by the National Council for particular projects or activities (selecting club personnel for their experience in certain fields etc.) should be paid expenses from National sources.

My ideas are intended partly to take the strain of organisation off the shoulders of a small body of regular helpers by spreading the load over the clubs of the nation, while giving those clubs a fairer chance of playing their part and influencing the ultimate decisions of the direction of the B.C.U. The last thing any of us want is for the B.C.U. to lose touch with the needs of its members and I am glad that the B.C.U. felt the need to introduce "Canoe Focus" to keep in touch with their grass roots.  
Chris Mackay, Youth Leader, Tiverton Youth Club.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT:

The Review and Planning Committee of the British Canoe Union is at this present moment studying all of the points raised in your letter. Great minds think alike!

# COACHING FOCUS

Competition Appreciation Course  
Nottingham and Wey Kayak Clubs are combining to run the above event at Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham, on the weekend of 1st-3rd October 1976.

It is intended to give Senior Instructors and Coaches an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of competitive canoeing. Previous experience is not essential and candidates will have the opportunity to use different types of equipment ranging from Sprint and Slalom Canadians to K boats.

A Senior Instructor Inland Assessment will be run parallel and the cost of either course is £12.00, plus exam fee for assessment. Application forms from: Les Preston, OC13 AYT, 53 Woodchurch Road, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8NJ.

# BCU INSURANCE COVER

Following the announcement in the first issue of "Focus", Headquarters have received a number of enquiries concerning the scope of the cover. Co-editor Bob Gray, himself a paddler and coach, posed the following questions to Alan Laws, the Chairman of the BCU Insurance Working Party.

- Bob Gray:** Who is exactly providing the B.C.U. insurance cover?  
**Alan Laws:** It is provided by a leading British Insurance company, who are members of the British Insurance Association. Furthermore, very competitive rates have been obtained by engaging the services of a broker who understands the specific problems of water sport.  
**Bob:** Is canoe surfing covered by the policy?  
**Alan:** Yes, provided it is from a beach in Great Britain.  
**Bob:** What is the extent of the cover?  
**Alan:** Up to £100,000 for any one claim.  
**Bob:** If I am instructing and one of my pupils meets with an accident am I covered?  
**Alan:** If negligence can be proved, as a B.C.U. member you would be covered against damages that a court may award to the claimant.  
**Bob:** Is my canoe club automatically covered by the policy?  
**Alan:** No. Cover for clubs is only available if an affiliated club applies direct to the brokers: Maule-Oatway Ltd, 60 Wilbury Road, Hove, Sussex, for the attention of Mr R. E. K. Gorrill.  
**Bob:** Thank you for answering my questions. Are there any other comments you would like to add?  
**Alan:** Only to say that if members have further queries of a technical nature it would be best to write direct to the brokers at the above address.

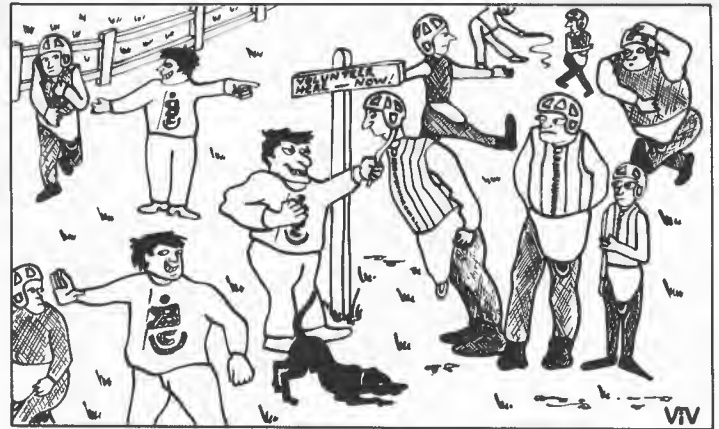
# ACTIVITY FOCUS

**Henley Boat Show**  
 The first of what is hoped to be an annual event will be held at Henley-on-Thames from the 2nd to the 5th September. The Boat Show will be on the Leander Lawns; the same area as that upon which the Henley Royal Regatta is held.  
 As well as there being a number of competitive canoeing events, all the local canoe clubs and organisations are clubbing together and sharing a stand. The Thames Valley Coaching Panel are running some competitive events on the river during the Show.  
**National Canoe Surf Championships**  
 The venue is Slude and the date 11/12th September. Startling notices should note the change of address of the event organizer C. W. Scott who now resides at "Boscolla House", Newmill, Truro, Cornwall.

**ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE 1976 L.D. CALENDAR**  
**Tier 3:** August 22nd: Wolverhampton Organiser: Mr K. Yates, 24a Orton Lane, Wombourne, Wolverhampton.  
**Tier 4:** Late Autumn: Bedford/Kings Lynn: Organiser: J. Maters, 25 Bowers St., Bedford: 72 mks. £1 per seat.

