

Vol. 4 No. 14 1979

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The official magazine of the British Canoe Union





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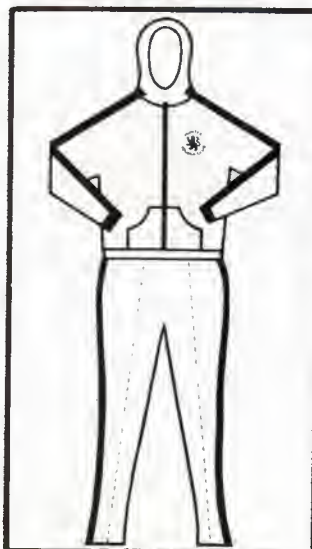


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CF.

Better dead than fed?

This seemed to be the stand of some opposing the moves to federalise the Union at the Special A.G.M.

As one who has to some extent stood on the sidelines in the debate, going along with the proposals but not being over-committed either way, the following observations have occurred to me:

1. The necessity for federalisation; the reasons for the specific proposals regarding constitution and rules; and the likely on-going costs, have not been clearly explained, stage by stage, to the membership.
2. Those opposing seem to be doing so on three main counts:
 - i) The probable cost
 - ii) The voting system between the nations
 - iii) The constitution of the 'federal' board — this being 'appointed' rather than 'elected'.
3. Regionalisation seemed to come out of the debate as being a desirable state of affairs. Federalisation possibly being required in the future, but not on the terms proposed.

Last year I listened to a debate between the Wild Water enthusiasts and the Slalomists concerning the need for Wild Water to establish itself as a separate discipline. Whilst it was a subsidiary of slalom, many felt that its potential growth and standard was stilted. Although concerned because people whose views I respected seemed in very opposite camps, the argument that appealed was that as an autonomous discipline Wild Water would undoubtedly benefit. It is this same argument that appeals on the Federalisation issue. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland must benefit from being their own men. England could thus concentrate on its own affairs, and not be affected by guilty afterthoughts that we have somehow to speak for the whole of the British Isles.

Regionalisation is in fact going ahead in leaps and bounds. Consider the size of the full Council of the Union when all the regions are added — Scottish, English, Welsh and Northern Irish. Consider the cost of staging meetings. Consider also the amount of irrelevant business that will have to be listened to by delegates, and the time involved. Having recently sat down and attempted on paper to think through a system of government for the BCU involving regional representation, I came to one conclusion: Regionalisation isn't practical without Federalisation. Both seem to me now, to be essential.

There is surely no good reason why a working party should not be set up to seek to resolve the few, albeit fairly critical, differences that exist. The working party should consist of the main protagonists — those who have forged the current proposals, and those against them, in order to try and achieve a compromise agreement that will be acceptable to the membership.

I have a sneaking suspicion that when those in opposition think through the detailed requirements for governing the Union in the light of regionalisation, and in the light of giving reasonable representation to members in the furthestmost corners of the British Isles, they will come up with much the same answers as the working party whose reasoning has just been rejected.

It is surely eminently desirable that some genuine effort is made to use the work and time so far expended, as a basis, and not reject the whole of it out of hand.

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Westels

Westels' second Canoe Tourist Trial on the Basingstoke Canal will be on 29 April 1979 and closing date for entries will be 16 April.

The Aldershot end of the canal will have been dredged by the Spring which should make the going considerably easier. The starts for the less crowded groups will be closed up so there will be less delay at the launch point and as dredging from Odiham has now reached the 'Barley Now' the club is adding a 30 mile section for the really keen long distance paddlers. In the light of the results of last year some of the times have been slightly adjusted but a lot more paddlers in the South of England now have a good idea of their potential and the Club feel they are now more realistic.

Again Certificates and Mementos, slightly different this time.

Entry fee provisionally 75p. Hopefully more drinks for the long distance paddlers at the Aldershot turn.

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I.C.F. News

CANOE RACING

ALTERATIONS IN THE ICF CALENDAR FOR 1979

A. Open Regattas

22/24 June	Nottingham/GBR	WC—Programme for Seniors with 6,000m race for Women Junior Programme without C7, but including a 6,000m race
23/24 June	Nottingham/GBR	

B. Invitation Regattas

5/6 May	London/GBR	Five Nations Competition BEL, FRA, GBR, HOL, BRD
21.7—5 August	Moscov/URS	Spartakiade 79 with the Olympic Programme

Junior European Championship 1979

The Organising Committee for next year's European Championships in Tampere/Finland has issued its first information circular.

Participants will be accommodated with board in the two hotels Victoria and Domus.

The timetable proposed is as follows:

Thursday, 2 August, 1979

Preliminary heats and repechage

Morning:	K 1	1,000m Boys
	C 1	1,000m Boys
	K 2	1,000m Boys
	C 2	1,000m Boys
	K 4	1,000m Boys
	K 1	500m Girls
	K 2	500m Girls

Afternoon: Repechage

Saturday, 4 August, 1979

Morning: Semi-finals; afternoon: Finals of the races of the first day.

Sunday, 5 August, 1979

Morning: Semi-finals; afternoon: Finals of the races of the second day.

The address of the Organising Committee, is:—

EM Canoeing 79
Kristilla
33730 Tampere 73
FINLAND

We repeat from Bulletin — No. 8/78, that only competitors born in the years 1961 to 1964 inclusive, are eligible to participate.

No Mixed events in Jonquiere

The questionnaire sent round by the ICF Slalom and Wildwater Racing Committee showed that only three associations have made a commitment to enter in the C 2 Mixed event at the 1979 World Championships at Jonquiere. It is to be expected therefore that in accordance with Article 41.1.4. of the Competition Rules, the Mixed event at Jonquiere will not be approved.

World Championships 1979 in Canada

The Organising Committee has just sent in its preliminary programme for the XVI. World Championships in Canoe Slalom 5th to 9th July 1979 and the XI. Wildwater World Championships 1st to 3rd July 1979.

Firstly we draw attention again to the new address of the Organising Committee whose Chairman is M. Pierre Lajoie and General Secretary is M. Jean-Claude Larouche. The address is:

555, Route 170 (Mail—170)
Arvida, Quebec, Canada
G1S 4S9
Tel. (418) 548-3138
Telex: 051-36225

XXII. OLYMPIC GAMES 1980 IN MOSCOW

In the latest issue of "Olympic Panorama", the publication of the Moscow Organising Committee, a new report appears about the progress of the Olympic Games installations.

