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COVER STORY

Members of the West German team shooting the Irish bridge in Bala during the World Wild Water Championships.

Photo: Dave Lawrence

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Managing Editor: Ron Emes

Editor: Dave Lawrence

Design and Production: Bob Gray
Dave Colver

Advertising: Brian James

Access: Oliver Cock

Coaching: Geoff Good

PRINTERS

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EDITORIAL OFFICES

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Editorial

Well, we did it!! Not one, not two, but three World Championships have been successfully organised and presented by the British Canoe Union since the Summer issue of *Canoe Focus* was published. The medals have been won, the speeches delivered, the ceremonials concluded, the athletes and officials have departed. Seven years of careful preparation finally came to a climax in three weeks of frenzied activity.

Those fortunate enough to experience the sustained excitement of the greatest canoeing spectacular ever to be presented by one national federation in one country at one time, could not but have been impressed with the apparently faultless technical organisation of all three World Championships.

The casual spectator could only have been aware of a succession of incomparable athletic performances, by superbly fit young men and women, demonstrating their unbelievable skills in a spirit of international goodwill and sportsmanship. It was of course inevitable that the very efficiency of the manifold organisations responsible for providing an opportunity for the worlds canoeing elite to compete one against the other, would determine that their endeavours did not

receive the public attention they properly deserved.

It is an unfortunate historical fact that bureaucracies are remembered not for their successes, but for their failures. Canoe '81 will however, be an exception to this maxim, for its fundamental achievement has been the ability of a tiny secretariat, to mobilise, enthuse, organise, and sustain, a vast labour force of almost three thousand voluntary helpers. It has been this remarkable example of organisational success, undertaken by a small group of semi-professionals, with the dedicated support of their unpaid, often un-sung workforce, that will be remembered by posterity as the supreme example of what can be done when needs must.

For entirely different reasons Canoe '81 will remain unforgettable in the memories of those fortunate enough to witness the performances of our superb British competitors. The bag of medals won included gold, silver, and bronze, and provided yet another triumph for the Union in this, the year of the canoe.

We are entitled to feel proud of our successes, we have hosted the world, entertained the public to an exciting and impressive sporting spectacular, and achieved little short of an organisational miracle. The best traditions of British canoeing, established over the last 120 years, have been fully and adequately sustained. The founder, and great publicist of modern canoeing, John MacGregor, would not have been disappointed.



Gorge-us double take! photo George Logie



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A Romanian River

Sylvie Nickels describes a trip on the Bistrita

Last summer (early August) we interrupted the final stages of canoeing the full length of the Danube in order to try out one of the mountain rivers of Romania. It had been suggested to us by contacts at the Ministry of Tourism in Bucharest, who were interested to know the tourist potential of the river in terms of attracting Western canoeists. Our canoe is a 17-ft. aluminium Grumman Canadian.

The river was the Bistrița (pronounced Bistritsa) flowing through northern Moldavia (or Bukovina, the historic name of this region), its source not far from the Soviet border in north-east Romania. The valley it wanders through in the eastern Carpathians is indeed spectacular, scenically and ethnically it must be one of the most unspoilt canoeable valleys in Europe. It lies about 500 km to the north of Bucharest and we set off from the Romanian capital by car with our Romanian companion, Nicolae, the canoe fixed to the roof and the boot full of our camping equipment. In the town of Piatra Neamț a main centre on the lower Bistrița, we picked up Mihai whose mission was to drive the car with all our gear while we paddled — a luxury rather rarely enjoyed by canoeists!

There are no large-scale maps of the Bistrița or, come to that, any other part of Romania, so distances had to be estimated with the help of the car's mileometer. Our interest lay in the upper reaches of the river, from beneath the Prislop Pass to the point where it joined the man-made lake of Bicaz, some 20 miles from Piatra Neamț, a total paddling distance of about 80 miles at an approximate altitude of 2,500 feet between mountains soaring up to 3,500 feet higher. The general idea was that we should motor slowly up the valley carrying out a preliminary inspection and putting the canoe in as far upstream as possible. The valley is narrow so that river and road are never very far apart though quite often the topography is such that one is not visible from the other. However, we noted as best we could, points where a portage would be essential or closer inspection strongly advisable.

The valley was more populated than we expected, a string of scattered communities quite often merging one with the other. Nicolae explained that this was traditionally a timber and mining area, though neither occupation intruded on the simply magnificent mountains that plunged down into the valley, their flanks deeply wooded in places, sometimes precipitously rocky, at others softened by pastureland. Earlier, we were told, the Bistrița was used for rafting timber down and there was talk of this being resumed. But high among the truly delightful aspects of this lovely valley were the communities themselves. Thatched or shingled roofs and colour-washed façades, sometimes decorated with delicate floral motifs, reflected a quiet revolution that had grown out of generations of continuity in this remote valley. Attractive peasant costumes were also much in evidence. It was like stepping into a living folk culture that, in western Europe, hardly survives outside museums.

It was late afternoon by the time we found a suitable place to launch the canoe just south of Cirlibaba. Nicolae had borrowed a dilapidated rubber dinghy and, having confessed he had never tackled such a venture before, spent a trial period on the river going round in circles. Our progress was brought to an abrupt halt soon after we rounded one of the Bistrița's innumerable bends and suddenly saw what appeared to be a hole in the water ahead. It proved to be a natural weir, fortunately only about a metre high, and we did nothing more than slip a lot of water and get extremely wet. Shortly after, Nicolae shared a similar fate and, at the first opportunity, we made camp in a field of cut hay.

Altogether we paddled about 50 miles of the river. Nicolae's rubber dinghy acquired a puncture the next day so we continued alone, which certainly increased our rate of progress though we missed the sight of his wildly waving paddles as he careered bravely down behind us. No portages were necessary in the next 26 miles and conditions ranged from the idyllically swift to short stretches of rapids rather more challenging than those of the River Wye. Only in one place — at the little spa town of Vatra Dornei — was there some particularly rough water on both sides of an island which we negotiated cheered on by workers from a small timber factory.



Typical decorated well in the Bistritsa valley, Moldavia, north Romania.

The section below Vatra Dornei was especially lovely. On several occasions we stopped to make a brew, to have lunch or simply to enjoy the glorious scenery or take a closer look at the exquisite little houses and the intricately decorated covered wells attached to many of them.

We camped the second night in the grounds of the Chalet Zugrani, just before which we took the canoe out of the river to portage round a dam. The Chalet had a few bedrooms and a restaurant which provided us with a palatable and cheap meal, though lack of amenities do not commend this popular place as a camp site; far too many demands were made upon the forest in the immediate neighbourhood to earn it any awards for hygiene!

We portaged for about another kilometre downstream the next morning in order to avoid some rapids that would have got us off to a wet start in a Canadian, though experienced kayakists would have little difficulty. One more short portage was necessary in the next 15 miles near Chiril, and there was an interesting stretch of eddies contained by a 90° turn in the river a little before the village of Satu Mare. We finally took the canoe out of the water in a magnificently wild stretch of the valley about 8 miles north of Broșteni. We had reached the point carefully noted on our upward journey at which the river hurled itself into a rock-strewn section of cauldron-like proportions — certainly no place for a Canadian whose crew included one near-novice. Access to the road at this point was up an extremely steep bank through thick vegetation and by the time we had negotiated it with both craft and our other gear, we had run out of time, for we had to be back in Bucharest next day. Once past this mile long section, however, we could see no obvious cause for any further portages until the lake of Bicaz was reached.

Our conclusions were that the challenging nature of the river, the magnificence of the valley and the uniqueness of its folk culture amply compensate for the lack of amenities and the considerable journey. Ideally one would travel by car and, in this case, there would be no problem about combining the Bistrița, as we did, with the Danube delta. Few combinations could provide two rivers of more total contrast, each unique in its way.

