

No.8 November/December

1994

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Canoe Focus

The official magazine of the British Canoe Union



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Canoe Focus

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Front cover— Pupil from Henry Compton School
'Looping'a in Cornwall.
Below— Albert Kerr receives a gallon of whisky
from THE HOUSE of DEWARS canoeing's
new sponsors.



EDITORIAL

Congratulations to The British Canoe Union Marathon Racing Committee, and the paddlers who took part, on the sweeping success in the Gudena Marathon and the Nations Cup (the first time ever competition within a competition that is reported fully in this issue).

During the period of the race the second and final meeting, of national representatives immediately interested in the promotion of Canoe Marathon as a competitive discipline, was held.

The meeting took place in the Skanderborg Youth Hostel. Attended by Sergio Orsi, General Secretary of the International Canoe Federation, and John Dudderidge, Chairman of the ICF Marathon Working Party, the delegates free-ranged over many developmental prospects.

Of all the many proposals two were significant; firstly that which called for the formation of a Committee of Marathon Racing Representatives and that the ICF be asked to appoint the Chairman of the Committee to the Racing Committee of the ICF. Secondly, Sergio Orsi proffered the idea of a Europa Cup as an experimental platform and this was enthusiastically received.

It is pleasant to report that initial negotiations have been concluded with John Dewar & Sons with regard to major sponsorship of The British Canoe Union. At this present time further negotiations are taking place with another sponsor, with a view to the sponsorship of other aspects of our activities.

Now that the bubbles have gone from the champagne it is coming home to roost that Great Britain has a World Champion. It is expected that there will be a line of contestants crossing the Channel in the next eighteen months to take measure of Albert Kerr and other British Slalom and Wild Water paddlers — we have more than one potential world beater.

Congratulations to Mike Jones on yet another expedition successfully completed — a report on his Oricono trip appears in this issue.

Expeditions are becoming increasingly bold are far from being Sunday afternoon jaunts. A successful expedition succeeds or fails in the early planning stages and this is clearly demonstrated by the example of the British advanced paddlers who have completed successful expeditions recently or are planning major sorties.

Finally on behalf of Collin Higgins and myself, may we wish Canoeists everywhere a very merry christmas and a prosperous canoeing new year.

G.R.

John Dudderidge OBE.

17 years reign as President of the Union, was for 20 years its General Secretary, and with his departure from the Council, of which he was also Chairman until three years ago, there departed the last of the Founding Fathers of the British Canoe Union.

By profession a schoolmaster specialising in Physical Education and Science, he devoted his spare time to building up the sport of canoeing in Britain, and he went into early retirement from education to have more time for this work.

It all began in 1933 when he acquired a canoe, joined the then recently formed British Canoe Association and was shortly afterwards elected to its committee. Some time later he was invited to take over responsibility for racing, including producing a team to represent Great Britain at the first Olympic Games Canoe Regatta which was to be held in 1936 in Berlin. He set up an Olympic Squad and in due course was himself selected, with A.R. Brealey, for the 10,000 metres event. They took the 9th place.

In 1935 he and some other members of the BCA Committee realised that if the sport was to develop it must have an independent national governing body, and just such a body came into existence in 1936 as the British Canoe Union, with J.D. in charge of competition. In 1938 he took a larger British team to Stockholm to compete in the World Championships, and there, at the Congress of the international Canoe Federation he was elected to the ICF Board as one of two representatives for Europe, an office he has held ever since and to which he was again elected in Montreal for the period up to Moscow; 1980.

At the end of the war the ICF was in ruins and in 1946 J.D. flew to Stockholm to assist in setting up a new international federation. At this inaugural Congress he was elected as Vice President and given the responsibility of organising the 1948 Olympic Games Canoe Regatta, the 1948 World Championships and the ICF Congress. He also mustered, equipped and helped to train a team to represent Britain. There were only a few old boats available and as it was impossible to obtain an import licence for new craft from overseas, he persuaded a British firm, Jicwood Ltd., Weybridge, to build a dozen racing kayaks though he had no idea how he would pay for them.

His faith was justified for the makers generously presented them to the BCU as a gift. Another boat builder produced a couple of racing 'canadians' from a design obtained from Canada. J.D. continued as Chairman of the Racing Committee and Team Manager for another 10 years when he retired, but continued to serve as an ICF Official at Olympic Games and World Championships and was on the jury in Montreal.

In 1939 J.D. had become General Secretary when the existing officer was called up at short notice, and he held that post until 1959 when he was elected President and Chairman of the Council. He has always felt very strongly that those who have enjoyed the privilege of participation in a sport should be prepared to plough back some of that enjoyment, and help others, in particular young people, to find similar satisfaction. He therefore set out to promote canoeing in the schools, beginning with his own; persuaded the Outward Bound Schools to include canoeing activities in their curricula; encouraged developments in the Scouts and other uniformed youth organisations as well as in the Youth clubs, and when the Central Council of Physical Recreation was lent Bisham Abbey for use as a National Training Centre, he pressed for canoeing facilities to be included, offering to run courses there and find other canoeists to help. He also sought to interest the Youth Hostels Association in setting up youth hostels to cater for travellers by water. It was through this involvement in youth activities that he came to realise that if the Union was to cope with the growing flood of would-be canoeist it would be necessary to train people for the work of teaching the basic skills, and conceived the idea of setting up a Coaching Scheme under BCU. He then began to organise training courses in various parts of the country in collaboration with local clubs, and from these courses he appointed selected people as coaches on whom to build up the Scheme. Some older members will remember these pioneer courses in Sheffield, Leamington, Bradford on Avon, Ham Dock and other centres. When the Coaching Scheme was on its feet he handed over the Chairmanship to the present Chairman of the Council, Geoff Sanders, who developed it to its present pre-eminence.

At the 1961 A.G.M. John Dudderidge received the first BCU Award of Honour for his services to Canoeing. The following year the ICF presented him with its Award of Merit for his work for international canoeing, and in the same year the Queen Mother decorated him as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to sport. He has often been referred to as 'Mr Canoeing'.

The author of numerous articles and contributions to encyclopaedias, including Britannica, J.D. hopes he will now have time for more writing, though not the 'book to end all books' which he planned a quarter of a century ago but never had time to write, though encouraging others 'to have a go'. He still is an active canoeist and having brought up his own four children in the sport, he is now beginning on his grand children. He says that he and the BCU owe a debt of gratitude to his long suffering and uncompromising wife Evelyn without whose constant support, particularly during the hectic middle years, he could not have attempted what he did.



Lalique crystal bowl. Commissioned on behalf of JD's friends by Gordon Richards and engraved by Shirley Cooper.

canoe polo

National Canoe Polo Knockout Competition

The finals of this competition will again be held at the National Canoe Exhibition at Crystal Palace, eliminating rounds taking place in regional tournaments. This year two competitions will be held, the first for open age teams and the second for Youth teams. The qualification for a Youth team is that no paddler can compete in a Youth team in the year in which he has his nineteenth or greater birthday. The year for this particular competition is 1978. Entries for both championships should be sent as soon as possible to:

K.D. Clark, Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffs. Tel: Rocester 590835.

Greenland Equipment

Ian Fawcett

On the recent North West Greenland Expedition, we needed, and looked around the market for, a replacement for the conventional wet suit. With temperatures around zero in the water, we were looking for something with the thermal qualities of a wet suit without all the snags — chaffing, restriction of movement and the horrors of putting it on cold and wet in the mornings.

The answer was found in a development from Equinox. They have come up with an all-in-one suit in material rather like the popular nylon fibre-pile used in the production of thermal jackets for mountaineers. The difference is that the backing is elasticated. Worn next to the skin it proved to be very comfortable and exceptionally warm. Two of the expedition members wore the suit on every paddling day, and needed no other garments except on the very coldest of days. The other two suits only occasionally, but found that when not wearing them they had to wear more than one layer of clothing on most occasions.

For the detail buffs, the suit is 100% Actylmer Chlorofibre on an elasticated nylon backing. It has a ribbed collar, cuffs and ankles to slow down penetration of water and retails at about £30. For those who insist on sea canoeing, or not too strenuous inland paddling in winter, it is a vast improvement on the wet suit or equally bulky multi-layers of clothing.



HOTEL RUSSEL, October 1977 Left to right: Geoff Saunders (Chairman BCU Council), Dennis Follows (Chairman British Olympic Association), J.D., Evelyn Dudderidge, David Wain (President BCU), Mary Glen Haig (Chairman CCPR). Photos: David Hodge.

B.C.U. Supplies

We are pleased to announce the re-stocking of the B.C.U. Bookshop. The following books are now available.

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'Know the Game - Kayak Canoeing'	£0.50
'Wildwater Canoeing' by R. Steide	£4.25
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Poster

This poster, which will be used in a fight to get fair access to waters is available at 40p each or 5 for £1.20. Larger quantities on quotation.



STILL AVAILABLE

'Canoeing in Britain' No. 41 printed in the B.C.U. Silver Jubilee year is still available. Price 50p.

New this Month

After the success of the 4 language International T-Shirt we have added an identical vest. It is in white with blue trim. Sizes available - 30" - 44". Price £2.25. Please state size.

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The new edition of the River Thames Map (Richmond to Lechlade) is now in stock priced £1.10.

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Canoe 78.....