On the Regatta Course at Krylatskoje the open European Rowing Championships have already been held, and the President of FISA, the International Rowing Federation, has expressed himself as very satisfied with the facilities available.

It continues: Today the second stage objectives are rising in the canal area. With the building of new stands the number of spectator places will be increased to 21,000. The new training hall is to be completed and the boat-houses better fitted out. Behind the boat-houses a large repair shop for boats will be provided. In addition, the administration building to be built will house a press centre, snack bar, and reporters' cabins.

The banks are already laid with concrete slabs, and on the island in the middle of the canal, the construction of the rooms and stands for competitors and judges is being completed. Along the canal a convenient roadway for mobile TV is being laid. When the canal is iced up in winter, the boats will be moved up to the first floor of the boat houses and canoeists and oarsmen will practise on simulators in the training rooms.

MARATHON — RACING

Competition Calendar for 1979

So far only one international marathon race has been announced for 1979. The "Tour de Gudena" announced in the last Bulletin has been fixed for 15/16 September. We invite more fixtures.

XI Tour de Gudena/DEN 1978

This year's Tour de Gudena in Denmark took place on the 16/17 September 1978, and was attended by many participants from central and west European countries.

The "Nations Cup" was won by Great Britain with 68 points, and this team also won the "Long Distance Grand Prix".

Marathon Race from BREZICE to ZAGREB

A Jubilee Marathon Race was held in Yugoslavia from Brezice to Zagreb but was only attended, except for a few Austrian competitors by only Yugoslav canoeists, so detailed results are not published.

Marathon Racing Rules

The Committee appointed by the ICF is expected shortly to complete a draft of Marathon Racing Rules for submission to the 1980 ICF Congress in Moscow, for consideration and possible approval.

Although the length of marathon courses and the characteristics of the water on which these races are held vary greatly, that does not mean that the diversity of requirements cannot be met in one set of ICF Competition Rules. This is the view expressed by J.W. Dudderidge, the Chairman of the Marathon and Preparatory Committee. He believes that the rules under preparation will be suitable for the most dissimilar marathon events.



B.C.U.
Insurances

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Administrators Meet

by Ron Emes

The second full Conference of Competitive Discipline Administrators was held during the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st October 1978 at The Holme Pierrepont National Watersports Centre, at Nottingham. The Conference was financially supported by Grant Aid from The Sports Council and personal subscriptions.

Having regard to the escalation in administrative responsibilities during 1977/1978 and the uncertainties created by the recent constitutional changes undertaken by The Union, it was considered by the Organisers that the emphasis of the weekends activities should be directed towards internal Union policies and procedures, and that outside speakers should not be invited.

Accordingly, the Conference became much more usefully and enjoyably, a seminar, and discussions were led by Ron Emes, The Chairman of The Competitions Liaison Committee, Gordon Richards, The Director, and Brian James The Administrator of the Union.

The most important of many topics considered by The Conference were:—

- Problem areas of Competition Administration
- Sports Council Grant Aid
- The Competition Coaches Scheme
- Team Management
- Centres of Excellence
- Sports Aid Foundation
- Sponsorship

Once again, the Conference was an occasion for providing, receiving and exchanging valuable information and ideas, dispelling misconceptions and uncertainties, and allowing time to discuss in depth topics of importance to the competitive disciplines, a rare opportunity for most of those present. The Conference recommended that the following matters should receive the attention of The Competitions Liaison Committee:—

1. Procedures for submitting, receiving, and accounting for Sports Council Grant Aid.
2. Relationships between canoe manufacturers and The British Canoe Union.
3. Centres of Excellence.
4. The Sports Aid Foundation.
5. The 1979 Conference to be arranged at a similar time, to be held at Bisham Abbey, Marlow, Bucks.
6. Insurance for the competitive committees and their members.

Trans-Pennine Marathon

A team of canoeists from the canoeing section of the Richmond, North Yorkshire based, Swaledale Outdoor Club made an adventurous attempt to paddle in relay the 127 mile long Leeds-Liverpool canal non-stop in 24 hours earlier this year.

The journey from the Aire river junction at Leeds to the terminus at Tate and Lyle's factory in Liverpool was to raise funds for the Yorkshire Branch of Sports for the Disabled and a club project. About £200 was raised and it was decided to purchase a "carranoë" (which is a canoe especially designed for disabled people) with half the proceeds, the remainder being put towards a new canoe mould for the canoeing club. A Parker pen encased in polystyrene was used as a baton and has since been engraved with the inscription 'SOC Trans-Pennine Canoe Marathon' and raffled amongst club members.

The team consisting of eight club members including two girls, were: Hilary Marsden (Osmotherly), Sally Walker (Northallerton), Kevin Turnbull (Darlington), Adrian Dent (Richmond), David Coxon (Bedale), Andy Rossall (Canvy Island), Paddy Fleming (Darlington) and organiser Dave Pressley (Northallerton). One other canoeist assisted the team — Jerry Hibble (British White Water Champion) just back from the continent where he had been competing in the European championships. The one-man support party was Geoffrey W. Wood from Leeds who organised meals, cycled along the tow paths, generally kept the party together and the whole event going.



A single paddler was usually in the water during the hours of daylight two at night and four through the major tunnels including the 1640 yard Foulbridge Tunnel. During darkness lights were positioned fore and aft on the canoes and helmet lights were worn by the canoeists. The team used white water racers during daylight but at night used 'Odins' a sea touring canoe designed and built by sea canoeing pioneer 'Lofty' Wright from Richmond — which is quite fast on flat water and has good stability — essential when a canoeist is paddling in the dark.

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LAKELAND CANOE CLUB LEVEN WILD WATER TEST IMPORTANT NOTICE

Trouble and congestion has been created on the road near the "start" by the parking of too many vehicles, mostly of hangers-on, as opposed to bona fide competitors.

It would be helpful if the roadway at the start is used for unloading purposes only, and the vehicles then taken to the finish where there is a wider road and more parking space. The mill car park on the further side of the road from the mill may also be used. The police are getting worried by this situation and I understand they have already "booked" some offenders for thoughtless parking in the vicinity of the Swan. They are threatening to make the road at the start a "no waiting" area if we are unable to control the situation ourselves. Complaints have also been made about inconsiderate and too fast driving of vehicles on the narrow back road where there is no foot-path for pedestrians. The residents at the new housing area at Backbarrow particularly resent this invasion of what is usually a quiet road where their children are able to play but who are now at risk. Consequently, it is requested that the main road be used for all journeys between "start" and "finish".