If any clubs or groups are interested in tackling the Bistrița, we understand that the Ministry of Tourism in Bucharest will be pleased to assist in their plans, and we shall be glad to give them the name of the person to contact.

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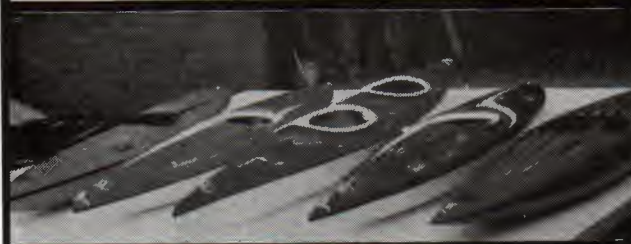
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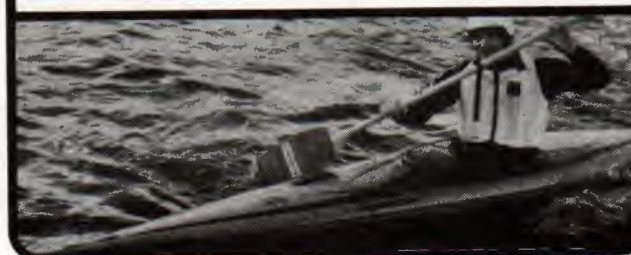


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The Snoopy Column



My services have been retained by the Editorial Board of *Focus*, to add spice and interest to the contents of this highly respected magazine. Readers of my page can look forward expectantly to regular intelligence regarding the activities of the somebodies and nobodies of the canoeing world. In common with my fellow newshounds, this fearless investigator will not be deterred from reporting the truth "as he sees it", by those with (and particularly those without) influence and authority. Sensationalism, half-truths, and scandal, are anathema to good reporters like myself. My pledge to my readers is that I shall only use those common journalistic tools when absolutely necessary, when there is nothing else to write about, or when I am seeking an increased circulation. Let us then begin —

Bottoms Up

Spectators at the Canoe '81 Bala closing ceremony, were treated to a Freudian slip by commentator Rod Witter, who was heard to refer on a number of occasions to the venerable new President of the International Canoe Federation, Sergio Orsi, as Sergio Arsi. If all the comments regarding the alterations to the Bala ceremonials effected by the newly elected President were justified, Rod's verbal stumblings can be forgiven.

The Underdevelopment Officer

This investigative columnist is delighted to report his first scoop for *Canoe Focus*. After meticulous and careful enquiries, undisclosed sources have revealed that Dave Lawrence, the Union's Development Officer, is unlikely to be sacked due to the insufficiency of funds available to pay his salary for the next year (see *White Water Magazine* May 1981 page 10). I am reliably informed that a strict monetarist policy, as recommended by the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been implemented by Headquarters, and the saving thus effected will enable Dave to continue in the services of the Union indefinitely.

Sponsorship Adnauseum

Readers will be interested to learn that a request to Woolworths for sponsorship on behalf of the British Slalom team was instrumental in obtaining 30 plastic carrier bags.

Censorship and the Press

I have noted with regret, that the winning entry in the *Focus* cartoon competition has been censored. A comment from the Forth Canoe Club that the winner of the second prize in this competition would have won first prize if the first prize winner had not won the prize, seems justified though mildly confusing. Whilst there have been no other

comments regarding the failure of *Focus* to publish the winning cartoon, I understand that the Editor has been inundated with requests for "personal copies".

Bureaucrats Beware

How refreshing it is to read yet again of a canoeing personality who perceives life in such simple terms. Said Gay Goldsmith when asked what changes he would suggest to the way in which canoeing is run — "less bureaucracy, less organisation for the organisers, more organisation for the paddlers." Those heroic bureaucrats who have recently collapsed with sheer physical exhaustion after organising three World Championships must be forgiven if they smile tiredly and cynically at such pearls of wisdom.

Heard at the World Championships

Starter to Competitors — "do not go before ze shooting — I shall say 'ready', 'shooting'".
Umpire — "Mein talky-walky is kaput".
Chinese interpreter to senior official — "You are big shots — I am small potato".

Voluntary Effort

It was sheer inspiration for those privileged to closely observe the 2000–3000 volunteers engaged on the organisation of the Triple World Championships. The variety and versatility of their activities was breathtaking. From the cooks and tea makers at Bala and Nottingham to the highly schooled technocrats who provided the communications, one and all worked without complaint and with total dedication. Despite the weather, which ranged between being too cold, too wet, and too hot, they all responded magnificently to their particular challenge. It is almost unbelievable that the Union with its slim resources, has been able to mobilise, organise, and sustain for more than three weeks such a vast army of volunteers. The expertise gained and the lessons learned by the organisers of this enormous undertaking must not be wasted. After a decent rest period we must all see to it that the enthusiasm of our remarkable volunteer army is redirected towards some exciting new project did you know for example that 1986 is the Golden Jubilee year of the British Canoe Union? Any ideas?

Up the Creek Without a Paddle!

When the organisers of the recent International Canoeing Championships at Bala, North Wales, found they were short of transport to move equipment lent to them by the Army, Pickfords Removals rushed to the rescue!

The RAOC base at Hereford lent over £70,000 worth of equipment to Canoe '81, but the organisers were unable to collect everything. With only weeks to go before the start of the event, Pickfords heard about their plight and immediately offered to lend one of their large pantechnicons.

Pickfords' Hereford branch manager, Mike Lawry, said: "We were only too happy to join forces with the Army, to ensure everything got there in time." While Major Bruce Bolton at the RAOC base added that "Without Pickfords' help, the Championships would never have got off the ground."

Picture shows: (left to right) Major Bruce Bolton, Cpl Moss, Sgt Bowes — loading canoes into a Pickfords pantechnicon at the RAOC base in Hereford.



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The Cloud Cuckoo Land Canoe Club

by 'Agitated', Addlestone

The Cloud Cuckoo Land Canoe Club is the largest organisation within the BCU.

Letters arrive from time to time from its active membership. They say 'the BCU' should do this, that or the other, but resent paying a membership fee to enable anything to happen.

The BCU Council is run by non-canoeists they claim — but never identify who is meant. It must be admitted that not *all* of Council have been in British teams, but some have — and 85% are *still active paddlers* across the board.

Complaints of 'political motivation' are made, with no explanation of what political advantage is to be gained in ensuring that canoeists' interests are protected and developed, and a fair share of financial support obtained for canoeing. Or what 'political advantage' there is in endeavouring to make more canoeing activity happen at a more local level for more canoeists in the regional context.

CCLCC members seem convinced that somewhere there is a BCU wand, which only has to be waved to make all our dreams come true — the anglers disappear, and masses of equipment, facilities and information be produced at no cost to individual paddlers.

Even organisers of events have said: "If 'the BCU' want 'their' levies, 'they' will have to come and collect them". "If 'they' want membership cards checked, 'they' will have to come and do it." "Why doesn't 'the BCU' have a display at 'our' event?" A qualified BCU Senior Instructor complained that 'the BCU' wasn't present when he ran some proficiency tests! A competitor who had received substantial training grants negotiated and administered by HQ and voluntary officers, complained 'the BCU' did nothing for him. And so it goes on.

What is meant by 'the BCU'? We all pay a membership fee — a contribution to enable the system to operate. There are then, all the willing members — those willing to work, and the rest willing to let them — but reserving the right to complain, criticise, demand, and resent even paying 16½ pence per week to enable the system to operate.

95% of all that is achieved by 'the BCU', is done through the unstinting effort, at personal expense, and at personal sacrifice of family and canoeing time, by VOLUNTEERS — ordinary members who take on added tasks or responsibilities.