The theme for the 1978 International Canoe Exhibition will be Canoe Camping and Expeditions. 1977 has seen an explosion of Canoe Expeditions, ranging from domestic events to a trip round Cape Horn. For the February show there will be specialist camping stands, stands provided by some of the Expeditions themselves and a specialist programme of lectures based around previous Expedition work.

As always the British Canoe Union headquarters staff will be there to offer advice and encouragement to both the committed and the prospective canoeist, whilst in addition it is hoped that all the 10 specialist committees will be represented, thus providing the most comprehensive range of expertise seen for some time in one location.

1978 will again see a wide range of support for the exhibition from many National Voluntary Organisations, individual Canoe Clubs and Outdoor Activity Centres — all of whom will be delighted to see you at their stand during the weekend.

Most of the major canoe manufacturers and equipment suppliers have now booked space for 1978 and several new faces will also be present, ensuring once again that the exhibition can offer a unique and unrivalled range of canoeing products.

For 1978 only, visitors will have the opportunity of seeing lightweight camping equipment exhibited by specialist firms featured, together with Expedition stands, in the Cricket School.

1977 has seen canoeing receiving its fair share of medal honours, and during the exhibition it is hoped that ALBERT KERR, Britain's World Champion K1 Slalom Canoeist, will be in attendance.

As last year the UK top 20 Slalomists will be competing for an individual prize in a still water slalom in the main pool.

On Saturday it is hoped to stage the first Youth Bat Polo competition, whilst on Sunday the pool will feature the semi finals and final of the National Championships.

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EXCELLENCE REPORT

Since the last report regarding Centres of Excellence appeared in the July/August edition of 'Focus', the British Canoe Union has been in the vanguard of those Governing Bodies of Sport seeking to establish their own Centres of Excellence. As a direct result of the enthusiasm of individual members of the Union, and the energy and initiative of a variety of Regional Sports Council Officers, Canoeing has been included within the proposals for developing multi-sport Centres of Excellence by no less than five of the nine Regional Sports Councils. These have included London and the South East, Yorkshire and Humberside, North West, and East and West Midlands. Whilst most of these proposals are still in the planning stage, or are awaiting an improvement in the financial climate, the first experimental Centre of Canoeing Excellence Project was launched on the 26th September 1977 in the West Midlands Region. As this project is the first of its kind to include canoeing as an activity, it is particularly interesting to note the criteria upon which it has been based, and the circumstances that determined its development.

Following the Sports Council's request for Regions to consider the subject of Centres of Excellence, the West Midlands established a Working Party. Consisting of representatives from Higher Education, Local Education Authorities, the physical education profession, the Department of Education and Science and the governing bodies of sport. In its early discussions the Working Party decided that there was no single definition of a 'Centre of Excellence' and that a Progressive structure of opportunity to pursue excellence was perhaps the most appropriate interpretation. This view was supported by the Sports Development Committee of the West Midlands Sports Council, and it was generally agreed that to test the theory, it would be of value to buy some experience. Consequently, after much discussion, schemes were submitted to the Sports Council for consideration and financial support. The schemes represented a broad cross section of involvement beyond that of the governing bodies, in as much as a local education authority, a local authority recreation department, a university and a polytechnic were included as providers of facilities and some personnel. In addition they also contain those major elements of training that had hitherto not featured highly in coaching programmes, but which the coaches considered to be an integral and vital part of a performers education. They also acknowledged existing Club and Regional structures and in no way sought to supersede or take precedence over them, but rather to involve them in creating a ladder of opportunity for talented performers. Even so, the scheme did not represent an alternative to existing training but complemented and increased it, in some cases to as much as 500 hours a year. Furthermore, as part of the co-ordinating role played by the Regional Office of the Sports Council, it was also intended that conditioning and fitness monitoring should be standardised throughout all projects, as well as the provision of medical attention to the performers, and psycho-social studies. Higher Education Institutes expressed interest in servicing some of these aspects, and the necessary co-ordination has been established.

It was acknowledged by the Regional Sports Council that Canoeing as a sport, covered a number of specific disciplines, some of which bore no relationship to the others. For the purpose of the experiment therefore, three main categories were chosen, namely, Racing, Slalom, and Wild Water Racing. Following an initiative taken by the University of Birmingham and the North Staffordshire Polytechnic, and subsequent discussions with the Chairman of the British Olympic Team Coach in Montreal, and the Great Britain Team Captain for Wild Water Canoeing 1969, it was agreed that with careful planning and co-ordination, the resources existed to

establish elite Squad training opportunities in these three disciplines, and that it was a desirable measure to undertake at that time within the West Midlands. However, it had been noted that the organisational structure of British Canoeing was Club based, and the proposals to be made were therefore to be related to Club involvement, and to an awareness that integration was necessary to create the appropriate harmony within the existing structure. Furthermore, those chosen to enter the Scheme who reached National Squad level, were not to have their national commitments interfered with by virtue of the development of the Centre of Excellence project.

With a number of highly qualified Coaches and top class performers already available and committed to creating development opportunities for the more advanced canoeists, and the availability of young performers who could match the criteria to be established, it was agreed that the Sports Council (West Midlands Region) should submit a development programme which would enable excellence in Canoeing to be pursued in the three disciplines of Racing, Slalom, and Wild Water Racing, for the four years 1977/1981. It was proposed that a training squad be created, which aimed at developing opportunities for top level performers of International potential, and to achieve this within a four year period. These opportunities were to include fitness training as well as water experience. It was hoped to gain Squad International experience which would relate primarily to the development of water expertise, rather than competition. It was also considered that for paddlers to put training into effect, it was necessary to attend top level competitions. Birmingham University, North Staffordshire Polytechnic, and Keele University employed specialists in the field of fitness training, as well as facilities, which along with others at appropriate centres within the Region were to be made available to participants. Fitness monitoring and Sports Medicine backup was to be arranged; again, there was a particular specialism at the centre, which was to be co-ordinated under a regional scheme. The financing of the project was to be channelled through the Regional Office of the Sports Council, and its oversight was to be undertaken by a management group established consisting of —

- (i) Sports Council Regional Project Co-ordinator or Liaison Officer
- (ii) Two British Canoe Union Representatives, one of whom was to be regional
- (iii) Members of the Sports Council (West Midlands) Working Party
- (iv) The Director of the Project.

All these proposals of the Regional Sports Council regarding the establishment of the West Midlands Experimental Centre of Canoeing Excellence Project, were submitted to the National Sports Council for their approval and financial support, and in July this year, great aid amounting to just under £3000.00 was agreed for 1977/78.

The opportunity now existed for the creation of two Training Squads, composed of top level national performers, of international potential, residing in the West Midlands Region. The Racing Squad, which was to be twelve in number, would be for those aged 16 to 18 years. The Slalom and Wild Water Racing Squad, to be ten in number, was to be for young paddlers of First Division standard. No time was wasted getting the Project under way, and invitations to potential Squad members were distributed by the Directors of the two schemes early in September. By the 26th of that month, paddlers and coaches had been nominated, and were as follows —

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Christopher Ballard
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Richard Fox
Peter Godfrey
Andrew Healey
Paul McConkey
Elizabeth Sharman
Andrew Sutherland
Dianne Weston

At the time of writing this report, both Squads are said to be working extremely hard, and the Directors are firmly convinced that we can anticipate improvements in the performances of our young paddlers during the next four years, previously considered impossible.

Central co-ordination and the establishment and implementation of policies regarding Centres of Canoeing Excellence, have been the responsibility of the Competitions Liaison Committee since this subject was remitted for their attention by the Council of the Union in November 1976. During the past year, the Committee has been required to consider proposals concerning Centres of Excellence from very many sources. During their deliberations there has emerged a consensus of opinion that has been formulated into the following statement of policy - 'That the Competitions Liaison Committee are of the view that the concept of 'Centres of Canoeing Excellence' should be fully supported by the British Canoe Union, even though, in the opinion of the Committee, the establishment of such 'Centres' will not provide the most advantageous, nor effective method of developing top canoeing talent. The Committee therefore recommend that the Sports Council be encouraged to allocate resources for the identification and development of highly talented canoeists at Club level, in order that Centres of Canoeing Excellence may be supported and sustained.'

This statement has provided the Committee and its officers with the necessary base upon which they have been enabled to pursue their discussions with National and Regional Sports Councils. They have persisted with their efforts to persuade the sporting establishment, that if top sporting talent is to be identified and nurtured effectively, then there must be a greater allocation of resources to Clubs. Unfortunately the Committee has been singularly unsuccessful in pursuing this particular aspect of their policy. They do not, however, intend to allow their failure to achieve the ideal situation, to interfere with their total involvement in what is after all, really happening, here and now - Centres of Excellence. Accordingly, they will continue, as was stated at the beginning of this report, to be in 'the vanguard of those Governing Bodies of Sport seeking to establish their own Centres of Excellence'

whilst pursuing their ideal whenever they are able so to do. Today we have one Centre of Canoeing Excellence and four on the stocks . . . tomorrow, who knows, maybe we'll have nine!!!!

STOP PRESS

We have just been notified by the Sports Council that the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Centre of Excellence for Slalom and Wild Water Racers based at Leeds, and the London and South East Regional Centre of Excellence for Racing Canoeists, based in West London, have both been approved for the purpose of grant aid, by the Sports Council. More news on both Centres in the next issue of Canoe Focus.