The half-yearly meeting of the Long Distance Racing Committee will be held in Worcester on the Sunday of the National Championships, August 29th. Items for the agenda must be submitted to the secretary at least two weeks prior to this date.  
**River Exe Non Ranking N.O. Slalom**  
 4th-5th September 1976 Organised by Tiverton Youth Centre C.C. For entries and further details write enclosing S.A.E. To: L. Williams, Ponds Close, Bolham, Tiverton, Devon. (Camping facilities available). Entry fee 50p

**Canoe Polo League and National Knockout**  
 It is hoped to be able to get a National League under way during the coming winter. Any Club that is prepared to hold a league event under their administration is asked to contact the Canoe Polo Secretary. Dates and venues will be circulated or posted in "Canoe Focus". All matches played at these events will count towards the National League.  
 The finals of the National Knockout will again be held at the Canoe Exhibition at Crystal Palace. Eliminating rounds will take place in regions. Entries for this competition to the Canoe Polo Secretary, Keith Clark, Danstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffs, to arrive before the 1st October.



## Omission from Slalom Year Book

Unfortunately Chalfont Park Canoe Club, as ever very active, were omitted from the Year Book as a result of an oversight. The Club have a very active interest in both Slalom and White Water events and anyone in their catchment area should contact Tom Cronin, 38 Hillside, Slough, Buckinghamshire.

## Sea Touring

The idea of a specialist committee to look after the interests of the sea canoeist has been noted for some time.  
 Since the steering committee has been in operation a lot has been achieved. B.C.U. sea canoeing awards have been discussed and forwarded to Geoff Good for deliberation by the tests sub-committee.  
 Meetings have been held with the Coastguards and a useful working relationship established. A list of coastal advisors is being compiled. A sea touring symposium has been arranged in December at Newman College, Birmingham.  
 A model constitution is being discussed. Once this is accepted by the B.C.U. Council we should become a bona fide specialist committee of the B.C.U. — John Ramwell

**FACT:** We (NOT they) the B.C.U. have a very small full time paid staff, who play an essential role for us.  
**FACT:** There is a definite limit to what they can do in a working day and it will never be enough!  
**FACT:** Several hundred of us (B.C.U. members) give a little or a lot of our time and effort to run OUR sport.  
**CONCLUSION:** We, the B.C.U., are primarily a voluntary organisation and are likely to remain so.  
**CONCLUSION:** Our success will be PROPORTIONAL to the NUMBER of members working effectively in a voluntary capacity.  
**ACTION:** We must further MOBILISE OUR VOLUNTARY EFFORT in order to strengthen and improve canoeing at ALL levels and in all its forms.  
**METHOD:** Volunteers are rare, but most members will do work in a voluntary capacity if specifically and directly asked to do so and if given the necessary leadership, support and sense of involvement.  
**NOTE:** The B.C.U. West Midlands Regional Group has achieved fair success along these lines. To assist clubs and anyone else interested a short hand out has been produced to act as an "Instant Recruiting Officer's Kit". This can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Carel Quaife, Chairman, BCU WMRG, 70 Coopers Road, Birmingham, B20 2JX.

# DOUBLE ACHIEVED



On Friday April 30th Nottingham Kayak Club's new premises were opened officially by the Minister of State for Sport the Rt. Hon. Denis Howell, ending a massive self-help project, mounted by the Club, which has lasted for five years and involved the raising of £14,000.

"We see the Minister's involvement as a great tribute to our efforts and to amateur sport in Nottingham", said Colin Gray, Nottingham Kayak Club Chairman and a locally based British Canoe Union National Coach.

The Minister paid tribute to the voluntary effort put in by so many members of the Club and he said that this 'epitomized the spirit that he was finding in many aspects of Sport in general but which seemed to be particularly strong amongst canoeists'. The President of the British Canoe Union, the Chairman of the Sprint Racing Committee Ronald Emes, many members of the Council and the Director of the British Canoe Union, Gordon Richards, were present at the opening.

The highlight of the day was when a K4,

stroked by Colin Gray, took to the water with the Minister of State Denis Howell sitting at No. 2 position. Many commented upon the Minister's ability to keep time and one comment suggested that with a bit of training he might yet pick up a medal at Holme Pierrepont!

The cash for the project came from a number of sources. The following made contributions — The Sports Council £6,000, Nottinghamshire County Council £3,400, Rushcliffe District Council £750, and Nottingham City Council £100.

The remainder of the money required has been found by club-members after a very lengthy fund-raising campaign.

"We now have probably the best purpose built canoe club facilities in the country" says Colin Gray. "This is largely thanks to our generous sponsors and also the spirit and determination of our club members, who not only turned up with hammers and nails, paint brushes and paint pots to finish the job off, but also continued to train and win races — a most difficult 'double' to achieve".