The BCU is not an organisation apart. It is not a Council of Management pondering imponderables. *The BCU is the sum total of all the efforts of its members on behalf of canoeing.*

Of course there has to be 'organisation'. Of course there has to be management. Of course there have to be policy decisions. In 1895 canoeists got together because they saw a need for strength in unity. It is now 1981!

What is lacking is the positive goodwill of each individual member, whose attitude could drastically improve membership numbers, and thereby create the ability to proceed even further.

This isn't to advocate meek acceptance — pay up and shut up! It is an appeal to take an active interest, to express views, to demand action — but to be prepared to participate in achieving the ends demanded. And at the very least to maintain a positive attitude to those members who *are* willing to put in extra effort on behalf of other paddlers.

THE MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE — a vital statement for all who care about canoeing.

Our ability to consolidate the present rate of progress, let alone continue to develop and improve our sport, is in jeopardy. We are organisationally too heavily dependent upon support from public funds through the Sports Council, and clear warning has been given that Governing Bodies have to reduce this reliance in the immediate future. In common with all other organisations we know that there is a basic reluctance and resentment by individuals to pay a fee to enable good 'government' to be sustained. The view was expressed at the end of the last AGM that 'the majority of canoeists consider the BCU to be irrelevant'.

YOUR VIEWS are invited to be fed into a Working Party looking at ways of making membership attractive to a much greater proportion of the canoeing public — to make the BCU 'relevant' to all paddlers.

In fact, YOUR VIEWS are vital, if the right conclusions are to be drawn, and the right arrangements made, to encourage more people to support the structure on which the whole sport and pastime of canoeing is dependent for its future. Constructive or destructive, if you care about canoeing, please put pen to paper and tell us what you think should be done to attract the mass of canoeists to membership — *into partnership with you for the furtherance of the sport.*

Ideas have been promulgated, and proposals discussed, but it is essential to obtain a wide cross-section of independent opinion, if the right conclusions are to be drawn.

The matter is urgent. Please write before the end of September. Every view will be read, and every suggestion considered.

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International Exchange

by Peter Salisbury

The International Long River Canoeist Club (ILRCC) was formed in 1975, because at that time (and to a certain extent still!) it was nigh impossible to get hold of first hand information on rivers of the world.

For example, would you know where to go for the following: Right now there are two Americans canoeing 28,388 miles across and through North America. Could you pick up a pen and contact them? Do you know precisely where they are right now? Did you know that there are another two canoeists paddling their way up the map of Africa, on a 10,000 mile journey towards London? Or the names and dates of the men who have canoed the Atlantic? Or the name of the canoeist who is in training to do another Atlantic crossing soon? Or could you pick up a phone and talk to the leader of the Caribbean Kayak Expedition who paddled over 2,000 miles of that Sea? Or have a chat to the leader of the Mississippi River Expedition? Or ask advice of the leader of the John O'Groats to Lands End Expedition who did that 1,000 mile trip a few years back? Or what are good canoe routes in Papua New Guinea? Let's say you fancied a trip down the Danube. Could you talk over problems with people who have done it — not just sections, but the whole darn 1,600 odd miles (and the route around to Athens if you liked!) Or talk to the leader and team of the River Nile Expedition, to get information on their trip from Nimule, the 3,000 miles down to the Med. Who would you contact to find out more about canoe trips through the Canadian Wilderness? Or the Australian Rivers? Or the circumnavigation of Ireland? Or the circ' of UK for that matter?

Who could give you advice on the best boat for Oceans? Or Long distance travel on Rivers such as the Rhine, Loire, Seine? Or to ask advice on canoeing behind the Iron

Curtain? Who could advise on the ferry companies' regulations for conveyance of canoes by Foot Passengers?

Where else could you get a 10% reduction on survival equipment by just belonging to a club? A 33% discount on the official New Zealand River Guides? Who regularly has 25% discount off the price of expedition reports? Or a club that produces its own Expedition reports on a 'neat' but 'cheap' philosophy? Or produces its own Cards for helping travel in Socialist countries? Or has a scheme whereby members can stay free of charge in fellow member's homes in places as far apart as Australia, the USA, Germany, New Zealand, Eire, Holland? There is one such Club — that's the International Long River Canoeist Club, a free-thinking, unbiased, informal, independent club with no affiliation to any association or organisation — anywhere.

A few details: We have Overseas Branch Officers (OBO's) in Australia, USA, Eire, Germany, Canada, New Zealand. These are not crusty old fellows sitting in arm chairs, but active canoeists. Their task is to keep the Club informed of canoeing events in their areas. The information they send is used to make up our Club Magazine, *Paddlers World*. Often items which are 'scoops' in the canoeing world are gained by having OBO's in the four corners! There are no meetings, AGM's, or committees. We exist as a club by the contact of the Membership List — which each member gets on joining, and feels free to contact another at any time.

Paddlers World contains information on what is going on around the world. Each member can advertise-free of charge-in any issue. What does it all cost? — £1.50p per year (you can even pay up to 3 years in advance). If you are interested in joining this unique International Club then drop a line to Peter Salisbury, 238 Birmingham Road, Redditch, Worcs B97 6EL, or send a 4" x 9" sae for a preview newsletter.

Members of the International Nile Canoe Expedition of 1978/79 near the Sudd area.



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- 2 Use by UK Slalom and Wild Water Racing squads for training purposes;
- 3 Use by BCU/WCA for lower level competition, coaching scheme, centres, clubs, and other casual users, with due regard to safety requirements, the capacity of the river, and the welfare of other interests

The officer will also be responsible for arranging with the Welsh Water Authority for specific releases of water, attending meetings as necessary, drawing up procedures for bookings, maintaining the site in good order and other duties as required by the Joint Management Committee.

To undertake these duties successfully the candidate will need good administrative ability and be able to communicate effectively. Ideally he or she should have had experience of international canoeing, and a BCU coaching qualification. The ability to speak Welsh would be an advantage.