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Schools Canoeing

London Schools Canoeing Association

The London Schools Canoeing Association was officially formed in April 1974 and since then has progressed into a thriving association through its many activities. These include three Mini L.D.s a year, two Slalom events, and a Slalom and Sprint Championship.

As a result of the first Leaside Mini L.D. Race, which was an overwhelming success with 120 children taking part, it was decided to make it a three termly event, culminating in a Trophy being awarded at the end of the summer term.

The Slalom events are held at Beauchamp Lodge on the Grand Union Canal and are not as popular as the L.D. events. The Summer Slalom Championships did however attract 94 children from I.L.E.A. schools, and the Sprint Championships which were held at Thameshead attracted an entry of 116 children.

Any number of pupils may enter the events from affiliated schools in the age groups Junior, Intermediate and Senior for boys, and Junior and Senior for girls. L.S.C.A. certificates are given to each child who enters an event or completes a training session. The Association has also designed its own badges, and these are awarded to a boy or girl who represents London Schools at canoeing in Slalom, Sprint, Long Distance and River Races organised by other canoeing bodies.

In our first full year we organised three week trips to various parts of the country. The first was to the River Wye in South Wales. Fourteen pupils canoed from Glasbury to Tintern Abbey, covering the 100 miles in six days. During the summer, a second trip was run to Newquay, Cornwall, where the pupils enjoyed seven days of sea-canoeing and surfing. The third trip was held at the end of October and a party of fifteen pupils went canoeing on Lake Llangorse, the Monmouth and Brecon Canal, and the River Wye in South Wales.

These three trips have been repeated each year with one exception — Easter 76 we went to Scotland — and the number of children taking part has never been lower than 14 on each trip.

The L.S.C.A. has entered pupils in many canoeing events during the canoeing year and these include; the Exe Descent, the River Usk Race, the River Dee Race, the Ouse Handicap L.D., the Bedford to St. Neats L.D., the Southdown L.D., the Rother L.D., the Three Harb Race, Llandyssal Slalom, Shepperton Slalom, Cookham Slalom.

A hardworking committee meets fairly regularly to work out L.S.C.A. policy and events through the year and it is hope that in the future more schools will join the Association and, even more valuable, teachers. Without the help and assistance of members of staff from secondary schools it is very difficult to man the numerous events which are organised by the committee throughout the year.

HEBRIDEAN EXPEDITION

One of the members of the party suggested that a short log of the trip be forwarded to you since it was the sort of thing you liked to know about.

Our destination was Scarnish on Tiree and we left on Monday 4th July. There was a considerable ground swell when we left but this turned into flat calm in time to make conditions perfect for what would have been a difficult coastline in poorer weather.

Probably the most exciting part of the whole trip was crossing the Firth of Lorne in Spring flood and moderate southerlies. We then continued down the South coast of Mull and camped at Carsaig. The coastline had been ragged and exciting all day but would have been a nightmare to land loaded canoes on.

The weather forecast for the next day was similar to day 1 but we met only small ground swells.

As we approached the sound of Jana we met bigger seas and the shoots created when these met the cliffs were magnificent. We reached Fisherplart by early tea time but stopped only long enough for an ice-cream and headed off towards Lock Screidian for Loch na Lathaich and Buessaw for a late camp.

Day 3 saw us so far ahead of time that we allowed ourselves a day's rest on Mull.

CRUISER DRAMA

by Colin Higgins

Seven men were rescued from a drifting cabin cruiser at Caswell Bay', Swansea, two rescue canoes manned by Caswell lifeguards fought against pounding surf and 15ft waves to reach the troubled boat in one of the worst storms this summer they got a line aboard the stricken cabin cruiser and Mumbles coastguard winched the boat ashore.

The drama started when the Claire Louise II, skippered by Mr. Brian Langdon of Neath, started to drift after losing her rudder while on a Gower coast fishing trip in 50 mph gales.

Caswell lifeguards spotted a red distress flare and called out the Coastguard. Mumbles lifeboat was also launched.

The rough seas stopped lifeguards from launching their rescue boat and lifeguards Mike Grey and Andrew Thomas in canoes struggled to reach the 22ft. white cabin cruiser as she drifted towards the shore.

"We had a full-scale emergency and decided it would be better to try to get two canoes out to the cruiser to make sure the people on board didn't start jumping over the side in the dangerous seas," said Mr. Grey.

"It was hard work paddling through the surf and 15ft. waves but we managed to reach them and tell them not to panic, the lifeboat was on the way.

"The boat was drifting in on the surf and when she was about 144 yards from the shore we managed to get a line aboard and the Coastguard Land Rover under station officer Ron Clayton winched the boat up onto the beach."

Men and women lifeguards waded out through the surf and helped the seven men ashore with the aid of torpedo buoys while all the lifeguards' rescue equipment and an ambulance stood by.

Day 4 started very early and we were on the water well before 9 o'clock. The forecast was not particularly good again but the sea was absolutely flat calm and quite a heavy mist reduced visibility to 3 to 5 miles.

We arrived in Scarnish on Tiree later in the day than planned but well ahead of original plans.

A great deal of the equipment we used is owned by the Outdoor Activities Centre in Glasgow and the radios were supplied compliments of the Blairsadach Outdoor Centre.

The whole trip was a huge success for us all but especially so for Jeremy Breen who had been planning it for a very long time. His preparation was perfect to the smallest detail and his name is one that may well be heard of in Sea Touring circles a great deal more in the future.

Members of the Party:

Jeremy Breen, P.E. teacher, B.C.W. Senior Instructor
Willy Turnbull, P.E. teacher B.C.W. Trainee Instructor
Barry Carmichael, Chemistry B.C.W. Trainee Instructor
Gus Matheson, Maths, B.C.W. Trainee Instructor
John Woods, Maths, B.C.W. Trainee Instructor
Peter Wilson, P.E. teacher.

Coastguards praised the lifeguards for their initiative and said: "They did a very good job. It was a good co-ordinated teamwork between lifeguards and coastguards."

In a letter after the event Ron Clayton, Station Officer I, H.M. Coastguard, Mumbles, Swansea, commented: "This was a first class operation carried out mainly by the Caswell lifeguards. It is obvious that Mike Grey and Andy Thomas are expert canoeists and well trained in Surf.

"Search and rescue operations depend on good communications whether by a modern complicated radio system or word of mouth by a canoeist in the surf.

"I wanted the crew of the boat in the water before it hit the first break — with seven men aboard the danger of rolling over was great. Mike and Andy took this message to the Skipper, the crew jumped in the water, and were immediately brought ashore by the Caswell lifeguards.

A word of caution . . . it takes a lot of training to be a good surf canoeist, even experts like Mike and Andy had problems. Be properly trained — you will never beat the sea."

None of the men was injured and lifeguards took them to their HQ and gave them tea after their ordeal.

"The conditions were very dangerous — the worst of the summer," said Mr. Grey.

Mumbles lifeboat was recalled while on the way to the scene and the rescued men were: Mr. Langdon of Llettydafydd, Clyne, Neath; and Martin Weaver, Joe Allen, Keith Willis, Kingsley Perryman, Ian Bruce and Barry Ellis, all of Neath.

Lifeguards who took part in the rescue were: Mike Grey, Andrew Thomas, Keith Evans, Ross Lyons, Susan Jewell, Gillian Strange, Christine Solomon, Jacque Davies and Sarah Paverner.

THE KAYAK KONNEXION

The Kayak Konnexion connected — after 30 days paddling and 651 miles. It did not set out to break world records, nor paddle uncharted waters. Rather was it a public relations exercise for recreational canoeing, using an unusual anniversary as a catalyst. The anniversary — the 'coming-of-age' of the official twinning of the towns of Mainz (West Germany) and Watford.

This 21st anniversary was celebrated by four instructors from the St Friendship Kayak Klub in Watford, with an average age of 21, leaving Mainz on 21st July, to paddle an average of 21 miles a day all the way back to Watford. (Incidentally, the 21 miles across the Dover Strait were tackled on the 21st August, which was the 21st canoeing day!)

The four — Neil Shave, Alan Topping, Nick and Dave Welham — spent six months setting up the project.

The idea was to travel as a self-contained expedition, having arranged meetings with as many canoe clubs as possible en route — there to hold discussions and stage demonstrations of equipment and technique as appropriate. Over thirty such visits were planned and made . . . every one on time.

A glance at a map will show the variety of waterways that were tackled — river, estuary, coastal, off-shore and canal. With every waterway came a different problem, but with them all came bad weather. If the team was not paddling against force 4/5 winds, it was squinting in visibility of less than 200 metres.

For the adrenaline merchants, 10/12 foot waves were only encountered twice. One on the Rhine from the stern waves of passing barges 'haystacking', and once (for a longer period) whilst rounding the North Foreland in a southerly 7/8.

As part of the public relations exercise, 15 days were included for further promotional work. Kayak Konnexion posters had previously been circulated and were posted up in towns en route to greet the team and enthuse the public. All forms of media, all civic leaders, and all local sports organisations were notified of the expected time of arrival. The result — a wide variety of receptions from a wide variety of organisations in a wide variety of places. Courtesy escorts were frequently sent out to greet the team, including fellow canoeists, sea scouts, harbour masters, river police, coastguards and sea police.