# GOODIES FROM BCU SUPPLIES

We have a sample range of clothing with the B.C.U. Logo. Stocks are limited — early application is advisable. If we are unable to complete your order, you will receive a refund. HURRY, HURRY, to get your share of the following:

- Olympic Appeal 'T' shirt — red and blue on a white cotton shirt — sizes Small — Medium — Large — £1.70 each.
- International 'T' shirt pale blue on dark blue cotton, with the B.C.U. Logo and the words 'I am a paddler' in English, French, German and Russian — sizes Small — Medium and Large. £2.00 each.
- Crew neck slop shirts in light blue, printed discreetly with a 3" high Logo. Available only in Medium, Large and Extra Large — good value at £4.15 each.
- Red, with White Logo. Hooded Training Tops with full length zips. Only available in Large — £6.25 each.

ALL prices include Postage and Packing.

ORDER FORM — PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

NAME.....  
 ADDRESS.....  
 B.C.U. Ref: .....

Please supply

..... Olympic 'T' Shirts Small at £1.70 each .....

..... Olympic 'T' Shirts Medium at £1.70 each .....

..... Olympic 'T' Shirts Large at £1.70 each .....

..... B.C.U. International 'T' Shirt Small at £2.00 each .....

..... B.C.U. International 'T' Shirt Medium at £2.00 each .....

..... B.C.U. International 'T' Shirt Large at £2.00 each .....

..... Crew Neck Slop Shirts Medium at £4.15 each .....

..... Crew Neck Slop Shirts Large at £4.15 each .....

..... Crew Neck Slop Shirts Ex Large at £4.15 each .....

..... Hooded Training Tops Large at £6.25 each .....

Total Remittance £.....

Cheque/P.O. enclosed.

To: NAME.....  
 ADDRESS.....

FROM: BRITISH CANOE UNION, 70 BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON, SW3 1DT.

# SPRINT SPECTACULAR



Frank Whitebrook, ICF Member for Australasia reports on the Pre-Olympic Regatta which attracted 17 nations to the largest sprint event outside the Olympics this year.

Quietly effective, innovative, smooth, surprized; these are all appropriate methods of describing the International Regatta at Holme Pierpoint on July 19th and 20th.

"Blue Stars" must be awarded to the Chairman and Chief Official Ron Emes and to Colin Gray and Mike Haslam for their efforts and also to the rest of the Committee which backed them up — all on site well before the first race and without the scurry often seen elsewhere.

A "Blue Star" and credit also goes to Gordon Richards, and his staff for their dedication and no-one could complain about the press and media coverage which had occurred even long before Doug Parnham "blew the roof off" for the P.R. boys in winning the 1000 metres K1 with his scintillating blade and perfect judgement.

It was refreshing to see so many parents of young paddlers, contributing to the organisation. Many completely removed from the excitement, but staying at their posts continuously. If this parental co-operation is fostered, racing will soon attract the strength of tradition which is seen in sport of much longer standing.

"Super Stars" of the Regatta must be the women of the German Democratic Republic in their Blue-Glass boats. Of particular note, however, was the narrowing of the gap between the DDR and other nations women. Sometimes it only needs someone to show the way. What Country will be the first to topple the obvious enormous grip they have on the ladies K4 500 metres?

At the start of the ladies K1 500 metres final the three blue boated blondes slammed out of their boxes like whippets, accompanied by Miss Kreft of the USSR. The point position was taken by Zirzow with Borzym and Ohde working it out between them to hold off the challenge by Kreft to break up the uniformity of track suits on the presentation dias. It was a magnificent national effort against a severe head wind. They were over the line in a blaze of blue; Zirzow 2; 14.5, Borzym 2; 16.6, Ohde 2; 16.7, Kreft 2; 16.83. Sheila Burnett although in the petit final would have been placed seventh in a single representative event.

In the K2 500 metres the next day, there was a time destroying snarly cross head-wind. The DDR girls, Koster and Zirzow, stepped into top gear early with the Soviet pair Kreft and Gopova keeping them company. For a little while it looked as if the USSR couple might stop the cascade of gods going to the DDR. However, the "GO GO" that they seemed to have built in their repertoire came again in the

last 50 metres. They won in 2; 02.45 with the Soviet at 2; 02.58. Hungary and the Federal Republic of Germany took third and fourth with Ohde and Borzym in fifth place leaving out the duplicates, Pauline Goodwin and Hilary Peacock who paddled at 2: 14.68 in the petit final, would have been ninth.