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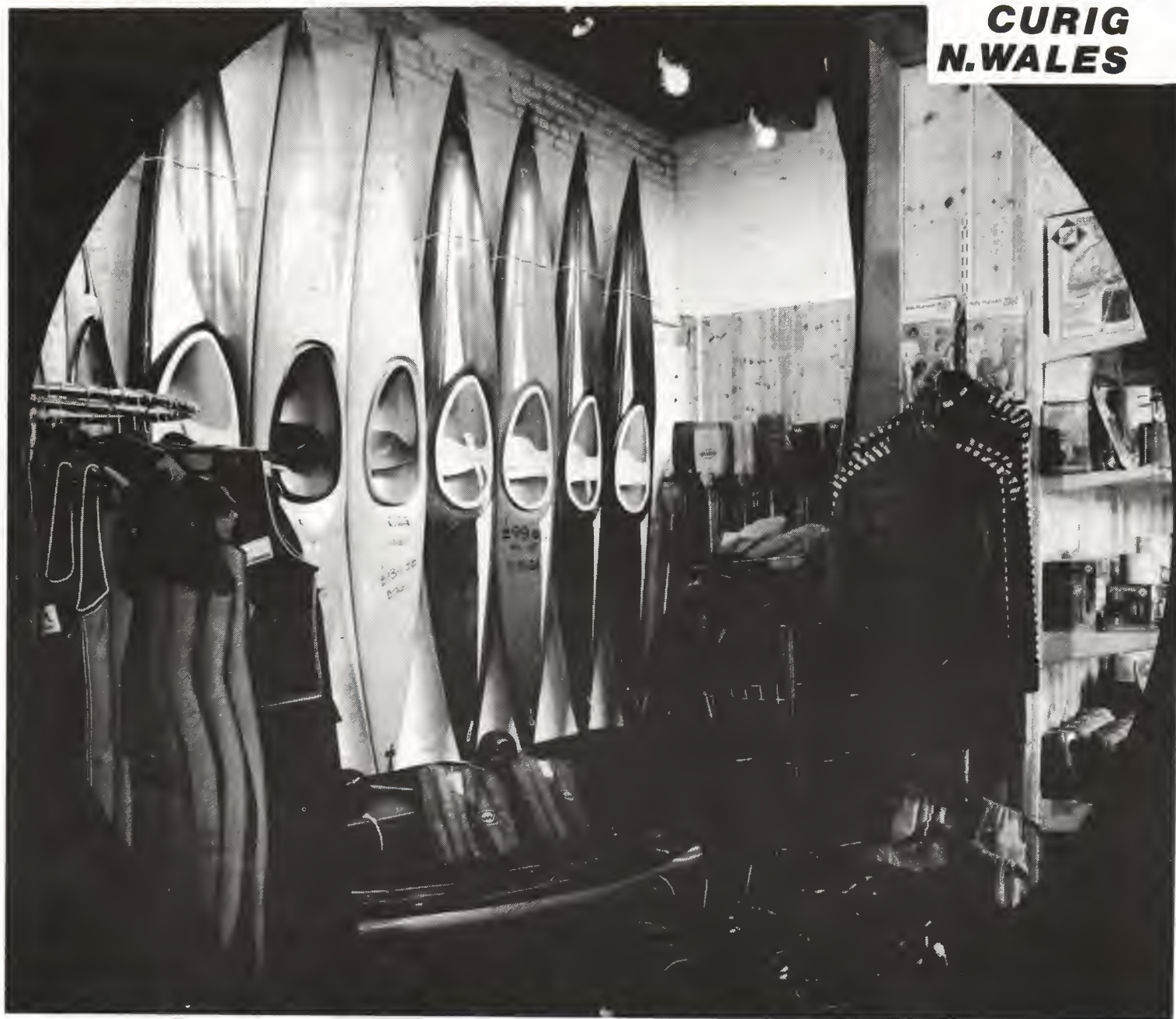
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CANOE '81 BALA

Wild Water/Slalom World Championships

After years of preparation by many voluntary helpers, the 1981 World Championships in Wild Water Racing and Slalom were about to begin. The assembled nations, in the lakeside car park in Bala made an impressive show. The 21 nations, all in their national tracksuits, were to parade through the town with local bands, youth groups, and at the rear a large group of officials.

After marching through Bala to a great welcome, the teams arrived at the school field for the opening ceremony. Sergio Orsi ICF President, opened the Championships followed by speeches from Dicky Jeeps, Chairman of the Sports Council, Iestyn Thomas, Mayor of Bala and David Wain, President of the BCU.

The gathered masses were surprised that this opening lasted only 50 minutes, including a free-fall parachute descent by the Red

Devils. After the long opening ceremonies in 1977 at Spittal and 1979 at Jonquiere, the teams welcomed this compact celebration.

Now the event got down to business in earnest. Friday morning saw the start of the K1 individual event, with Britain in great hopes of at least one medal. There was strong competition, however, from Burny (Belgium) and Benezit (France), and despite all the British having good times on the top section, they tended to wane at the bottom of the course. Jeremy Hibble was the fastest competitor overall at the half-way stage, but Benezit of France won in 26.18.03 followed by Previde (Italy) and Morrin (France) with Jeremy Hibble fourth. David Taylor finished 9th with Jerome Truran 12th, and Bob Campbell a disappointing 13th.

France swept the board in the C2 event with Hayne/Jacquet, Doux/Bunichon and

Bernard/Rigaut taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Cooper/Haydock, the first British pair, finished in a creditable 7th place.

The afternoon commenced with the ladies event. Again the competition was strong, but once more it was the French who took the gold medal, with Dominique Gardette on 28.58.82. Gisela Grothaur and Karin Wahl, both of West Germany, were 2nd and 3rd on the score-board. But wait, the Germans have refused to accept this third place, stating that Karin's time was actually one minute slower. The back-up timing showed that she should have been placed 12th, and Ann Plant of Great Britain was 3rd giving Great Britain its first medal of the Championships. Sue Hornby finished 8th with Fiona Mitchell 21st and Amanda Mylett 32nd.

Our hopes were not high for the C1 event and Martin Hedges eventually finished 8th. France again won, taking gold (Zok) and silver (Verger) followed by John Butler (USA). Britain's Bob Evans and Ian Free-stone finished 16th and 17th, while Graham Goldsmith unfortunately capized at the bottom of the slalom course.

Saturday brought some respectability back to British Wild Water Racing, with the K1 mens team of Hibble/Taylor/Truran winning the silver medal, behind France. However, this was our only team medal and France won the C2 and C1 events, whilst West Germany took the ladies prize.

The event finished with the medal presentation, and by the end, all present were very familiar with 'The Marseillaise' and hoped for more variety at the end of the slalom.

Fox the Victor

The rain had poured down all day, pausing occasionally to redouble its efforts, and really chuck it down.

The depressive gloom in the Welsh mountains was deepened after the first news of the mens individual K1 event. The man Britains hopes revolved around was lying 39th after a wrong presentation to a gate on the bottom of the course. It appeared that Richard Fox was going the way of other great white hopes in performing well below capability when it really mattered.

Nicky Wain had looked very good, but had a slow time, and ex World Champion, Albert Kerr, had spent a short while upside down around gate 15, but still led the British boys in 8th place.

Lubos Hilgert of Czechoslovakia turned the seedings around, appearing from nowhere, out of group 1, to lead with a brilliant clear round — although Fox had been quicker down the course.

A very disappointed Richard made his way back to the team caravan, had a quick chat with coach John MacLeod, and then retreated to a tent under the top dam to try and forget the morning's mistakes.

By the time the first hour of the second runs had passed, Hilgert had repeated his morning's effort almost to the second. Meanwhile having woken from a gentle sleep, Richard was paddling down from the dam to the pre-start, arriving in a relaxed but very determined frame of mind.

1510.30. Richard Fox took off from the start, with this one chance of achieving a long cherished ambition, chased by about two



A moment of magic at Bala. Britains double gold medalist, Richard Fox, having just won the Mens K1 World Championship.

CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD



Richard Fox – Individual K1 – Team K1



Albert Kerr – Team K1



Nick Wain – Team K1



Bob Owen/Bob Joce – Team C2



Eric Jamieson/Robin Williams – Team C2



Jack Young/Alistair Munro – Team C2

hundred whooping, yelling supporters on both banks of the river chasing 214.35. Gate 1 clear, Gate 2 clear, but the second hand on the watch seemed to be galloping round at twice the normal speed.

16 clear, 17 clear, then on he went down to that group of gates underneath the scaffold bridge where he came a cropper in the morning. No problems this time, and Richard shot off towards the lower fall, as the noise on the banks raised to a crescendo. A quick reverse before the finish line, the watches stopped, and the silence hung in the air. Whispers in the crowd said he'd done it, but as Richard approached the landing stage he thought he'd blown it. The minutes seemed to drag by, until Rodney Whitter, unable to contain his enthusiasm, announced: 'Ladies and Gentlemen, very provisionally I give you, the Champion of the World, Richard Fox of Great Britain: No penalties; time 211.94; total 211.94.'

That evening, Stafford and Stone Canoe Club took over the bar of the Plas Coch in Bala High Street. As a proud mum sipped her champagne, the dulcet tones of dozens of well-oiled paddlers drifted out over the road: 'Richard Fox is magic, all the rest are tragic', to the tune of a conga.