A photograph and a report appeared in a newspaper on 35 of the 45 days, the start was covered by German national television, and progress through Holland was covered every day by national or local radio stations. Film and tape recordings were regularly sent back to the home newspaper — the Watford Observer — who covered the story (sometimes with a full page) for 9 consecutive weeks.

A lot was learned, about technique, about equipment, about the route, about expedition planning, about publicity of sport. Hopefully this will all be consolidated into a report later in the year.

One or two significant things it did however — it showed that youngsters (Alan is 15!) can be included in some of these larger projects; it raised about £2500 for charity; and it helped relink five countries once torn apart by war.

But as the lead editorial in the Watford Observer said: "This was no foolhardy adventure. Rather was it a triumph of meticulous planning, and an inspiring demonstration of skill and stamina . . ."

Thanks to Parker Fluid Systems for its total financial support.

Neil Shave.



WWRacing

At the inaugural meeting of the new Wild Water Racing Committee, held in London on the 12th November, the following officers were elected:

- Chairman:** George Parr, 29 Curzon Street, Gotham, Nottingham.
Tel. 0602 830498
Dept. of Civil Engineering, Nottingham University,
Nottingham. Tel. 0602 56101 x 2664
Message: Secretary Civ. Eng. x 2676
Retires: A.G.M. 1979/80
- Secretary:** John Handyside, Marston, 40 Parkside, Cricklewood,
London. NW2 6RJ Tel. 01 452 9180
Office Tel. 01 289 3389. Retires A.G.M. 1978/9
- Treasurer:** Mike Gettleson, 21 Balancraig Avenue, Neasden,
London. N.W.10 1 T.E. Tel. 01 450 6532
Office Tel. Windsor (07535) 68181 & 268/269
Retires: A.G.M. 1979/80
- Executive Committee**
Executive Committee
- Hilary Peacock** 21, Tring Court, Waldegrave Park, Twickenham,
Middx.. Tel. 01 891 1110.
Retires: A.G.M. 1979/80
- Nig Morley** 52 Castle Rise, Brough N. Humberside..
Retires: A.G.M. 1979/80
- Bill Fraser** 27 Marshall Terrace, Crossgates, Leeds L515 8FA.
Tel. Leeds 608764
Retires: A.G.M. 1979/80
- Stan Cooper** 7 Monkmoor Close, Oswestey Salop.
Tel. 0691 3117.
Retires: A.G.M. 1978/79
- Melvin Swallow** 9 Tollemache Terrace, Hoole Lane, Chester.
Tel. Chester 45181.
Retires A.G.M. 1978/9
- Jan Bailey** 17 Meadow Road, Merton, London sw19
Tel. 01 540 0926.
Retires A.G.M. 1978/9

'Self-catering accommodation for groups, clubs, schools etc., on Lake Windermere. The YMCA National Centre offers self-accommodating service from October to April in comfortable, private, facilities on Lake Windermere. Immediate access to lakes and fells of the Lake District. Vacancies for 1977/78 season for groups of up to 30 persons. Details available from Dept. CF, YMCA National Centre, Lakeside, Ulverston, Cumbria, Telephone Newby Bridge (04483) 352'.

Leven Test

For the first time in 24 years the Leven Wild Water Test has been completed in a corrected time of under five minutes. This feat was accomplished by Melvin Swallow who returned a time of 4 minutes 48 seconds in the first Test of the series and so secured the 'Gold' Dipper for 1977. J.P. Hibble of Leeds was the runner up with B.A. Fletcher (New Zealand), D. Taylor (Gateshead), and P. Dean (Accrington) all well ahead of the rest of the field. Jerry Hibble also had the distinction of setting up the fastest actual time on the course of 6 minutes 16 seconds, finding optimum conditions at 10 feet 4 inches on 2nd October. This fast run knocked 9 seconds off the previous record which had been set up by Nigel Morley three years ago.

In the ladies WWR K1 Class, Hilary Peacock created a new record at 5 mins. 46 secs. hotly contested by Sarah Wain. Annette Ramage succeeded in lowering the record for the fastest actual time set up by Pauline Goodwin in 1974 by completing the course in 7 mins. 33 secs. when the river was flowing from a 10 feet 4 inches level.

The men's slalom K1 class was headed by S. Singleton (Ribble) with several very promising young contenders not far behind. It is perhaps significant that most of the top paddlers have forsaken this class in favour of the WWR class leaving the slalom class wide open for the younger paddlers with very encouraging results.

In the ladies slalom K1 class Jan Grey (Birmingham) had the fastest corrected time but Heather Goodman's records for both actual and corrected times remain

No fresh records were made in any of the C1 and C2 classes but Gray & Robertson (Kilmarnock) were only 13 seconds short of equalling the previous best for a C2 (WWR).



Jon Goodwin retains the Leven Paddle Trophy as his record run of 7 mins. 10 secs. in 1974 remains unbeaten. Nigel Morley retains the Leven Trophy for the best performance by a member of the home club.

In all, a total of 635 timed runs were recorded with competitors drawn from no less than 53 clubs - a further record. Perhaps it is appropriate that this year of records occurred during the Silver Jubilee year, not only of the Queen, but also of the Lakeland Canoe Club who run this popular Letters of congratulation were exchanged by the Club with Buckingham Palace, to mark the occasions.

Entries are invited from competent canoeists who are well used to Grade III water. This standard is necessary in the interests of safety and must be strictly adhered to. The launching fee of £1 per head covers entry to the full series of Tests for any one year. Entry cards and a copy of the rules and all other relevant information may be obtained from the organiser in return for a S.A.E. (foolscap) size from Eric B. Totty, Craigmuir, High Knott Road, ARNWIDE, Nr. Cairnforth.

ICF NEWS

XIV. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1978 IN BELGRADE/YUG

The timetable for next year's World Championships from 8-13 August 1978 was published in Bulletin No.4. A Yugoslav delegation from the Organising Committee, led by its Chairman, Milan Rajacic, attended the World Championship in Sofia and made it known that the Head of State in Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito, had agreed to be the Patron of the next World Championships, a high honour for the whole sport of Canoeing.

ICF RACING CALENDAR 1978

A. Open Regattas

May	6/ 7 Sofia/BUL	Balkan Championships: 500m
	6/ 7 Aviles/Asturias/ESP	WC Programme
	13/14 Amsterdam/HOL	WC Programme, Bosbaan Regatta
	20/21 Bratislava/TCH	WC Programme
	27/28 Sofia/BUL	WC Programme, Panchavero Regatta
	27/28 Ghent/BEL	WC Programme
	27/28 Moscow/URS	WC Programme
June	3/ 4 Zaandam/HOL	WC Programme
	3/ 4 Budapest/HUN	WC Programme, Danube Regatta
10/11	Brandenburg/DDR	500m
17/18	Nottingham/GBR	WC Programme
17/18	Bochum/BRD	500m
24/25	Rome/ITA	WC Programme, Albano Regatta
24/25	Belgrade/YUG	WC Programme
July	1/ 2 Tampere/FIN	WC Programme, Hame Regatta
	1/ 2 Tel-Aviv/Israel	WC Programme, Hapoel Regatta
8/ 9	Bucharest/ROM	WC Programme, Snagov Regatta
15/16	Poznan/POL	WC Programme, Jubilee Regatta
15/16	Ohio/USA	WC Programme
22/23	Hostelbro/DEN	WC Programme
22/23	Montreal/CAN	WC Programme
29/30	Jajce/YUG	WC Programme
August	5/ 7 Desenzo del Sella/ESP	Canoe Marathon WC Programme
	5/ 7 Aviles/ESP	
	5/ 7 Astenso de Navlon/ESP	Canoe Marathon WC Programme
12/13	Belgrade/YUG	World Championships
September	2/ 3 Plovdiv/BUL	500m
23/24	Munich/BRD	500m and 1,000m
30.9/ 1.10	Santiago/CUB	WC Programme
October	7/ 8 Kinneret/ISR	WC Programme
11/14	Mexico/MEX	Pan-American Championships for Juniors
	11/14 Mexico/MEX	Pan-American Championships for Seniors

B. Invitation Regattas

September	9/10 Rome/ITA	WC Programme
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XV. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1979 IN DUISBURG/FRG

The Deutsche Kanu-Verband as the Organisers of the Canoe Racing World Championships in 1979 have now been given a definite date for the competition of the technical improvements to the regatta course on the Bertasse in Duisburg in the Federal Republic of Germany. The opening Ceremony will take place on 15 August and the competitions of the World Championships from 16-19 August. Further information will follow in due course.