No doubt it is the numerous unauthorised paddlers (and some "cowboys") who have latched on to our fixtures without so much as a "by your leave", who are swamping and out-numbering the authorised users, filling up all available space,

and causing most of the trouble. We can only set a good example, and remonstrate strongly when any case of thoughtless behaviour occurs. It is up to all regular users to do all they can to preserve the privileges we have already obtained and enjoy, and to continue to show the utmost consideration for others at all times.

Eric B. Totty

Dear Sir,

It is now one year since the B.C.U. published its statement on access agreements.

There appears to be growing concern at the policy implied in this statement. I feel that the B.C.U. should have a simple, positive, easily understood basic policy on access something on the lined of the following:—

1. It is the fundamental long term policy of the B.C.U. that the public should have the right of passage on all navigable free flowing waters.
2. Without prejudice to the above; to cooperate with other water users and to recommend temporary restrictions on access to its members where a mutually beneficial agreement has been negotiated and signed.
3. The B.C.U. will only recommend access restrictions to its members where such an agreement has been signed.

Notes on the above

1. a) This appears to be the legal position in all other countries of the world.
- b) This is a right of passage only — the usual laws of damage public nuisance etc. would still apply.

2. a) Agreements for slaloms, races, training etc. must not prejudice the fundamental right of passage.
- b) This would also cover rivers where an undisputed right of navigation already exists.
3. The former apparent policy of recommending members not to paddle a river if no access agreement had been made:—

- a) Legally prejudiced any disputed historic right of passage.
- b) By removing canoeists from the waters achieved the objects of the angling clubs/riparian owners and made any access agreement from their viewpoint pointless.

In conclusion, I would suggest, as others have, that the more canoeists use disputed waters the more the pressures and benefits of a shared usage agreement.

Yours faithfully,
"Green Slime"

'Canoeing tuition, all grades, group, individual or family; Sea or Inland; own boats or mine.
Dave T. Bursnell
2 Brynawel Terrace
Barmouth, Gwynedd.
Barmouth 280067

Dear Sir,

B.C.U. BADGES

Apropos your article about the new STAR tests, yes, I agree that the STAR badges are beautifully designed and a credit to those responsible.

One only wishes that the same could be said of the B.C.U. Proficiency Award badge, which looks very much like a piece of faded blue denim on which a smudge has appeared. On closer examination the smudge turns out to be the B.C.U. Pennant — but who except someone 'in the know' would be aware of this, particularly in the absence of any words saying what it is that the badge represents? It is certainly no credit to the B.C.U. or to the holder — in fact, my badge has remained in the envelope in which it was originally delivered. D. Bean



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Proteus merit

Proteus Canoe Club have recently been presented with Peterborough Council's "Contribution to Sport" award, following a very successful season. Peterborough Sports Council felt that the Canoe Club had contributed most to local sport during 1978 by encouraging wider participation in canoeing, by taking the sport outside the locality and by applying rigorous safety measures. The presentation was made by the Mayor of Proteus, officials Brian Churchill (secretary) and Stuart Kershaw (chairman).

Trylon Trophy

The above competition sponsored by Trylon, involved eight teams which were divided into two groups, each team playing the other in their group. The results were calculated on a league basis and the two top teams in each group went on to the semi finals. The participating teams were three from Luton, two from Atlantic College, two from Watford and one representing Lealands School. The teams reaching the semi finals were Luton A and B, Watford and Atlantic College A, the results of these matches and the final were as follows:—

1st semi final	Watford A	0	Luton B	4
2nd semi final	Luton A	6	Atlantic College A	1
Final	Luton A	7	Luton B	0

The overall winners thus being the Luton A team.

Polo clubs interested in entering future competitions organised by Luton should contact Brian Barfoot, 18 The Cedars, Dunstable, Beds.

Mr. Barfoot, as Polo Representative on the Competitors Committee for the B.C.U. Eastern Region, has been asked to set up a regional polo squad, and a training scheme for polo coaches, the latter to commence in March. Interested canoeists in this region should write to the address above, including an s.a.e.

Olympic potatoes!



"OLYMPIC POTATOES" will be a common sight in retail outlets in 1979 and are high quality potatoes marketed by J.E. England and Sons (Wellington) Limited throughout Great Britain.

This is the first time that branded potatoes have been marketed on a national scale, and each and every time the housewife purchases "OLYMPIC POTATOES" she is contributing to a unique sponsorship scheme.

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According to Donald Findlay, marketing director of JEES: "As long as we all play our parts correctly, there will be no cost increase to the housewife. She will benefit from a nationwide buying policy, a high standard of distribution, and a consistent quality product. More important, each household, will be directly contributing towards the honing to perfection of individual athletes, who will represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games, in Moscow."

Staines Canoeists

The Thames Water Authority have agreed that beginning in 1979, they will allow ten named canoeists the use of the Queen Mother Reservoir, near Staines, subject to the following conditions —

1. Annual permits will be valid for one year only and will not be transferable.
 2. An annual charge of approximately £10.00 per permit will be made.
 3. Canoeists will be allowed access to the water between 1st April and 31st October, both dates inclusive, and at all times within this period that the reservoir is open for day sailing. On Sailing Club Race Days, all Canoeists must abide by the instructions given by the Officer of the Day, who will specify those areas of the Reservoir which are to be used. In general this means no Sundays during the Summer.
 4. Life Jackets must be worn by all Canoeists. These may be borrowed from the Control Office at the Reservoir.
 5. The general rules and regulations applicable to the Reservoir will apply together with those appertaining to day sailing where appropriate.
 6. Canoeists will be entitled to make full use of the changing and shower facilities of the Reservoir but storage space for canoes cannot be made available.
- Any member of the Union who is interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, should inform the Director of Coaching, British Canoe Headquarters, as soon as possible.

Brian's Specials — Information Booklets

A semi-professional approach to the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race 75p
 "To live or let die" — a Beach Safety Report 35p
 Australian Lifesaving equipment review 35p
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 Brian Sheen, 92 Par Green PAR, Cornwall.

Thanks for the memory

Ken Webster, the senior instructor from Banbury and warden of the Banbury community project, has written to us recently telling us about a group of senior students from Banbury School, spending their half term on the river Spey in Scotland. His letter is not to tell us of the superb time they had but to tell us of the kindness and goodwill extended to them by all they met.

In these days of continued access problems and hostility towards canoeists, it is refreshing to hear that people are indeed human after all. Therefore, on behalf of Ken Webster, the pupils of Banbury School and Canoe Focus many thanks to Alan and Penny Agar from Tomintoul, the bakery at Aberlour for drying them out and to the new management of the hotel at Spey Bay, may their business prosper.