Two Team Golds for Britain

Fox, Kerr, Wain – but that wasn't the way they came past the stand area on the first run. Fox dropped down the fall above the team gate, and sat rubbing his hands together, waiting for Wain to clear the shoot before crossing in front of Kerr.

Albert had missed Gate 4, gone back up the river to repeat the manoeuvre, being

passed by Nicky Wain in the process. Even with that mix-up, the mens K1 team led the runs on the Friday morning with 264.23 total.

The major upset on the first runs occurred at the end of the morning, when three incredible Americans brought their C1's down the course completely clear, faster than the mens K1s!

The afternoon was bright, and the rain had stopped completely, by the time the Swiss upset the leader board by jumping into first place with a much faster time than the morning's run. Fox, Kerr and Wain needed to improve by 13 seconds to take the Gold Medal.

The team on the second run looked smoother, and far quicker, when in close company they dropped down to the team gate without pausing, although a few poles were swinging gently further up the course. The difference this time was not marginal – 10 seconds faster than the Swiss, but had penalties been too much?

Quite quickly the result was announced! 15 penalties; time 231.55; result 246.55. Ladies and Gentlemen, Great Britain have leapt into the lead by five points.

Molly Fox looked across the river at David Wain and beamed a smile of congratulation.

But – it didn't end there!

The C2 team, probably Britain's weakest team, knocked spots off the Poles at the second try, in spite of sending a number of gates swinging on the lower half of the course. This incredible run, won the event by 18 seconds and must give Young/Munro, Joce/Owen and Jamieson/Williams some satisfaction, considering that no C2 crews were entered in the 1979 World Championships, because they weren't thought good enough.

The girls followed, with every-one expecting them to win a Gold medal as well! Unfortunately, Liz Radford's capsizes on the lower end of the course put paid to the

winners medal, but they were fast enough to gain the Silver, so long as the protest against the capsizes didn't hold up.

Liz had drifted past a pole whilst up-side down, rolled up, and gone back up to repeat the gate. The West German section judge upheld the gate judge's verdict, that the British girls had not gained 50 penalties for 'wrong presentation', and so the result stood, in spite of the odd French hiss at the closing ceremony.

Monty Engle – Chairman of the ICF Slalom and Wild Water Racing Committee, had already said, earlier in the week, that the British judges were the best drilled and informed in the world – I think he's right.



It wasn't all gold at Bala – there was plenty of rain and mud!

PHOTO R



OUNDUP



XVI WORLD RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS

In glorious sunshine the 16th World Canoe Racing Championships swung into action and with quiet efficiency the most important regatta ever to take place on British soil followed its pre-set course to a finale that few could have foreseen.

For years the British International Regatta has been dogged by variable weather conditions, so it was with some trepidation that Nicolae Navasart the Romanian Chief Official came to Nottingham. Throughout the week he kept an eye on the wind speed indicators and an ear for the forecast but Holme Pierrepont behaved itself impeccably throughout, even to the extent that the racing on Sunday took place on water as smooth as a sheet of glass.

Radio Trent described the happenings in Nottingham as "the bun fight down at Holme Pierrepont"; dragon boats raced, aircraft buzzed the course and numerous people leaped out of the sky. The Waterside Exhibition attracted a great number of people who promptly sat down to watch the racing.

Through Mike Haslam and Colin Gray the British Canoe Union has organised not only the most successful event in the nine year history of the National Watersports Centre, but also a happy and tremendously efficient World Championships. As at Bala the members of the organisation who gave their time freely and went home totally exhausted, deserve praise indeed.

We can look at ourselves and the Triple World Championships and know we did well!

Moscow all over again, only the supporting cast has changed. As an interested spectator you could be forgiven for imagining Rudigar Helm of East Germany and Vladimir Parfenovitch of Russia were taking on the rest of the World but studiously avoiding each other. In the K1 events Helm claimed the 1000m distance from Barladeanu (Romania) and Rasmussen (Norway) but over the shorter distance Parfenovitch destroyed everyone in sight including the Romanian who again finished second. The superlative Russian teamed up with his countryman Superata to make both K2 events his own leaving Helm to clean up the gold medal in the 1000m K4 with the aid of his three colleagues, the current

Olympic champions. In fact one could be forgiven for believing that the only tune the band had practised on the Saturday afternoon was the East German national anthem. Only the Russian K2 and Romanian C2 broke the monotony of this musical menu.

Einar Rasmussen held the Western countries challenge for a gold medal and achieved that goal with a close victory over Janic (Yugoslavia) in the K1 10,000m. In spite of the pundits forecast of a home win, by Kevin Smith of Reading Canoe Club, he faded badly in the closing stages to finish 6th. Apart from the British bronze medal our interest was maintained in both mens K1 finals as first Kevin Smith and then

Andy Sheriff were well in touch with the leading bunch. Not since Douglas Parnham flew our flag to great effect has Britain had so many competitors gain places in the final stages of this competition. The general spirit of the team and level of preparation are due in great part to Brian Greenaway and John Fowler of the Royal Canoe Club, if these results are a measure of their success then they deserve every congratulation.

Tamas Wichmann the Hungarian C1 10,000m paddler seems to go on forever. At 36 he once again, for the umpteenth time, won that event making the rest of the field look pedestrian. Ivan Potzaichin also in his 30's won the C2 1000m final and finished second in the "10". After a career which spans three Olympics and with significant results at every World Championships both of these men must be approaching the end of their competitive lives. However, we would be delighted to see them again in Nottingham in 1982.

IN PRAISE OF OUR GIRLS

A repeat of the results gained in Moscow would have been nice. However when one considers the boycott of that Olympics, and in consequence the additional countries competing in Britain, it was never really on.

We got off to a poor start as a consequence of the draw when Lesley Smither was drawn against the three strongest individuals in the competition. Although she gained a good result in the repechage she could only finish 5th in the semi-final and so her challenge faded out. The K2 however, had a buoyant passage through to the final and Lucy Perrett/Francis Wetherall finished well in touch with the pack although an appreciable distance behind the winners Kuhn/Fischer of the GDR.

Anne Plant's bronze medal in the Wild Water Race could do nothing to save the K4 which finished last in its semi-final behind the USA. Because of the relative strengths of the seven Eastern block countries, the girls achieved much in getting one boat to the final.



The start of the K2 10,000 metres showing the Hungarian crew in the foreground who were eventually placed second.

BRONZE, BUT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN GOLD

Occasionally Britain has spawned an outstanding individual racing paddler who has achieved a position in a World Championship or Olympic final. In 1959 Ron Rhodes of the Royal Canoe Club won a silver medal in the European Championships in the K1 500 metres but since that date we have not won a medal of any sort in a senior championship although Douglas Parnham repeatedly got close. Consequently when the British crew paddled to the start of the K4 10,000 metre event at Nottingham many people hoped for a good result perhaps in the first six, but little more.

Alun Williams, Chris Canham and Steve Brown were the remnants of crews that had failed to win selection for the K2 10,000 metre event. Only a week before the championships began, a rapidly improving, Steve Jackson had been substituted into the back cockpit to improve the boat speed but the particular boat they wished to use became available only one hour before the start after footpumps had been feverishly fitted by the coaching staff.

Sixteen boats lined up for the start and as they raced past the control tower the Russians, favourites for the event, quickly established themselves at the front. As the crews sorted themselves out on the washes it became apparent that the British boat was not only near the front but, as the Romanians faded at the end of 1500 metres,

they were able to force their way forward onto the Russians wash.

With Poland and West Germany in close contention, Sweden and Norway occasionally forcing their way within feet of the leading crews and Hungary threatening to break the settling situation at the front, many of us stood with our hearts in our mouths waiting for something to go wrong.