ICF SLALOM/WILDWATER CALENDAR 1978

The Calendar of competitions was published in the last issue of the Bulletin. Since then the following changes have been notified:

3.6.-4.6.	SL	WW	Bala/Tryweryn/GBR	A
			(WW only for European Cup)	
3.6.-4.6.	—	WW	Bovec/Soca/YUG	C

6.7.-9.7.	SL	WW	Valira et Segre/La Seu d'Urgell/ESP	C
26.7.-30.7.	SL	WW	Noguera Pallaresa/Sort/ESP	C

CANOE SAILING

Only British and Swedish canoe sailors participated in the International Canoe Sailing Regatta held at Brightonsea/GBR from 30.7. - 5.8. 1977. We give the results of the leading competitors:—

1	I. Smith/GBR	5 points
2	J.O. Hansson/SWE	12 points
3	M. Tollqvist/SWE	21.75 points
4	K. Davis/GBR	27 points
5	P. Harding/GBR	32 points
6	C. Brown/GBR	33 points
7	M. Gullberg/SWE	33.75 points

The Challenge Cups were won by the following:—

Quincey Cup	I. Smith/GBR
Sailing Challenge Cup	M. Tollqvist/SWE
Murphy Howard Cup	M. Gullberg/SWE

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Romanian Canoe Federation now has the following address:

Federatia Romana de Caiac-Canoe
Bd. Muncun 37-39
Bucarest 73401-Sector 3
Telephone: 20 37 96 Telex: 11180
Telegram: SPORTROM - Bucarest

1978 CANOE-KAYAK WORLD PRE-CHAMPIONSHIPS - CANADA

The pre-championships dates are from August 16 to August 20 inc.

Preliminary calendar of the events read as follows:

Wednesday August 16 (night)
Opening ceremonies.
Thursday August 17 (p.m.) Non-stop (Wild water).
Friday August 18 (a.m., p.m.) Wild-water.
Friday August 18 (p.m.) Non-stop (Slalom).
Saturday August 19 (a.m.,p.m.) Slalom.
Sunday August 20 (a.m.,p.m.) Slalom.

The organisers have managed to obtain 200 beds (100 rooms) from the Jonquiere College. This college is situated 3km from the Slalom sites and about 45km from the Wild-water sites, Desbiens. These rooms will be available from August 16 to August 20, 1978.

Prices for boarding per man with bedding furnished are 7.75 (Canadian money) and without bedding (sleeping bags will then be necessary. 5.10 (Canadian money).



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ORINOCO CONQUERED

The notorious Maipure rapids in Venezuela have finally been conquered by a team from Britain led by Dr. Mike Jones; the five man team took two days to complete the first ever descent of the fifty mile long rapids. Over 1000 miles upstream from the Atlantic the rapids have been a barrier to navigation between the Upper and Lower Orinoco.

With 20' high waves, giant whirlpools, and rocks the size of houses many people have drowned on the rapids and local natives know the falls as 'The Holy Rapids' — the place where no-one ventures.

Mike Jones is not new to this sort of thing having canoed the Colorado running through the Grand Canyon, survived being ambushed by bandits and chased by crocodiles on a 220 mile descent of the African Blue Nile, and last year earned himself a place in the Guinness Book of Records by descending by canoe from 18,000 on Mount Everest in Nepal.

He assembled a team of very experienced canoeists. Two of the team, John Gosling, a 24 year old Birmingham Catering Manager, and Dave Manby, a Civil Engineer from Nottingham, had been with Jones on Everest the previous year. Included in the party were two newcomers, Peter Midwood, a 23 year old IM Marsh Education student, and Ronnie Kennedy, a mining electrician from Edinburgh, and at 21 the youngest member of the team.

They left Gatwick flying with British Caledonian and carrying their cellobond canoes as hand baggage in late August to fly to Caracas. From there they hoped to drive to the rapids. One and a half days out from Caracas and still 200 miles from the rapids their expedition vehicle ground to a halt in 4' of flood water. Locals had told them the road ahead was impassable. They took their canoes, carrying food, filming gear, and for 3 days paddled over 200 miles of the Apure River to gain access to the Orinoco.

Problems of paddling in South America were immediately apparent. "It was very hot, almost 100°F, we were constantly attacked by 'plage', mosquito-like insects, and on our second day we were attacked by crocodiles, Peter Midwood having the closest shave when one came up a few feet away from him and almost bit his paddle off!"

For over 8 days they travelled up the Orinoco on a variety of native boats, eventually arriving at the base of the rapids.



"All the locals thought we were mad," recalled Midwood. "Apart from the rapids and crocodiles the river is also full of pyranha which can strip the flesh off the body in 30 seconds flat."

They spent two days paddling the lower falls then went to the top of the rapids. The first fall, known as Rapids of Death, attracted a large crowd of local boatmen. They were all amazed by the way we just flipped the canoes back upright by eskimo rolling them when we were tipped over by the waves. They were the biggest and most dangerous rapids I had been on — said Mike Jones. They shot the 20 miles of rapids the first day, repairing their canoes as they went. That night they slept on the river bank — snatching a few hours sleep before leaving at dawn the next morning to tackle the longest stretch of rapids they were to meet, over 2 miles long. Route finding was extremely difficult and 200 yards before the end of the rapids John Gosling became trapped in a stopper — "It was just like being in a washing machine," said Gosling — he was ripped out of the boat and swept off downstream. Fortunately Ronnie Kennedy was able to rescue him and badly shaken Gosling was dragged to the bank. Later that day they completed the rapids, the amazement of the locals.

The specially constructed canoes for the expedition were manufactured by Pyranha Mouldings Ltd. of Warrington and are now to be made available to the canoeing public — called, naturally enough, "The Orinoco".

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Editors Postbag

Dear Sir,

Paddle and be damned! We're cheesed off with access (or lack of it) and we're going to do something. If you want it changed - you do something too.

Why not a mass rally of a north Eastern River to demonstrate Canoeists solidarity?

Put down your paddle and pick up a pen and write to Us!

Yours faithfully,

Canoeists from Middleton St. George
College of Education,
Nr. Darlington, Darlington
23, The Birches,

23, The Birches,
Shobdon,
Leominster,
Herefs.

Dear Sir,

Access

In addition to paying this years I would just like to take the opportunity to express a personal opinion on the subject of access.

As a regular user of the very popular River Wye, I agree with Noel Watson's view that the payment of an appropriate fee, on such rivers as this, would not be unreasonable, especially if some of that money were to be used for the acquisition of a few additional Public access points to such Rivers.

On the Wye, it appears that something of a paradox exists in that, although the Right to use the River for navigation appears to be well established between Hay and Shepstow, the right of Access to and from the River itself is far less satisfactory. There are relatively few points of unchallenged public access along the River (I know of none along the 30 miles between Hay and Hereford), and if a few simple landing places were established at such bridges as those at Bredwardine, Bridge Sollars and Hoarwitty, it would surely be both to the benefit of canoeists, and the local landowners who would wish to deter the random and unauthorised use of their land by furtive travellers uncertain of their landing rights.

Yours faithfully,

R. Morley.

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Sir,

John Gosling's letter (Canoe Focus 6) 'more in sorrow than in anger' provides a vital view of the uniquely non-egalitarian access situation in this country.

In spite of the uncertain legal situation, the B.C.U. opts to argue from a position of inherent weakness whereby the canoeist will hopefully gain by a few concessions largely on the part of the angling fraternity. The rejuvenating British Mountaineering Council uses a different approach, only accepting seasonal bans where it is absolutely essential. Mountains, moorlands and rock outcrops have a very different history of human useage compared with inland waterways. At the moment a 'mass trespass' approach would not work because of the numerical superiority and propensity for some fishermen to use vocal and physical violence. (See letter following John Gosling's). However, if the B.C.U. is to do a real service to its members it must be prepared to accept the not unfavourable background of legal cases pursued against canoeists and that rivers too should provide Sport for All.

Barry J. N. Smith

ACCESS - BUT AT WHAT COST?

About the only point on which everyone agreed in the access debate at the recent Wild water course held at Staunton-on-Wye Youth Hostel was that a first and urgent priority in the British Canoe Union is a full time Access Officer.

Colin Green, recently (and unjustly) maligned in these columns started the debate by outlining recent access developments on the Usk, the Wye and tributaries, which mwant a depressing list of further restrictions.

There were the usual cries of righteous indignation, a strong lobby for some form of organised disobedience, a fair sprinkling who felt that responsible regular usage within the framework of owners' restrictions would lead to improved future access and one or two more bizarre psoposals.

The hopeless position of the canoeist in the access debate was underlined. We have nothing to offer, but we want much in return. We are beggars who are making audacious demands. It would be wonderful if the rivers were free, with unrestricted right of passage; but we must be pragmatic and realise that in the eyes of the law they are not, and the chances of such a disorganised small group changing the law are nil.

Colin mentioned an approach made to him by owners and fisherman on the river Irfon (an interesting white water river excellent for beginners) from Llangamarch to Buih Wells, who were willing to sell a temporary right of passage with seasonal limitations and reasonable restrictions for £20. Some objected to paying at all, some thought it a good bargain and others wondered what would the Dee and the Tryweryn be worth if the Irfon was worth £20.

The question of payment for river usage is dynamite; but if properly handled on a national basis there is the basis for real improvement of access.

The gripe of fishermen is that they pay and we don't (we've all heard that one), the riparian owner feels the same way - so why don't we pay?

Not to the landowner, but to the water authority. The fact that some payment was made and that (through the issue of licences perhaps) there was some measure of control would be appealing to nwers and fishing organisations alike. Some of the licence money could go directly to improving the fishing!

Having once paid a licence fee, we would then be in a position to ask for improvements in such matters as access points, lay-byes, public loes etc., access and egress at all bridging points, timed release of water from dam controlled rivers.

It is not as simple as that. There would be problems and it would cost money, but if it led to improved access would it be worth it?