Gliders lose

The British gliding team have been told to repay their £2,400 grant from the Sports Council for attending their World Championships at Chateauroux in France. The support for their trip was withdrawn because a South African team was entered. Their sole consolation came in retaining the open title.

Despite the fact that we are one of the poorer sports we are now about 4th in the league for grants handed out by the Sports Council each year.

Pardon?

Irate Wye angler: "You can just tell that lot to get those boats up the far bank onto the road and carry them to their vehicle."

Cool Neil Edwards: "I think you'd better tell them."

Irate Wye angler: "Why?"

Cool Neil Edwards: "They're HM Borstal, Portland."

Dissipated Wye angler: "Perhaps you'd ask them to go quietly down the lefthand side, then."

Leven wild water test

This Silver Jubilee Year of the Leven Wild Water Test followed much the same pattern as in previous years, but it became necessary to cancel the April and June fixtures due to low water in the river. The final fixture of the series on 22nd October was only just possible and it resulted in many failures in the slalom class, although the time correction factor (which is designed to equalise the competitors' times at different water levels) appeared to work equitably as far as the WWR class was concerned. This may be accounted for by many of the top paddlers using WWR boats, and leaving the slalom class which is fast becoming a training ground for the less experienced paddler.

It was at this last fixture of the series that the Gold Dipper was won by Jeremy Hibble of Leeds in the very fast time of 5 minutes and two seconds – a most creditable performance. At the previous fixture, on 1st October, with higher water when his corrected time was 5 minutes and 5 seconds, Jeremy created a new record for the fastest actual time taken on the course, of 6 minutes and 5 seconds.

Nigel Morley retains the Leven Trophy which is awarded annually to the best performer from the home club.

The slalom class was headed by Clive Stallworthy of Chester at 6 mins. 45 secs. with Graham Helsby of Manchester hard on his heels, and with several very promising young paddlers in the first 20.

In the ladies WWR class Annette Ramage led with 6 mins. 29 secs. and in the slalom class Sibylle Hardener of the Zurich W.V. Club strored ahead in 7 mins. 15 secs. just one second faster than Heather Goodman's record run in 1973, (Heather still holds the record for the fastest actual time in this class).

The C2 WWR class was led by Evans and Young of Wigan with a time of 6 mins. 49 secs. The C1 slalom class was headed by J. Bolton of Manchester in 8 mins. 33 secs.

So ends the first 25 years of this event. The new season (the 26th year of the Test) is now under way. Prompted by a request from the anglers, it has been decided to concentrate the series of 8 Tests into the winter months between 1st Oct. and 31st March to coincide with the WWR calendar and, hopefully, to secure better water levels. For this year only the October fixtures remain in the past series for the purpose of the Gold Dipper. In future years the Gold award will have been decided by the end of March. The entry fee is £1 but this operates as a season ticket for the series, i.e. £1 with entry card for the first entry in the series, with no charge for the remaining fixtures in the series by each registered competitor. The starting list of each fixture will be limited to 60 as previously, hence early application for each event is advisable as there are already more than double that number of registered members.



Entries

(limited to 60 on any one date)

Eric B. Totty
Craigmuir,
High Knott Road,
Arnside,
Carnforth. LA5 0AW.

DATE:— Date of Test	Water Level Ft.ins.	Time Allowed mins.secs.	Wind conditions	Awards:—					Fail	Scr.	Tot.
				Silver 1st	Silver 2nd	Bronze 1st	Bronze 2nd	Scr.			
13/11/77	10.0	00.50	Gusty headwind	—	11	21	5	6	12	55	
15/1/78	8.9	2.05	Negligible	2	10	11	16	3	3	45	
12/2/78	8.9.8	2.01	Favourable.								
			V. Cold	16	2	6	8	8	21	61	
12/3/78	9.0	1.50	Gusty headwind	—	3	15	8	14	14	54	
16/4/78	8.3	2.35	Cancelled. Low water								
18/6/78	8.2	2.40	Cancelled. Low water								
1/10/78	9.10	1.00	No wind. Fine, sunny	32	30	6	1	4	1	74	
22/10/78	8.03.4	2.33	Negligible	11	8	5	4	61	9	98	
				61	64	64	42	96	60	387	

No. of clubs taking part — 40

GOLD Dipper for 1978 — Jeremy Hibble

Leven Paddle retained by Jon Goodwin

Leven Trophy retained by Nigel Morley

Dates for new series: Feb. 11, Mch. 11 & Mch. 25 in 1979

Entry cards, rules & full information from the organiser in return for S.A.E. (foolscap size).



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through white water,
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Canutivities

How can you get the maximum achievement and enjoyment from a 2½ hour canoeing session with beginners in groups of 12 from any of 20 countries represented at the camp? You also have language difficulties.

This was the problem facing the canoe staff at the Blair Atholl International Jamboree in July. The staff — Ronnie Thomas from Johnstone, Steve Waddell from Belfast, George Ling from Ayre, Gunter Schiemann from Sweden, George Fielding from Falkirk — had one Senior Instructor and the rest were also experienced canoeists with two at T.I. stage. Permission was gained to use a 'Hydro Electric' loch and two miles of the river that feeds it including a Grade 2 rapid. A further point of interest (!) was a small power station outlet 200 metres upriver of the loch which sent a 4 metre wide race across the river

to the opposite bank. The back eddy up-river was often used to get the weaker paddlers through.

Before a group arrived for canoeing we issued them with a clothing list (in four languages) or used 'sample clothing'. When they were changed and their life jackets tied on (by us), basic safety rules were given in any of four languages (written) or by sign language, which took longer! Initial instruction on the loch was by the 'discovery' method and then by demonstration including a capsizing on one occasion with an over enthusiastic demonstration of a fault. Because of our high staffing ratio, in 15 minutes they had a basic grasp of paddling forward, stopping, sweep turns and support strokes. The group then moved into the river section towards the Hydro Electric outlet where the group were led one at a time across the race. In the event of a capsizing we normally used the 'Ipswich' rescue as the

boys were in Ottersport T.I.'s which inevitably took in much water due to the lack of spraysheet and capsizing experience. Instructions in sign language at re-entry were very funny to watch.

The broad shallow river over the next mile was calm and peaceful with only a small current, and skills were improved on this part. During rests we used raft games like alternate paddlers standing up, or a swopping boat race for adjacent canoeists in the raft. Soon we reached the rapid and the better groups portaged up past it. Upriver of the rapid was a gorge with the water surface only 3 metres wide in places, but with great depth of water the current was negligible. This section impressed the scouts and also gave the tourists on a bridge high above us something interesting to watch and photograph.