Repeatedly our crew executed precise turns and spurts crossing at one point to the outside of the Polish crew who had been sitting on the opposite side of the Russian boat. Consequently as the race approached the final thousand meter point, and the break off the washes, the Russians were the only crew actually in a lane. The other three boats lay in the warm-up lane on the edge of the course unable to separate to the statutory 5 metres.

The Poles crossed behind the Russians looking for clear water on the left of the course but then remained sitting on the wash for a long period. However, Williams on the other side was left 5 metres out from the Russians and headed for home leaving the German crew to find their own way out of the mess.

Crowds of wellwishers raced down the bank on an assortment of bikes as the Russians steadily pulled away taking the Poles with them. Meanwhile the British boat lifted by the crowd fended off a chal-

lenge from the Germans, still sitting on their wash, and then soundly thrashed them over the last 250 metres. As the bows of the boats crossed the line an ecstatic Williams threw his paddles in the air and even the press representatives jumped up to clap and cheer.

As the crews drifted in to have their boats measured red flags started to appear and protests flew about thick and fast as complaints were made against the Poles and the West Germans for wash hanging in the last thousand. However, after almost two hours of deliberations the jury confirmed the result and four of our paddlers watched the Union flag raised at a presentation ceremony for the first time in 22 years.



The bottom turn on the 10,000 metres K4. The Russians lead, followed by the Poles, with Britain in third position.



Britain's medal winning K4 on the victory rostrum. Left to right: Steve Jackson, Chris Canham, Steve Brown and Alun Williams.



The parade of nations at the spectacular opening ceremony, held at the Harvey Haddon Stadium on the eve before the Championships.

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Appendixes: Structure of the BCU and tests and awards policy; Corps of Canoe Lifeguards, Scouts and Duke of Edinburgh Award canoeing; Sample safety regulations.

Comprehensive bibliography and index.

Special contributors: Frank Goodman; Ric Halsall; Jim Hargreaves; Derek Hutchinson; Graham Lyon; Ron Moore;

Edited by: Geoff Good, in consultation with leading practitioners throughout the sport. The History section is based on original material by Oliver Cock, MBE. *Production consultant:* Bob Gray. *Illustrations:* Roger Lovesay; the Authors. Available in loose-leaf form if stated when ordering. (Handbook and Directory ring binder £1.75 extra.)

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HOLME PIERREPONT SLALOM COURSE

A world class artificial slalom course with variable routes and controlled water conditions which will cater for the competition and training needs of all slalomists (whatever their standards), the training needs of other rough water canoeists and provide a unique facility for other forms of rough water adventure.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Holme Pierrepont Artificial Slalom Course will be the result of 10 years research by the British Hydromechanics Research Association, Nottingham County Council, Nottingham University, and the BCU Water Development Committee.

It will consist of an artificial channel between the upper and lower levels of the River Trent at Holme Pierrepont flow control gates. Obstacles, islands and variations in the base of the course will give rough water conditions suitable for all levels of canoeists up to international standard.

The first artificial slalom course was built by the French at Vichy, and finished in 1964. The flow and slope available there will give grade I—II conditions which is only suitable for low level competition. The Germans built the first artificial course to international standard, at Augsburg, for the Olympic Games in 1972. The Augsburg course has an immediate limitation in that the flow cannot be controlled and so only canoeing on grade IV—V water is available, which is only suitable for top class competition. We have been able to avoid the mistakes made in the design at Augsburg which lead to surging water, erratic wave patterns and difficult rescue conditions due to vertical side walls.

The artificial course at Holme Pierrepont has been designed with beaches at either side making it easy to get on and off the course and gives very predictable wave formations. The flow of water down the course will be variable making it possible to create the ideal degree of difficulty to suit the differing standard of canoeist.

When not in use for slalom all manner of 'Adventure' uses are envisaged, rafting, inner tubing, sub-aqua for example.

The landscaping will give natural terracing giving excellent viewing facilities.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The idea of an artificial slalom course was first mooted in 1967 and plans were formulated until ASCOT (Artificial Slalom Course on the Trent) was formed as a sub committee of the BCU in 1972.

The technical committee supplied a preliminary design of the Holme Pierrepont course, based on providing a suitable venue for all levels of rough water canoeists from international to novice, without the deficiencies of the Augsburg Olympic course.

Meetings with Nottinghamshire County Council, Sports Council and other parties followed. The Sports Council paid for a feasibility study by the British Hydromechanics Association.

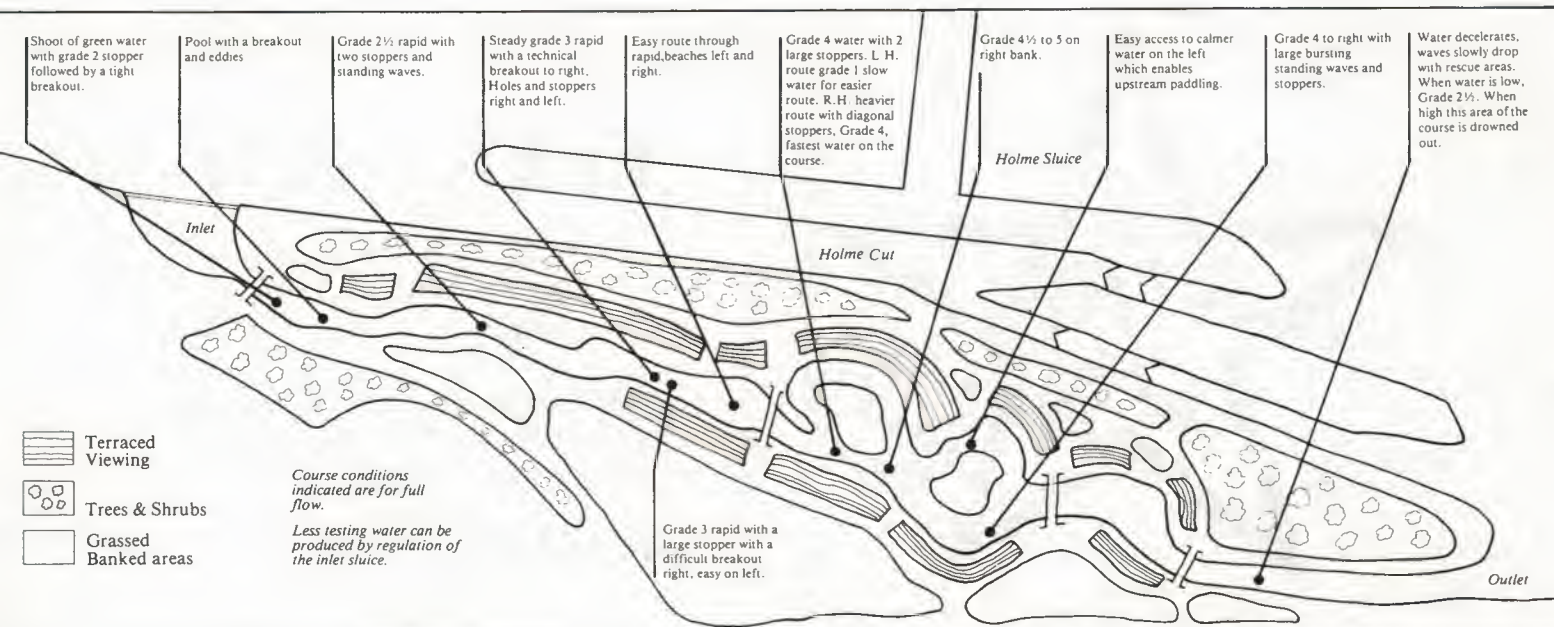
In 1973 the Sports Council put back the project for three years for lack of funds, but continued to fund research. With the aid of a working scale model 30 metres long, it was possible to design for the water conditions to be produced. Nottingham University students also worked on the site doing a survey and establishing the site control datum marks, which will enable the course to be laid out within a short period of time.