It was accepted that the effort needed to organise any scheme for better access is beyond the scope of unpaid volunteers in their spare time. We must have a full-time Access Officer before it is too late. Are we prepared to pay for one? As a bit of fun the hat was passed round during the meeting and on the basis that all monies collected would be given to the BCU as a donation labelled exclusively for furthering access, the 28 present chipped in £8.50 - not much but it is a start.

If you are anxious about access then you could help in many ways. You could raise money and donate if specifically for improved access, or more a simply you could tell other people of your concern. Write to members of BCU Council, to your local Coaching organiser and ask them to put forward your point of view. It is a democracy. It just needs you to make it work.

Geoff McGladdery,
L.C.C. Herefordshire.

Dear Sir,

Since the Montreal affair, I have had some considerable time available to consider not only the Olympic Basin in retrospect, but the general future for Rowing and Canoeing for international competition. I appear to be picking up a deal of negative reactions from potential host countries in relation to the inclusion of the two sports in future programmes. Apart from obvious sources such as Iran, Puerto Rico etc. there is a global attitude against the sports which I find rather disturbing.

Letters continued on page 21

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CU1

Nations Cup.

"It is the first time in the history of the Gudena Marathon that the I.C.F. have been officially represented." I enjoyed immensely following the race in the front line with the canoeists who after all, are the sport of canoeing."

by **Andrew Morton**

So said Sergio Orsi, General Secretary of the International Canoe Federation, at the prize giving of the 10th Gudena Marathon held in Denmark this year on the 20th September. He went on to congratulate the organisers and passed on the best wishes of the President of the I.C.F. before awarding the medals of the I.C.F. to two of the chief officials. Erik Wilke and Tom Cranberg.

So ended what must have been one of the biggest events in the history of canoeing both in terms of numbers of competitors and the distance over which they raced. An event dominated by Britain who won most of the major prizes and were awarded the Nations' Cup for overall excellence. It was therefore fitting that the two other I.C.F. representatives accompanying Sergio Orsi should be John Dudderidge and Gordon Richards.

The seventy five mile race started on Saturday with over four hundred on the start line in the single event.

Brian Greenham was in the leading group of six off the start closely followed by Tim Cornish, Jeremy West and Chris Ballard. By the time the first portage was reached, Cornish and Ballard had passed some of the leading group and were lying 3rd and 5th respectively. West unfortunately capsized in the very narrow canal section just before the portage but unabashed went on to take seventh place overall and first Junior in the Senior course!

By the end of the first stage Greenham and Anderson from Denmark were in the first two positions and Cornish and Carlsson from Sweden were 2½ minutes behind. After a hectic thirty minute "break" during which the back up team worked fervently to transport canoes and resuscitate paddlers, Cornish and the Swede set off in pursuit of the leading pair. Their determination paid off and by the end of the second and last stage on Saturday they had caught up with the other two and finished only forty seconds down on Andersen and fifty seconds down on Greenham who had just pushed home to win in the burn for the finish.

Britain had fared equally well in the other classes. In the K2 event the Team Manager Jim Rossiter had looked worried at the portage when the favourite G.B. pair of Haynes/Fowler were lying tenth four minutes behind the leaders which included some of the other K2 crews from Britain. However, his concern was short lived. The Haynes Fowler combination powered their way through the field catching the three British crews of Smith/Roberts, Belcher/Truelove and Greenaway/Day. By the end of the first stage then the Belgians and Danes were still leading but their lead had been whittled away by the combined efforts of the British crews. This was to be the pattern of the second stage but an unfortunate mistake by the time keepers added over thirty seconds to the gap between the British paddlers and the leading crews. Undaunted the four pairs set off in pursuit and by the end of the day had caught the leaders. Unfortunately in their effort to catch the leaders Smith and



Roberts and Day and Greenaway could not stay with the others to the finish and it was the Haynes/Fowler combination which crossed the line first with Truelove and Belcher only two yards down on the Belgians. r

In the ladies K2 and K1 the British girls Kath Nadal, Heather Money and Christine Haynes matched the brilliance of their male counterparts and finished in the front

line.

These results left the four British leading paddlers in a strong position for the three long Sunday stages. They only had to stay in the leading group and they were assured of medals. This they all did and were backed up by other members of the team who finished close behind. In the Mens' K1 Brian Greenham won in a very fast time of nine hours nine minutes. The Cornish was third only one minute behind and Chris Ballard was sixth.

In the Men's K2 despite a protest from Jim Rossiter to the organisers regarding the timing of the second stage there was no allowance given to Belcher and Truelove and Haynes and Fowler. Fortunately for the latter they were first anyway and Robin and Graham were still well pleased with third, only four seconds down on the Belgian crew. Greenaway and Day were fifth and Smith and Roberts eighth. Christine Raynes won the Ladies K1 in a time of four hours thirty and Imogen Lamb came third. The womens' K2 was won by Kath Nadal and Heather Money over thirteen minutes ahead of their nearest rivals from Denmark.

A landslide victory for the G..B. Team then in what some have called the unofficial world Marathon Championships. If and when other eastern european countries field Teams in Marathon events lets hope our paddlers can maintain the high standards set in this year's event.



Finer points explained to Sergio Orsi

Photos Vald Vedel

CHECKOUT

An Irvine supermarket has said a unique thank you to Irvine Canoe Club — 300 times.

The club had cleaned out the River Irvine and returned almost 100 Tesco trolleys to the supermarket.

So by way of a special thanks, the supermarket giant sponsored a two-day regatta on the river to the tune of £300.

"We felt one good turn deserved another," said Mr John Warhaam, manager of the Irvine branch.

"The club did us a great favour and in doing so made the river more navigatable for their canoes."

The regatta attracted more than 100 entries from West of Scotland clubs with the principal trophy going to Ian Spiers of the host club.

On Saturday the races were over short distances while on Sunday the main event was an 11-mile paddle on the Irvine and Garnock.

Gypsy Ron Emes

It seems hardly possible to the impartial observer of the international competition scene a few short years ago, that 1977 would see Great Britain with a World Champion and 24 British paddlers amongst the top ten in the Senior World Racing, Slalom, and Wild Water Racing Championships, and the Junior European Racing Championships. Even those well known purveyors of gloom and despondency who refuse to acknowledge that our international performances are better now than they were ten years ago, can hardly ignore this entirely objective fact of life. Obviously those who have more faith in the ability of British paddlers to beat the world's best when they compete on an equal footing, have not been surprised, and regard 1977 as merely a rung on the ladder of international success. Dare we speculate about the possibility of ascending even higher up the ladder in 1978, or for that matter descending? Do we consider that 1977 has seen us progress as far as we are able, bearing in mind our unique British system of supporting our sportsmen and women! There are no simple answers. It all depends on this, that, and the other. I personally believe that we can be mildly optimistic, our star is in the ascendance, morale is excellent, enthusiasm is manifest. Next year will bring the Europa Cup for Wild Water Racers, and Slalomers, and the World Championships in Belgrade for Racers. Our Albert will, hopefully, be keen to do well; our Doug, to the eternal regret of his loyal and faithful supporters, has retired at the peak of his competitive career. There are dozens of highly motivated young lions, straining to get into the big time, determined to hammer their elders and betters. Its swings and roundabouts, but I'll confound the bookmakers and put my money on a modest improvement in the number of senior paddlers, (there are no Junior European Championships in 1978) taking places in the top 10 in World and European Championships next year.



Photo Mike Bisset

AUSTRIAN RETURN

The first ever Youth Team has just returned from a successful tour of Austria. The first week's training was based at Landeck in the East Tyrol. Training under the guidance of Iain Freestone, took place on the Rivers INN, OTZTALER ACHE and SANNA.

The Sanna proved a very real challenge to all and after several practice and time-trial runs a selection race was organised. Run on the last day of the practice week, it was won by Dave Taylor (Gateshead) with Gary Carter (Leeds) paddling confidently on the difficult and rough water a good second and Mark Sanderson (Manchester) third.

The Team had been entered for the race at Mittenwold on the last weekend in July but we were informed by the Organisers only a few days before our departure from G.B. that the event this year would be restricted to touring (i.e. Slalom) boats only. Plans were then made to join forces with the Scottish C.A. and the British Universities teams, who had also planned to race at Mittenwold, and to organise our own training and race at nearby Garmisch on the River Loissach. Unfortunately, on arrival there, the river was found to be too low to be of any value, so the Youth Team moved direct to Lofer.

An exploratory run down the River Race Course brought out remarks of — "it's worse than the Eden" . . . no water again. However, a 'rain-dance' was organised and our prayers answered in full — in triplicate, might be a better description. Sunday's practice runs were getting hairier as the river rose about a foot every hour: the flood washed away a bridge, which in turn demolished the weir at the start of the Race Course. Later that night, the whole party had to decamp hurriedly as the Saalach broke its banks.

While the team members trained with interval sprints to sharpen up their speed, the river gradually dropped to a moderate level. The Team Event was held late on Saturday evening and the U.18 team finished a creditable 4th, while Dave Taylor, Jon Dunseath and Neil Robson indicated their potential as Senior paddlers by finishing 3rd in the Meisterklasse.

On the final Sunday morning, Nigel Wooltorton (Shepperton) was placed 3rd in

the U.16 Youth 'B', backed up by Andy Healey (Manchester) in 6th and Alistair Lyall of the Scottish Team in 7th place.