The return journey down the river was much faster and, if time allowed, the power station outlet usu-

ally claimed a few who were following our demonstrations of breaking in and ferry gliding. The final 50 metres were usually covered by a race — sometimes claiming a victim who forgot to feather his paddle.

The greatest communication difficulty we had was with the Japanese scouts who seemed to know only two phrases in English — "O.K." and "Thank you sir" (always used after a rescue!). Opposite to the Japanese who found the water very cold were the scouts from Iceland who found it so warm that they enjoyed sinking their canoes with over enthusiastic support strokes — without a spraysheet! We also learnt a new word for capsizing drill when a Canadian scout asked "How do you eject?"

Language problems could not disguise the enjoyment which the scouts had on their trip and we learned the words "Thank you" in many foreign languages.

by R Thompson

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FALCHION SLALOM KAYAK L. 400 cm B. 60 cm

This very popular slalom kayak has a low profile shape enabling the paddler to 'dip' the bow and stern with ease and control, and combining a buoyant middle section which ensures it performs superbly in rough water. Has proved an outstanding performer amongst Britain's top paddlers.

PRICE: DIOLEN £115.50
KEVLAR COMPOSITE £145.50

FERRARA MKII SLALOM KAYAK

L. 400 cm B. 60 cm

This Kayak, the latest in our range has been designed for world class competitions. It is very fast and bow/stern 'dips' with ease and control.

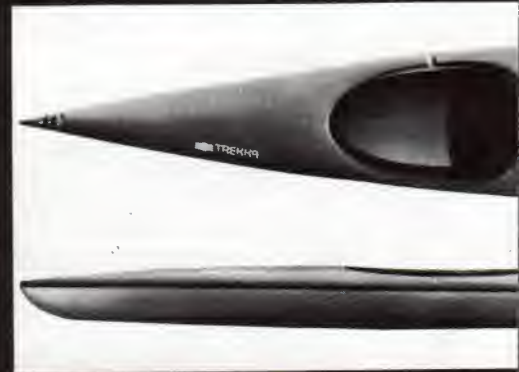
PRICE: DIOLEN £115.50
KEVLAR COMPOSITE £145.50



KATANA ALPINE TOURING L. 400 cm B. 60 cm

This is the kayak for those who enjoy paddling the rough rivers on the continent. It is stable and very buoyant with a good water shedding deck to tackle those big waves. Because of its stability properties and ease of handling it doubles as an excellent craft for training beginners.

PRICE: CONSTRUCTION FOR EDUCATIONAL USE £105.00
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TREKKA TOURING DOUBLE L. 510 cm

This kayak has been designed with the fact that it is very stable in rough water which makes it very popular amongst beginners. Large storage space for equipment is available for maximum comfort.

PRICE: £135.25

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SABRE DOWN RIVER L. 450 cm B. 60 cm

This extremely fast kayak has been proved by top paddlers in winning several first places in both National and International competitions. Although a little less stable than the Machette, its speed is unmatched by any of its rivals, therefore allowing the experienced competitor a greater reach in performance. (Designed for rivers up to Grade 3)

PRICE: DIOLEN £129.14 KEVLAR COMPOSITE £167.00

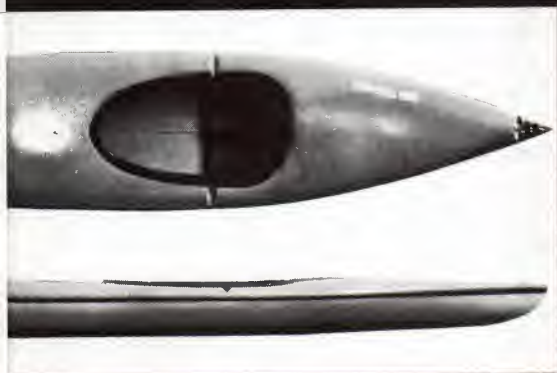


MACHETE WILD WATER RACER

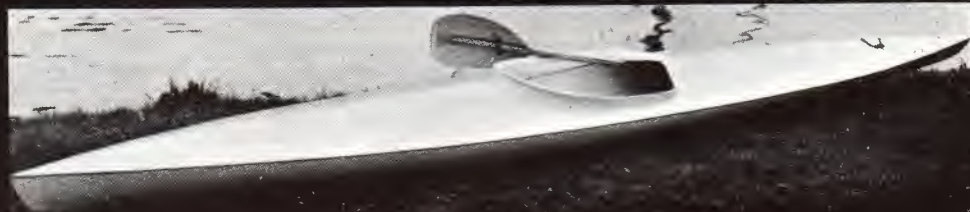
L. 450 cm B. 60 cm

This Kayak is undoubtedly the most successful Wild Water racer in Britain. It has been used to win the National Championship for two years running in both men's and ladies' events and gained very high positions in the World Championships and European cup events.

PRICE: DIOLEN £129.14
KEVLAR COMPOSITE £167.00



h B. 70 cm
ily man in mind. It has good stability
hers, but still retains a good turn of speed.
ossible via the roomy cockpit, designed for



ZEPHYR TOURING SINGLE L. 520 cm B. 53 cm

This very fast touring single of Danish design is built by us under licence in this country. It is ideal for use in river, sea, or at home in the Scottish lochs and holds the new Sept. '76 Cross-Channel record. Large stowage space for equipment means that this excellent craft has been widely approved and used by Adventure Training Centres and Outward Bound Schools.

PRICE inc. over- or underster rudder from £131.75



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Model

Quantity..... Colour Opaque/Translucent

Deck Hull

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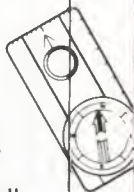
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For further details contact
Richard Marsden:-

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Telephone Windermere (096-62) 5454.



BCU Proficiency — Inland Training and Assessment, 20th to 22nd April, 1979. This course is aimed at those who have some flat and moving water experience and who want to obtain a qualification. Further details from YMCA National Centre, Lakeside, Ulverston, Cumbria, telephone Newby Bridge (04483) 758.

Front Cover Picture
by R. Thomson
(exclusive to Canoe Focus)

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PAXMEAD by Helen Ryan

Imagine an acre of land on a beautiful reach of the Thames between Shepperton and Chertsey Locks on which stands a building which was purpose built in a sheltered field next to a boat pound and boat house. This is the Outdoor Activities Centre called 'Paxmead' which the seventeen counties of the London and South East England Region of the Girl Guides Association are very proud to own. There is a tow path between our land and the launching ramp and jetty where all the boats can be easily pulled in and out of the water, and the boat house can be used for maintenance and storage.