In the men's event there was a very large distribution zone of medals. From the home point of view, there can be no doubt about the high point — Doug Parnham's tremendously gutsy victory in the 1000 metres K1 will be remembered for a long time. It has to be bracketed with his fourth in the 500 metres K1 and his win with Robin Avery in the 10,000 metres. The 1000 was never a certainty until right on the line when Doug slammed his boat through the line in 4 minutes 24.81 with Andersson of Sweden in 4: 25.27 and Rudi Helm at 4: 25.74. Csapo was fourth. Of course, all hell broke loose! Colin Gray did a beautiful job of an "in-between" gaps announcement of the victory to a somewhat staid group of V.I.P.'s having a lunch which then became episodic to say the least. A red flag, which had nothing to do with Doug caused even more excitement.

In the meantime, spectators thronged above and around the dais for this momentous occasion in British racing history. Doug took his grand moment with diffidence and the cheering rang out, almost as far as Nottingham.

In the K1 500 metres final, three Poles took their positions at the pontoons. Yourchenko of the USSR had been eliminated. A final K1 event was to start without a Soviet paddler! Sztanity, the Hungarian won against a moderate head-wind in 2: 00.51, Rudi Helm (DDR) second in 2: 00.82, Sledziewski the paragon Polish stylist third in 2: 01.96, Doug Parnham clocked 2: 03.03.

Willy Reichenstein of Irving Club and Great Britain has to be congratulated for his tenacity in battling through to second place in the petit-final of the C1 500 and the C1 1000 metres.

All those who noticed it would be pleased with the Irish lifting themselves up the performance ladder. They made several semi's, hitherto a joy denied them in top internationals.

The team prize went to the DDR with the BDR second — Great Britain came sixth.

It was a great Regatta. It even included the capture of a flying pike by a British crew. What price riparian rights for that. Finally, even though the organisation had nothing to do with the "lost" Soviet boats, but the fact that they did emerge on time, must be a tribute to some Red Star, somewhere!



Above left: The moment of triumph; Parnham, Lane 5, takes the 1,000 m gold. Above: Doug on the victory rostrum — a historic occasion for British canoeing. Below: Willy Reichenstein, Britain's top C1 paddler, in action. Photos: K. J. Dankbars.



## FOCUS SCOTLAND

Devolution seems to be the catch word these days and to most the topic is about as interesting as Regionalisation. However, the national sentiments have percolated down to the Scottish Canoe Association and have made their welcome (or unwelcome?) presence felt. All the problems, real and imagined, arising from our relationship with the B.C.U. seem to originate from a lack of communication. So with a little perseverance, dedication and a lot of luck, we might manage to sustain a Scottish column in future issues. So here is our first "News in Brief".

We receive many requests from our friends south of the border for information on rivers in Scotland and in particular on problems of access. Those wishing a brief guide to some of our rivers should write to our part-time Secretary at 8 Frederick Street, EDINBURGH. One word of advice to those planning excursions on Scottish rivers, please remember that on no occasion should you write to a landowner asking for permission to paddle on a stretch of water. The only permission required is for access and egress. Such "letters" as mentioned above cause great embarrassment to those wishing to establish rights of way, as in the Spey case.

The recent decision of the House of Lords in the Spey case has clarified and brought to general notice the matter of access to the rivers of Scotland.

For the past three years we have received a grant from the Scottish Sports Council to run our affairs, and a large proportion goes to sup-

port our Teams who compete abroad. This year we sent a Sprint Team to Zaandam in Holland where the Russian, Spanish, Belgian and W. German paddlers left our Senior men well behind. However, at other levels the Team of nine gained 14 medals including five firsts. This summer 10 Slalom and W. W. paddlers leave to compete at the German and French Championships at Mittenvald and Bourg St. Maurice respectively.

It was hoped to run our Scottish Sprint Championships at the new Water Sports Centre just south of Glasgow in the Autumn. However, this now seems unlikely as the construction work is not yet complete. When the time approaches for our first regatta I hope to be able to devote a column to a description of this exciting new development.

On a lighter-note, the mating season is in full swing — it must be the hot dry weather which rarely ever ventures north of the border. Graham Smith whom many will know in the Slalom and W. W. scene was married in April. In July we have the weddings of Stuart Ness, our Secretary, and Fay Roberts, again of Slalom fame.

### Visit of B.C.U. Director to Scotland

Gordon Richards recently spent three days in Scotland. During his visit he met many members of the Scottish Canoe Association and by the time he left it was clear that he had absorbed some of the atmosphere of Scottish canoeing which has changed quite considerably since Gordon left Scotland in 1971.

Those who attended the Council Meeting in Stirling will know that Gordon's contribution to the discussion, both during and after the meeting, has helped to remove some of the difficulties and misunderstandings which have developed in the relationship between the S.C.A. and the B.C.U. in recent years.

Our Scottish Reporters: A. Morton, S. Ness, J. Turcan

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