By 1976 detailed drawings, costings and funding arrangements had been produced and discussed by the BCU, Nottinghamshire County Council, the Sports Council, the management committee of Holme Pierrepont N.W.S.C., the Severn Trent Water Authority, the British Waterways Board, Rushcliffe Borough Council and the Countryside Commission. Great interest and enthusiasm was shown by all parties.

In 1977 an updated report on potential usage envisaged that 30 slaloms, from international level to novice, could be run in any one year, (one third of the present *total* number of slaloms). 10,000 individual entries and with training and open weekends for all levels on a minimum of 40 weekends when the water conditions would be ideal, would give possible use to 25,000 canoeists a year.

In 1979 Nottinghamshire County Council costed the project at £3.1 million, but this included all facilities such as stands, timing and display, changing etc. The actual course cost will be much less. The Sports Council has included the Holme Pierrepont Artificial Slalom Course as a long term plan on their schedule of priorities.

The BCU has organised Canoe '81 which celebrates a year when all three canoeing world championships of paddle racing, wild water racing and slalom have been hosted by one country — Britain. This will act as a focal point on canoeing and could be the spur to bring Holme Pierrepont Artificial Slalom Course to fruition.



Rowing Course

Existing Rowing Course and Sprint Canoeing



An artists impression of the proposed slalom course at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

Ian and the Ferry Glide

"Today", I said, "we will try some ferry glides. No, Ian, Ferry — not Fairy. This is the canoe club, not a pantomime rehearsal — although I sometimes wonder."

"This is how it works. You point the bow of your boat upstream and turn slightly towards the far bank"

I continued the explanation, glancing doubtfully at the sluggish water of the canal. Even the ducks held station with only the occasional kick of a foot. About .1 knot I estimated the current. Not ideal conditions for this piece of instruction but they would need to know about it in time for the expeditions to come.

My demonstration failed to achieve the dash and style of a Division 1 slalomist. It was received by blank expressions. Ian flicked a twig into the water. It hung in an eddy unable to decide which way was downstream.

"Now you try", I called, attempting to sound enthusiastic. They shrugged and slumped into their boats.

It did not go well. "Just paddle on the downstream side," I yelled.

"Which side is that?" said Ian.

I could see his problem. We tried again. "The idea is to keep the canoe at a constant angle and move across the current by paddling on the one side." I persevered.

After an hour, we gave up. Our placid canal was not the place for this lesson. Perhaps they would at least remember the theory, when the moment came.

THE EXPEDITION DAY

We made Monmouth in unexpectedly short time, a quick conference by the steps of the rowing club and we shouted to Peter to meet us at Redbrook. The possible extension had been foreseen, the second rendezvous decided in advance. The Wye was in flood, the low midwinter light now concealing the muddy stain and polishing the surface a pewter colour.

A narrow decision to go on. Sunset almost upon us and four miles to do. With the six knots of current it would still be almost dark when we climbed ashore. Too late now. The leading canoe was already away towards the next sweeping bend. Time to follow if he was to be kept in sight. Ian and I dug our paddles in and swung after him.

Almost dark as we made out Peter's figure on the left bank. Ian and I near the right bank and unable to see a place to land. We turned and took shelter from the rushing

mainstream in an eddy behind some fallen willows.

I looked over my shoulder, down towards the old rail bridge, its black iron framework standing against what little light was left in the sky. In the street lamps I could see the water piling against the bottoms of the columns. Beyond that, standing waves menaced the unprepared. Once amongst all that at this time in the evening and we would be in a mess. As it was, the width of the river stood between us and a safe footing on dry land. The water seemed to be faster than ever just here. Impossible for Ian, tired now, to make any heading upstream.

"Do you remember?" I said, trying to sound casual. "Do you remember my telling you about ferry glides?"

"Yes, I think so." He replied.

"Well this is the place to really try one". I went over the basic points and nudged him out of our little haven, following slightly astern.

A few minutes later we scrambled out amongst the mud and weeds where Peter stood with the others.

"That was all right, wasn't it?" Ian asked looking at me.

"Yes — that was pretty good," I replied, hoping my relief was not as obvious as it felt. Actually, it was bloody marvellous.

Dennis Price

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Churchill Travelling Fellowships are open to all UK citizens of any age or occupation, and since no educational or professional qualifications are needed, they are of special interest to people who would not be eligible for other types of grants. (Churchill Fellowships are not normally given for academic studies.)

The object of the awards is to enable those who would not otherwise have a chance, to gain a better understanding of the lives and work of people in countries overseas, and to bring back useful knowledge skill and experience for the benefit of our community. About 100 awards are made annually, and there are now nearly 1500 Churchill Fellows.

The final selection for the next group of awards will be made by interview in London in January 1982. Successful candidates will be expected to start their travels during that year, making their own plans and arrangements within the scope of the grants. The grant will cover return air fare, plus all travel and living expenses abroad for a period of up to three months.

To apply send your name and address only on a postcard between August and mid-October to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR. You will receive an explanatory leaflet and a form to complete, which must reach the Trust Office by 2nd November 1981.

NOTES FROM THE SCA

Mrs. Margaret Winter has taken over as the first fulltime administrator of the Scottish Canoe Association. As she took up her position some time ago she is now well in the driving seat and well able to deal with any enquiries relating to canoeing in Scotland.

The latest edition of a "Guide to Scottish Rivers" is available from 18 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6AU; a charge of 75p will be made to non-SCA members.

Stanley Weir, River Tay, Perthshire

A recent nasty accident to a paddler at the above weir has highlighted the great amount of care which must be exercised by paddlers using this stretch of the River Tay. The weir was blown up approximately 10 years ago, leaving three distinct chutes through which the paddler can pass. The weir was constructed of concrete reinforced with metal spikes, many of which still protrude from the rubble on the river-bed, and are particularly dangerous in low water conditions. The righthand chute is the one which is most badly affected by this hazard but ironically it appears to be the easiest for beginners to negotiate. The Scottish Canoe Association is looking into ways of eliminating the worst of these hazards but until this is done groups and individuals should exercise extreme care when negotiating this stretch of river.

GB WINS WATNEY THAMES GRAND PRIX MARATHON

The Watney Thames Grand Prix Canoe Marathon on Saturday May 16 was won by Great Britain with 37 points. Denmark 31 points, Spain 20 points, Holland 14 points and Ireland 10 points.

The marathon is part of the European Grand Prix Series leading to the European Cup for marathon canoeing which Great

Britain has won for the last three years.

Britain's best result was in the K1 event in which our paddlers took the first three places led by Robin Belcher. Jobe/Freeman gained second place in the K2 race behind two old favourites Pape/Sorensen from Denmark who we first saw in this country ten years ago.



Watneys International Grand Prix Kayak Doubles. Peter Hignett is lifted from his kayak exhausted after finishing in third place in the marathon.

HYPERTHERMIA DEATH

Following a mishap in the gorge of Daluis, in Southern France, a 24-year-old Irish canoeist walked out to find the road. He kept his wet-suit on, together with buoyancy aid and crash hat.

The post-mortem revealed that death was due to hypodermic asphyxiation and dehydration. It has been presumed that the paddler thought he would reach a track or village in a short while, but became delirious through the effect of the blazing sun. He would then not have had the presence of mind to remove his wet-suit.

BCU ACQUIRE WORLDBEATER

The Union have recently acquired Paul Farrant's F1 folding kayak in which he won the 1959 Slalom World Championships in Geneva. Paul died tragically shortly afterwards in a motorcycle accident, and it was a great honour when Albert Kerr won the 1977 World Championships and the Paul Farrant trophy, donated by his family.