The Base is very popular and as a result is hired out throughout the year to groups for various events. Guide and Ranger Units as well as Guiding Counties run specialised courses, supplying their own staff, and our Region usually organises several adult training courses during the year. The Region also has a superb scheme whereby the Base is used during the long summer evenings for the girls to get a good few hours' practice on the water. These take place on three evenings during the weeks from May to July, and the big advantage here is that the youngsters can decide at relatively short notice that this is what they would like to do on a particular evening.

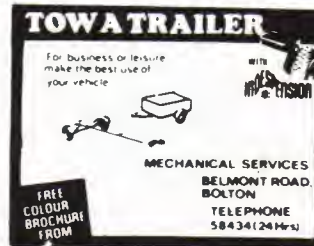
Trainers are provided so groups do not have to worry about finding a qualified person and as a result these evenings have proved very popular.

Canoes, rowing dinghies and sailing dinghies are available for use, but certainly canoeing seems to be the most popular type of boating undertaken at the Base and conditions for beginners are just about ideal as the Thames here is straight and broad. The weirs at Chertsey and Shepperton supply some exciting canoeing for those beyond the beginning stage, so I am told! There are a fair number of pleasure boats passing by, particularly at weekends during the summer, but with good training this can only be of value to beginners learning how to handle their boats.

We hope that once the girls have had the opportunity to taste the various types of boating they will become enthusiastic and want to do this more as a unit activity. Certainly, in Ranger Units where the girls are from fourteen to eighteen years, this is encouraged and there are units up and down the country with their own boats or access to boating facilities.

Use of the Base is restricted to those of over twelve years of age and this does have its drawbacks on occasions. However, this does mean we can encourage those whose privilege it is to use the facilities.

and this is the age group where, at the moment, in the Guide Section particularly, (10/11-14), we are looking for activities to catch and keep the girls' interest. Opportunities for young adults these days are so limitless, particularly within the school situation, that it is vital we are able to present as many openings as possible to widen the experience of the girl, and also to give her the chance really to get going with something of this nature. Those undertaken within the framework of the Guide programme where the emphasis is on the individual and her place within the small group situation, take on more meaning as the girl is helped to carry out the Promise she made when she became a member of the Movement, ie. To do her best: To do her duty to God, To serve the Queen and help other people, and To keep the Guide Law



Dewar's

In 1977 we became associated in a small way with the British Canoe Union. This involvement developed in 1978 into sponsorship of the Wild Water and Slalom events held at Bala, North Wales in June and also, later the same month, in sponsorship of the International Regatta held at Holme-piereport, Nottingham.

Under normal circumstances we would have been more than happy to continue this sponsorship. Unfortunately, market conditions in the United Kingdom brought about by EEC decisions have created a situation whereby, with great regret, we have been obliged to advise the Director of the British Canoe Union that we must withdraw this support.

We would like to place on record our deep appreciation of the help and co-operation we have received from the President, Director and officials of the British Canoe Union as well as the Chairmen and members of the associated committees.

Glenmore Lodge, National Outdoor Training Centre, Aviemore, is near some of the best white water in Britain. So, the Lodge Katakting and Canadian Canoeing courses are that extra bit special. They cost £65 + VAT and last one week. To find out more about them write to The Scottish Sports Council.



TRADE NEWS

What's new!
What's on!

On December 13th three High Court Judges unanimously upheld Mechanical Services' appeal against a previous High Court ruling which forced the company to charge the higher rate of V.A.T. on various components it supplies.

The legal battle between Mechanical Services, who manufacture the Indespension Unit, and the Customs and Excise began in 1976 when the company appealed to a V.A.T. Tribunal about the apparent injustice of charging the luxury rate of V.A.T. on such common components as couplings and winches, simply because a small proportion of them were used on boat trailers.

Pyranha always introduce something new for the Canoe Exhibition and this year is no exception. Last year the new Pyranha Elite C2 MkII was introduced, and this year the Elite C2 MkIII is to be shown, still with a close cockpit, but introducing a new dimension to the C2 world.

Pyranha also have their new Open Canadian Canoe for the show, along with the new Everest and Orinoco II Kayaks, Pyranha have a lot to offer the Whitewater and General Purpose sides of our sport.

With Pyranha range of canoe wear going so well in 1978 it goes without saying that they have something new for Crystal Palace. Introducing their new Paddle Vest designed with the competitor in mind but can be used by anyone, it is a combination of Nylon/Cloth to offer the best for 1979.

FILM REVIEW
BRITISH PREMIERE at
Canoe Exhibition

PADDLES UP!

A new film by Wolf Ruck, the well known and internationally famous Canadian film producer.

Paddles flash, the spray flies and waves of colourful jerseys surge across the screen as young athletes in 15-man war canoes stroke towards a national canoeing championship.

A gripping sound track, evocative music and impressionistic photography enhance both the esoteric beauty of this sport and the raw power of its top competitors.

Olympic Silver Medallist, John Wood, and Olympic Coach, Mac Hickox, provide a stimulating insight into the philosophy, rigorous training and refined technique of a world champion canoeist.

For young people, this film offers a thrilling introduction to a challenging summer sport. For the general viewer, PADDLES UP! presents a refreshing view of young athletes exhilarating in the pure joy of effort.

Recently the film was previewed by members of the BCU Regatta Officials Course and was considerably praised.

The British premiere will be held at the International Canoe Exhibition — 24th/25th February 1979.

THE NEW "INDIAN" CANOE

The New "Indian" Canoe is the latest addition to the Ottersports range of touring Canoes and Kayaks.

Coloured Olive Green, with comfortable, bronze polyester webbing seats, and useful anodised carrying handles, the Indian will appeal especially to the canoeing family, and the fisherman.

Designed and developed for maximum stability, 516cm. (16' 11") in length and with a beam of 90cm. (2' 11½") the weight is only 36kgs. (80 lbs.) and is easily transported on a car roof rack.

The hull is G.R.P. and incorporates within the laminate three aluminium cross members which produce an extremely strong and rigid hull. The decks are A.B.S. vacuum formed with a leather grain finish which incorporates the carrying handles. 70kgs. (154 lbs.) of rigid foam buoyancy is inbuilt and all aluminium parts are anodised to British Standard 1615. The gunwales are of aluminium section covered with a P.V.C. moulding.