Kenny Hunt, the rapidly improving C1. paddler from Beauchamp Lodge was placed 14th in the Senior Event, (no Youth class for C1's), being 1m. 40 secs. behind World Champion Ernst Libuda and only 40 secs. behind Chris Horrod (5th).

Undoubtedly, the highlight was Mark Sanderson's 2nd place in the Youth U18 Race. Mark was 5 seconds behind the Austrian winner G. Wegascheider (Inter-sport Braunau) but was faster than any other British Senior paddler.

As a result of their performances both at Lofer and at Dusseldorf in May, British Youth WWR Team Badges were awarded to —

Jon Dunseath, Neil Robson and Dave Taylor (U.19 Group).
Gary Carter, Mark Sanderson (U.18 Group)
Andy Healey, Nigel Wooltorton, (U.16 Group) and Kenny Hunt (C.1).

Workhouse by Brian James

Membership: For the next eight weeks the office will be inundated with renewal applications for membership. Despite the numbers received, the office are able to "turn" a membership round in just under a week. Members are reminded however, that second class post can take up to two weeks to reach us. Therefore, allowing for Xmas it may take up to a month for a card to be received by a member.

Over the past 6 months we have tried to extend and improve the service. This month the bookshop has been restocked. We now also offer the "I am a paddler" international motif in a vest as well as T/shirt.

Whilst we try to offer the best possible service to the membership we would point out that we only have a very small full-time staff, who find it difficult at times to keep up with the work especially at this time of year. We hope you will bear with us and accept the somewhat standardised impersonal replies we sometimes have to send out.

CAPE HORN

At the end of November 1977, four of Britain's top sea canoeists will leave by air for Punta Arenas on the Magellan's Strait. At this point scheduled airlines stop, but the four are moving on to the tiny hamlet of Puerto Williams on the Beagle Channel, the most southerly permanent community in the world. Here they will collect their kayaks and equipment which left England in August by ship, and were finally shuttled to Puerto Williams by the Chilean Navy.

From Puerto Williams the kayak expedition properly, begins.

The four man team will leave on a 250 mile journey south through the archipelago to round Cape Horn on S to their starting place. The kayakers will carry all the food and equipment to sustain them on their month long voyage, although, fish, mussels, crabs and fungi, hunted for en route will help to supplement their food supply.

This British expedition is the first canoe team to ever tackle this journey. They can expect gales for at least 30% of the time, together with tide races and overfalls which add to the turbulence of these cold, inhospitable waters of the Southern Ocean.

The specially designed kayaks that are to be used have already proved themselves in major expeditions to Norway, Spitzbergen and the West Coast of Greenland, and the waters around the British Isles have provided a stern training ground for both men and equipment.

Canoeists have to adopt a different philosophy from the yachtsman at sea. The ocean traveller usually avoids land when conditions become tough. The canoeist however must accept that although his canoe can tackle heavy seas and overfalls that could spell disaster to larger craft, his time in difficult conditions is limited by fatigue. If he sleeps he will capsize! Thus he is inexorably linked to the shore inasmuch that he must put in to sleep at regular intervals. His journey must be planned so that he always has an escape route. Cliffs or even beaches offer little hope of salvation if heavy seas are breaking upon them. A very careful planning operation is therefore needed to ensure that landing places can be found. Fortunately minute beaches unapproachable for larger vessels can provide a haven. The southern coast of Chile is a maze of uninhabited, mountainous islands and tortuous, cliff-lined channels, and it is here the expedition must seek out the natural landing places they need.

This test of men and equipment in an extremely hostile environment is being made possible by the generous support that has been received from the manufacturers of equipment needed for this journey, and further help has been forthcoming from companies and individuals who have taken interest in this adventure. Expedition members too have also accepted a heavy financial commitment, but the money for the air fares to South America has not yet been raised. The team are therefore appealing to any company or individual who feels that the publicity associated with this expedition could be of value to them to make a contribution to the expedition funds, and if they feel that no value is attached, then the members of the expedition are blantly asking for a gift, by way of encouragement, to help cover their flight expenses.

This expedition will be a British 'first' at the end of this Silver Jubilee Year which has focused attention on British achievements in every field of endeavour.



Expedition Supremo MIKE JONES
Testing Pyranha 'ORINOCO'

Gordon F.P.E.A.

There was a notable omission from both the last issues of *Canoe Focus* — nowhere did I find mention of the honour conferred on the Director of the BCU, Gordon Richards, on the 8th June — the day after the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. On that day, at Buckingham Palace, he was made a Fellow of The Physical Education Association of Great Britain (FPEA). He received his parchment, along with nineteen other leading physical educationalists from all over the Commonwealth, from H R H Prince Philip K.G., FPEA, who is the only honorary fellow.

Gordon's election to fellowship is in recognition of many years of both practical and written work in two specialist fields of physical education — fitness and motivational training for elite sportsmen and fitness and recreational training for the socially and physically handicapped.

I think the members should know a little more about Gordon and his life in the *Sporting World*. A native of Llandudno, North Wales, he has had twenty eight years teaching experience in both public and state schools.

During his army service as a regular officer — he captained the Combined Service and British Olympic Modern Pentathlon Teams and was also Manager and Captain of the winning team in the 1962 European Championships: Jim Fox, one of the world's best known pentathletes being one of his discoveries.

He was fitness adviser to the British Olympic Hockey Team for the 1968 Olympic Games, and the British Olympic Downhill Ski Team in 1971.

In 1962 he founded an Outward Bound school in Norway which he directed for several years and for which he received the MBE. During this period he established a major canoeing centre in the area and introduced Canadian canoes onto the Birkeland Waters.

He has been the warden of a number of outdoor pursuit schools and is well experienced in Outdoor Education.

Since 1968 he has been P E Advisor to the British Petroleum International Tennis Fellowship and he has organised special fitness schedules and courses for many of our young British Tennis stars.

All this apart, Gordon has managed to maintain his own interest in canoeing — his longest paddle was Folkestone to Paris, via the Channel and then up the River Seine!

David Wain President of the BCU

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River Racer	(without grip and)	23.66
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Seamaster	(with one grip)	12.96

The above prices include VAT plus carriage and packing U.K. mainland to all BCU and club members, otherwise carriage at cost.

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ICELAND

Two canoeists, Nigel Foster, Deputy Warden of Burwash Place Outdoor Activity Centre, E. Sussex and Geoff Hunter self employed building surveyor from Hurst Green, Sussex successfully completed the first circumnavigation of Iceland by Kayak this summer. (Ian Matheson our third member unfortunately had to withdraw shortly before we departed due to the illness of his mother).

Arriving by ferry with our kayaks at Seydisfjörður on the East coast of Iceland, we started our journey clockwise round the coast on 12th June. We carried with us in our specially designed 'Vyneck' kayaks enough equipment and large quantities of local food to enable us to survive the prolonged periods away from civilisation and the harsh conditions we expected.

Iceland proved to be as varied and more fascinating than we'd anticipated. We scaled the recently active volcano on Haemay amidst choking sulphurous fumes, camped on tiny beaches surrounded by miles of jagged lava fields, accepted coffee from Icelandic cod-fishing boats handed over with utmost care as their boats lurched on the swell, and swam in a steaming hot naturally heated open air pool, dramatically near the ice-cap.

Our largest open crossing was across Breithafjörður in the N.W., a distance of about 45 land miles which took us 12½ hours. We landed near 2000 ft. sea cliffs having watched for hours the schools of dolphins.

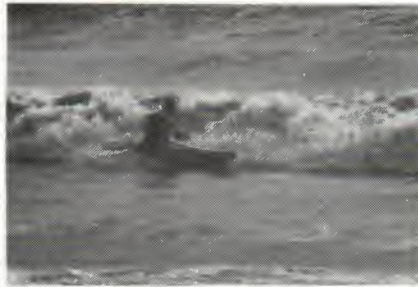
The N.W. peninsula with its spectacular 2,000 ft. sea cliffs and thousands of sea birds brought us to the wild and windy North coast where sea temperatures were only 2 or 3 degrees above freezing and air temperatures were little warmer.

The final leg back to Seydisfjörður was by no means a 'winding down' time for us as we had yet more strong winds and heavy seas, and yet more dramatic scenery, and for the first time a lot of fog.

On the evening of 16th August we paddled triumphantly back along the 16 mile Fjord back to Seyhisfjörður, extremely satisfied and content to celebrate alone with a cup of cocoa.

Our first major obstacle was the 140 miles stretch of sand between Höfn and the next coastal town of Vík. Having set off from Höfn we passed close by Europe's largest ice-cap, stopping at the grass-covered rock of Ingólfsstofdi. Here we replenished our food supplies by netting herring gulls. . . I was in stitches here at the sight of Geoff appearing at the top of the cliff covered in gulls vomit, a foul slimy liquid with a lingering odour! However, the gulls went down very well curried.

Winds built up heavy surf and one morning we found it impossible to paddle out far though the breakers. Geoff was spectacularly looped backwards, rolling out of the icy water only to be bowled over by another grey monster. We decided to wait awhile and returned to the grey sand.



Photographs by courtesy of the Iceland Team.