This Canoe is approved by the Nordiska Gruppen (Scandinavian Group) of Countries and has passed their tests to a maximum load of 350kgs. (770 lbs.) whilst showing 15cm. (6") freeboard.



Ottersport Indian

Trylon Ltd., of Wollaston, Northants, are pleased to announce the introduction of a double touring kayak to their extensive range of canoe designs, named the ARDECHE it is a well proven design giving ample space for camping gear for two, yet retaining a sporty performance as well as being safe and stable for family use. Several other designs are currently being developed and their aim is to continue to improve on service to canoe sport in general with an emphasis on the home builder.

Sea Touring

£2.50 (inc. p&p)

An informative booklet for sea canoeists. Written by John J. Ramwell, B.C.U. Coach. Over 100 packed pages on equipment, survival, safety, navigation, the sea, charts, buoyage, the weather, expedition planning, use of pool, etc. Available only from: John Ramwell 32 Glebe Road, West Perry, Huntingdon, Cambs. PO18 0DG.

In addition to their successful range of Economy Kayaks, Whitewater Sports will be showing their recently acquired boats from the renowned Jaycee range of designs, giving quality boats at a very reasonable price.

The Lawrence range of boats are also being imported from Ireland and of particular interest are the Spring and L.D. Racing Craft, available in Glass, Diolen, Kevlar and Sandwich constructions.

A selection of their large range of accessories will be on show and again of particular interest is a new design of strap, for securing boats etc to roof racks or trailers. They are quick and simple to use, but immensely strong. At only £2.45 per pair they will probably end the use of luggage elastics and cord. Make sure you see this new development.

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36" Chest	£18	Post
38" Chest	£19	£1.25 adults
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42" Chest	£21	

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Anglian Youth

The Anglian Series in 1978 consisted of six races on rivers in Suffolk, Essex and London. It was organised along the lines of a "mini-Hasler" Trophy with clubs and individuals accumulating points towards trophies awarded at the end of the series. Some of the young paddlers, whose ages ranged from 11 to 16, started the series as novices hardly able to cover the race distance of about six miles but ended as hardened competitors, with many friendly rivalries developing between members of different clubs.

The first race, from Bures to Nayland on the Stour, was held in May in unexpected flood conditions in which competitors had to swim for part of what should have been a portage. Conditions for the large entry at Chelmsford in June were easier though less exciting. Newham C.C. provided the third race of the series on a level stretch of the Lea with no obstructions, while the fourth race at Harlow meant a return to short stretches of paddling separated by frequent portages. Back to the Stour again in September for the race from Sudbury to Bures, with the water levels much lower than in May. There was just enough water to allow the more daring paddlers in slalom boats to scrape over all five weirs. The final event was, as usual, held at Heybridge Basin paddling up the canal and then returning through Maldon down the Blackwater estuary on a sunny windless October afternoon — a trip to enjoy even if you were last in the race!

Among the overall impressions from the series, the preponderance of competitors in slalom boats was noticeable. Although it is good to see new comers having a go in any sort of a boat, it is disappointing that we can't get more of them into K1's and K2's. Perhaps the competition coaching scheme started in the Eastern Region this winter will help here. Another universal problem in youth racing is that, with classes for boys and girls in three age groups and four kinds of canoe, we get lots of very small classes. Individual race organisers tried to beat this problem by combining classes, with or without handicaps, but it seems that a proper uniform system of handicapping is what is really needed.

1978 Series Winners.

Group A (age 11 and 12)	Boys	John McAuliffe (Chelmsford)
	Girls	Dawn Lindsay (Bishops Stortford) and Catherine Mansfield (Barking)
Group B (age 13 and 14)	Boys	Lee Higgins (Barking)
	Girls	K. Ireson (Stubbers)
Group C (age 15 and 16)	Boys	Phil Hughes (Chelmsford)
	Girls	Kathryne Birkett (B'ps Stortford)
Club Trophy		Harlow C.C.
Best Individual Trophy		Lee Higgins

Pyrana award

The Pyranha Youth Award for 1978 was won by Pete Brownbill of Manchester Club.

The award an Equipe 79 Slalom Canoe is presented to the highest placed Youth/Junior in Division 1 who had gained promotion to Division 1 during the season.

Pete was promoted at Appletreewick and then turned in some exciting slalom results to finish 5th over all in Division 1. The award was presented by Graham Mack-ereth the Managing Director of Pyranha Mouldings.

The presentation was made during a social evening being given by the North West Training Squad which Pete is a member of.

The canoe will be on show on the slalom stand at Crystal Palace International Canoe Exhibition 79.

Wedding bells



Our photograph shows Rob and Pat Hastings wedding which was held in Kenilworth recently. The paddle arch presented by John Gosling, Dave Manby, Roger Huyton and John Liddle and Rob's brother and a friend of the family (filling in for missing Expedition members).

Information

Renew!

Members who have not yet renewed their membership will find a renewal form included with this copy of the magazine. Please return your form as soon as possible. If you have paid by standing order, please write to the administrator at BCU HQ stating the amount and date paid, also CANCEL standing order immediately.

Further copies of this magazine will not be sent unless your membership has been renewed.

Dart advisor

The access adviser to the River Dart, Mr. Peter Sheehan, has indicated that people may have access to the upper reaches of this river, eg Dartmeet to Hewbridge, however he must be contacted prior to any use. The address to which enquiries may be sent is:— The River Dart Country Park Ltd., Holne Park, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon. Tel: Ashburton 52511.



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a 16ft open Canadian Tourer. In g.r.p. with wood bulkheads, decks waterproof hatches, and gunwhale. £160 plus VAT — £180

In kit form for the D.I.Y. enthusiast, i.e. hull with thwart positions glassed in, gunwhale, bulkheads, hatches, decks to be fitted. £130 plus VAT — £146.50

In diagonally laid cold moulded mahogany for the connoisseur. Laminated thwarts, gunwhales, mahogany decks, waterproof hatches. A craft built strictly to the customer's requirements. £400 plus VAT — £450

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Jobs and Courses

PIRATE CLUB

The Club, which operates from the Pirate Castle on the Regent's Canal, London, has a vacancy for a full-time canoe instructor with teaching or youth service qualifications. Applicants will be responsible to the Warden and should have some familiarity with boat building, camping, etc., plus an abundant enthusiasm for working with young people. The appointment is by secondment from ILEA; qualified salary scale 2: £3,471 — £4,422 + £402 London Allowance.

Details and application forms, (returnable as soon as possible) from the Education Officer (CEC5), The County Hall, London SE1 7PB (stamped addressed foolscap envelope). Telephone enquiries: Oliver Makower (Club Chairman) 01-624 3222 evenings.

BREDWARDINE LODGE

WARDEN

There is a vacancy for the above position. The Job requires a single person, and will operate from March 1st to Mid-October 1979. Applicants to hold Mountain Leadership Certificate and a current driving licence. Canoe prof./Coaching Award an advantage.

For further details and salary scale please apply:— The Director (Managing) Bredwardine Lodge (Tel: Moccas 216) The Old School, Bredwardine, Herefordshire.

SEASONAL INSTRUCTORS

Are also required during the months of July and August to lead young people in canoeing, hill-walking, camping activities. Full board, indoor accommodation and travel expenses provided.

When applying, please state qualifications/experience.

SENIOR INSTRUCTORS

We are looking for well qualified and experienced instructors to act as River Leaders at our centres in Wales, the Wye Valley, and Shropshire. These jobs offer demanding but enjoyable teaching experience for SI trained and/or assessed canoeists. We provide accommodation, food and a good wage linked with your standard of award. Jobs are available from March to September but you can work for periods of two weeks upwards. Write in first instance for application form, stating that you are interested in a senior position to:— Ms Jane Brimble, Personnel Officer, 526 Boreatton Park, PGL Young Adventure Ltd, Baschurch, Shropshire or phone for more information Baschurch 552.

CANOE INSTRUCTORS wanted March—September for Adventure Holiday Centres in Wales, Shropshire and the Wye Valley. Long or short period of employment. BCU certification an advantage. Accommodation, pocket money and all food provided.

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Application forms and details from Education Officer (CEC. 5), County Hall, London SE1 7PB.

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Applications giving details of experience should be made direct to: The Director, Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot, Southampton.

Storey Arms adventure centre

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Introductory & B.C.U. Proficiency 8—10 June
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Orienteering For Youth Leaders and Adults 5—7
January 1979

Mountaineering Mountain Leadership Introductory
13—20 April, 20—27 October 1979

Climbing Youth Leaders and Adults 28—30 September 1979

Caving Youth Leaders and Adults 31 August—2 September
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Details and application from:—
The Warden, Storey Arms Adventure Centre, Libonus,
Brecon LD3 8NL

Additional instructional staff (male or female) are required throughout the year. They must be interested in working with young people of all ages. Sound experience, and preferably a qualification, is required in outdoor pursuits (canoeing, sailing, rock climbing or expedition work), youth and community work, or crafts. Vacancies available from a minimum of one month up to 18 months. Details and application form from Tony Dunn, Programme Director, YMCA National Centre, Lakeside, Ulverston, Cumbria, telephone Newby Bridge (04483) 758.

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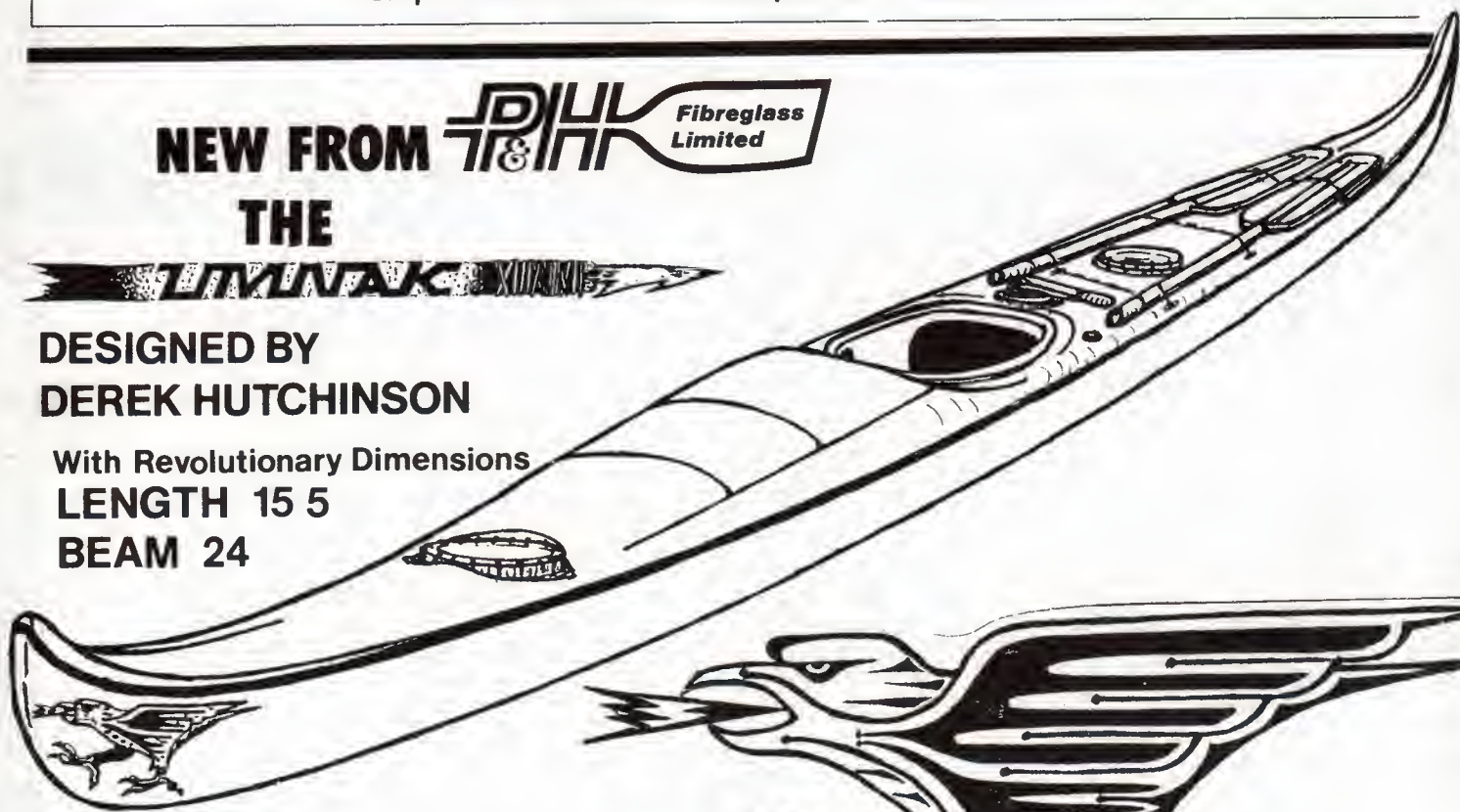
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