Next day with similar sea conditions we sadly surveyed our diminished food rations and decided to walk to the nearest village to buy more. We followed a route marked out by painted posts to guide shipwrecked sailors to safety. This route was by no means a road! We had eight miles of wading across lagoons and marsh before arriving at the nearest farm, where we managed to hitch a ride with the postman to the nearest village.

The weather had worse in store for us, and further west we spent six days working on a farm in the strongest winds I've ever experienced.

Not only had the expedition been a great success as a significant canoeing 'first' but because of our method of travel around a nation of sea faring people, we were taken in by and learned an incredible amount about the Icelanders and their country.

I would like to thank Geoff for coming and making the trip possible, and all the people who helped us with advice, encouragement and equipment, and especially the members of the Advice Centre, Shoreham for making the highly successful 'Vynecks' for us. (anyone interested in lectures please contact N. Foster, Burwash Place O.P.C., Burwash, Etchingham, E. Sussex).

DEWAR'S WHISKY

Sponsorship by Colin Higgins

Britain's canoeists have gained what tennis lost.

The whisky firm of John Dewar, who withdrew their sponsorship of the Dewar Cup Circuit last December, are to give the British Canoe Union backing for three major international regattas next summer.

Managing director David Small said "We have moved into canoeing because it is at the same stage as tennis when we first became interested in it 10 years ago — without sponsorship and in need of financial assistance."

John Dewar & Sons Ltd. have agreed to sponsor the three major international canoeing events being held in the UK in 1978.

These are:

1. The International Racing Regatta to be held at The Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham, from 16th June to 18th June.
2. The International Wild Water Championships to be held on The River Treweryn, Bala, North Wales, (the Race is one of The Europa Cup Series) from 1st June to 4th June.
3. The International Slalom Championships to be held on the River Treweryn, Bala, North Wales, from 1st June to 4th June.

These events will be known as:

1. The Dewar's Whisky International Racing Regatta — for which a Silver Quaich will be presented as "The Dewar Cup" for the men's team championship.
2. The Dewar's Whisky International Wild Water Regatta for which a mounted miniature paddle will be presented as "The Dewar Paddle".
3. The Dewar's Whisky International Slalom Regatta for which a silver Highlander will be presented as "The Dewar Trophy".

In addition, during 1978, John Dewar & Sons Ltd. will give initial support for Canoe Marathon. There will be limited sponsorship and a trophy for the International Marathon Competition which will be called "The Dewar's Whisky International Marathon". The location for this event has not yet been finalised.

John Dewar & Sons Ltd. agreed the general outlines of their sponsorship with Gordon Richards, the Director of The British Canoe Union, in the early part of 1977. Since then they have been working closely with The British Canoe Union. As a result of this the Company took an active interest in the Jubilee Regatta at the National Water Sports Centre in July.

Letters continued from page 15.

If this trend continues, the pressure for inclusion by other sports bodies and the influence of the third world countries as their participation in the international calendar increases, may well spell doom over the next ten or fifteen years. I do not mean to indicate that the sports themselves will die, but they could be relegated to the limits of national status only. Whilst Mr. Keller's influence continues at the I.O.C., the decline may be stalled but ultimately, the negative views may even out-vote his interests. It may be that the feed back is reaching me easier outside the sports disciplines, than it would if I was involved directly with the International Federations.

I believe very sincerely that the future development of the two sports is going to depend very largely on policies that will have to be taken during the period before the Moscow Games of 1980. Obviously the most important single distraction is the cost of an international installation but this is supported by lack of spectator interest, high capital cost for participants, and an ignorance of the development potential contained in any facility development. I feel sure that the federations have identified the problems, but I would like to offer some objective ideas of my own that may energise further thought towards corrective policies.

Spectator interest is a major problem with both the sports, and of course is very evident with Rowing. The environment and distance involved with the longer races stimulates neither visual or aural excitement in any but the knowledgeable spectators. Certainly, the inclusion of the war canoes in events to Canadian National status, have helped greatly with their excitement and team/area polarisation. I think that I may have mentioned to you before, that some of my guests at the Basin during the 75 championships, admitted to finding a complete new identification with canoes generally, after the war canoe events. White water racing, is stimulating to even the layman, and I believe that development of 5,000 and 10,000 metre events where possible with their mass starts, provide an exciting spectacle.

Rowing is a difficult problem, and whilst I realise that the two sports are entirely separate, the future development of facilities in host cities or countries, is dependant on their joint appeal. Again the remoteness of a race in general dampens enthusiasm, and I am sure that the development of sprints for men and youths right down to 500 metres could help with spectator enthusiasm.. I have mentioned this before, I believe to Mr. Keller but whether or not any action will follow is an unknown quantity.

Yours truly,
B. J. Scott-Smith, M.I.P.I., A.M.Inst. B.E.

BREDWARDINE LODGE, Situated in Herefordshire and adjacent to river Wye, require seasonal instructors at Easter, Spring Bank Holiday and Summer periods. The lodge provides **ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS FOR BOYS and GIRLS** between 12-17 age ranges. Instructors should be experienced in canoeing and or Hill Walking, remuneration will be scaled in line with relevant BCU and or MLC qualifications :

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The Manager, Bredwardine Lodge,
The Old School, Bredwardine
Herefordshire .

Photo Round Up



British Success



Gudena Marathon.



Greenham 'i'm puffed' Coach 'The pubs over there'



Richmond Fall 1977



Sponsored boat for Greenham.



Gordon Richards receives F.P.E.A. from HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

WHAT'S NEW?

NEW FROM HOWARTH SPORTS

A new range of outdoor gear is now available from Howarth Sports of Bolton. All-weather anoraks, jogging anoraks and waterproof canoeing tops are now ready for despatch.

The picture shows the new Howarth all-weather anorak (left) and the canoeists cover-all (note the neoprene cuffs). Also available as a canoeing accessory is a waterproof kit-bag (illustrated) with a



very useful pocket for items wanted in a hurry.

These and many other items of specialist clothing are available mail order or direct from: Howarth Sports, 27 Lime Field Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs.
Tel: Bolton 43777.

SCOUT TROOP WINS £200 CANOE TRAILER

Twenty eight gruelling hours spent in canoes on the Leeds/Liverpool canal this summer has brought the Viking Venture Scout unit of Ormskirk, Lancs, the "Viner" Trophy presented by the Church of England Childrens Society as the famous Sheffield cutlery firm, and a £200 Canoe Trailer donated by Mechanical Services Ltd. of Bolton.

This annual Canoe run that takes in the full 92 miles of the Leeds to Liverpool canal is open to any group of canoeists and is organised by the Church of England Childrens Society as a fund raising effort. The Viking Venture Scouts raised over £300 of sponsorship money for the Society.



Another Canoe Trailer and the Viner Trophy will be available to be won in 1978 by any group of canoeists. Full details from The Church of England Childrens Society, Old Town Hall, Kennington Road, London or Mechanical Services Ltd., Belmont Road, Bolton.

The picture shows the Ormskirk Viking Venture Scouts with their new trailer, with Barrie Badland of Mechanical Services on the left and Mr. Barnes of The Church of England Childrens Society on the right.

Information Smalls

To be convened for Saturday afternoon 25 February 1978 at the Crystal Palace Exhibition Centre.
Affiliated members having 10 or more full BCU members and wishing to be represented are asked to notify their names and addresses, together with any proposed nominations or motions, to the Hon. Sec. of the Touring Committee Miss J. Palmer, Willow cottage, Timsway, Staines, Middlesex R.F. Tyas, Chairman.

Canoeing Instructors needed to work in Central London, Weekend and Evening Work.
Contact: John Handyside 01 289 3389.

RELENTLESS EVEREST

Not to be missed is a film by HTV made last summer on the Mike Jones Everest descent scheduled to appear on ATV network 9pm December 28th C.H.

Nations Cup Results

- 1 Great Britain 70 points
Brian Greenham
Tim Cornish
Brian Haynes/John Fowler
Robin Belcher/Graham Truelove
- 2 Danmark 59 points
Flemming Anderson
Hans J. Pape
Egon Petersen/Erik Skovlund
Kim Darfelt/Joakim Bøcher
- 3 Sverige 47 points
Niels-Ake Carlsson
Göran Sandberg
Nils Johansson/Thorbjorn Thoresson
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THE CORNISH CANOE SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Since Sennen Beach, near Lands End, and its neighbour, Gwenver, are among the best surfing beaches in the country, it is hardly surprising that, with the option of both of them, the Cornish Canoe Surfing Championships, run by Penzance Canoe Club, are increasing in popularity.

The word must have spread after last year's championships at Gwenver, with some pretty hairy stuff coming in from the Atlantic, but on Saturday October 1st, during the heats of this year's championships at Sennen, it looked as though all the hard work put in by Penzance Canoe Club's husband and wife team John and Penny Meardon, would not be supported by that rideable surf which Sennen can produce. It was small and choppy and not at all the sort of stuff for spectacular performances.

But on the Sunday, Sennen turned up trumps, at least in the morning, and even the top canoeists in the country were satisfied. The surf was not sufficiently regular to make it easy, but stretched the competitors by making them read it and work to take full advantage of it.

It slacked off during the afternoon unfortunately, just when the juniors and the ladies needed reasonably good conditions to show what they could do.

The prizes were presented by Linden Kuyser, wife of chief judge John Kuyser.

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