The kayak will go on display with Albert Kerr's kayak. Until the Union find a permanent home they will be at Pyranha Moulding showrooms at Runcorn.

The Union would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Farrant and Bill Horseman for the gift of this historic boat.

MIKE JONES ADVENTURE AWARDS 1982

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust are administering these Awards for expeditions. Application Forms will be available from the Trust 15, Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR from August 1981. Closing Date 1st November 1981. Preference will be given to applications involving canoeing. Interviews for short-listed candidates January 1982.

SEA TOURING

The assumption that the Farne Islands, a bird sanctuary, are maintained as a natural, self-regulating ecosystem was found to be naive by the group who enjoyed the paddle involving tidal races, boils, whirls and waves, during the Sea Touring Committee's Farnes Meet.

If you like Terns, Puffins, Guillemots, Shags and Seals, then the islands are the place to visit, but the wild life does seem to be carefully regulated to allow ornithologists' particular favourites to form large colonies. Derek Hutchinson was the able guide who briefed the party on the restricted landing places, and led them also to the outer Farnes lighthouse.

The new Alan Bye designed large cockpit liner, as fitted to his Mark III Sea Tiger, was experimented with. The self-emptying and re-entry techniques which he recommends were successfully applied, and this appears to be a safety feature which should not be ignored.

A cosy little house built of driftwood by enterprising local paddlers on the wind-swept beach of 'Ponce About Bay', was the destination for the second day's wet and windy paddle.

This worthwhile weekend, brought together sea paddlers from all over Britain, and involved boats varying from Nordkap, Baidarka Explorer, Islander, Umnak and Icefloe, to Snipe and KW7.

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*PHOTO: Nordkapp on the Arctic Circle – Iceland

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Dear Focus...

Dear Sir,

Your article, 'white water guide to the Menai Straits' in the summer 1981 issue, dealing with what is known as the 'Swellies' area, between the Telford and Britannia Bridges, is admirable in highlighting an excellent source of white water.

However, although the article does warn of dangers I feel it is not specific enough, and the writer admits not having experience of the Cribbin area, probably the best and certainly the most extensive area of eddies, haystacks and stoppers which has the added benefit of being relatively safe.

The main danger, as was suggested, is the Fish Traps, and even a paddler unseated under the Menai Bridge area is at risk, as the current sets between Penlos and Swellie Rock directly into the Traps at around 6-8 knots. Anyone disabled by incompetence, cold, or a dislocated shoulder will be very quickly disposed of until recovered at low tide. I have personally witnessed two dislocated shoulder incidents in the very fast break-in from the pillar eddy which John Deighton is performing with the ease of long practice in your photograph.

The trick is either, as suggested, to be very smart about deep water rescues, or to swim the boat quickly northwards to catch the eddy.

It is in any event not in the interests of canoeists generally to be seen swimming anywhere in this area. The RAF Valley rescue helicopter has on a number of occasions been called to search the Swellies after reports of canoeists in difficulty. Local residents are only too aware of the several drownings which have occurred in the area mainly involving pleasure boaters.

For this reason the suggestion of using the area just north of the Traps, on the ebb, is likely to be risky.

Far better is the area south of Fish Traps Island (Ynys Gorad Goch which incidentally is privately owned and should not be landed upon), where the Cribbin Rocks provide scope for surfing upon standing waves, pop-outs, break-ins, break-outs, fast ferry glides and all manner of energetic amusement during the flood tide, which can then be used to ride back to the put in point at Menai Bridge.

Further information on this fascinating area, first described by Tacitus, the Roman historian, can be found in the *Anglesey and North Wales Coast Pilot*, or better for canoeists, in *North Wales White Water* by Jim Hargreaves.

Drew Delany, Senior Instructor

Dear Sir,

Since I have been going to slalom competitions (about 15-18 months) I have observed that at every slalom with a sluice or a wier the experienced paddlers (not always competitors in the event) collect in groups effectively stopping anyone else doing a complete practice run without a break also tending to intimidate junior or less experienced paddlers by their behaviour in the more difficult gates.

I would like to suggest that the "Weir Cowboys" as a friend called them can be controlled a little more as follows:

- 1 Extend organised practice by reducing free practice time (complete runs only).
- 2 Only allow at events practice by competitors in that event.
- 3 The supervision could be done voluntarily by adults who are parents or camping, or senior paddlers who do not wish to paddle and have a short time to spare.

Using the suggestions above the organising club would not need to provide marshalls for practice and all competitors would be able to do complete course training in relative safety before paddling the event proper. If all competitors practicing were required to have their entry number on their boat the marshalls could identify any problems which the organisers could then sort out.

If for example there were 6 marshalls (1 start, 1 finish) at ½ hour each this would give 3 hours good practice time for all which would be beneficial to all entrants fairly and equally without overcommitting any volunteer marshall.

A. F. Bartholomew, Newbury.

Dear Sir,

As a Coach involved with youngsters at one of the big London clubs, I feel I must write and express my disappointment at the poor attendance, especially of Espada paddlers at Thorpe regattas. With the ever increasing price of petrol it is impossible to transport large numbers of children to compete at Nottingham, therefore Thorpe is an ideal opportunity for them to race.

Yet without Royal and Richmond there would have been no Espada classes at the Wey regatta.

Don't tell me that no other southern clubs have any youngsters eager to race, so what's going wrong?

At Royal we feel that unless other clubs make the effort to support these regattas Sprint racing will continue to be monopolised by Holme Pierrepont. Maybe it is time the BCU became involved in the organisation of Thorpe, or at the very least more publicity was given to the regattas.

Trevor Hunter, Captain Royal Canoe Club.

Editors note: Trevor and Beverly Hunter, well known in the Sprint Racing World have recently announced a new arrival, Anna Hunter 7lb 3oz. Born at 9 pm on Sunday 5th July in Kingston Hospital - Congratulations!

Dear Sir

I am interested in the cause and incidence of dislocation of the shoulder in canoeists. I should be very grateful if anyone who has dislocated their shoulder whilst canoeing would supply me with their name and address so that I might send them a questionnaire.

Clive H. Atkins, 28 Barclay Road, Leytonstone, London E. 11.

Dear Sir,

It's not all Aggro'

Tees Kayak Club was formed in 1967 by a small group of enthusiasts in the North East gathered from a wide area and with no real central point. We plodded along for years, not reducing or expanding in numbers or facilities. However, two years ago we decided that for the club to have any meaning, we should have a headquarters and our own waters.

Hemlington lake is a man-made development, as part of a new town on the outskirts of Middlesbrough. It consists of approximately 4 acres of main lake with a canal type inlet approximately 500 m long. The depth of the lake ranges from 1-3 m and has attracted a number of groups, being used by the local angling club, wind surf club, Midel Boat Club and Tees Kayak Club. The geography of the lake enables the user groups to operate all at the same time without inconvenience to each other.

Canoeists have the use of the full lake on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week and at other times by arrangement. It restricts its use to the canal section and associated stilling pools at all other times. The local Youth Club now runs courses for canoeing and a few who have caught the 'bug' have already joined TKC.

As part of the overall development, there is a Recreation Centre adjacent, which provides TKC with changing facilities (hot showers), multi-gym, meeting rooms and a boat store. The canal section now sports a mini-slalom course, which is being fully exploited.

One of the pleasing features about Hemlington, is the co-operation between the anglers and canoeists, which hopefully is a sign for the future. A little discussion, with a sprinkling of common sense, has allowed each sport to function in harmony, and as a domino effect we are now talking about the use of waters further afield.

Future programmes for the club this year include a number of 'come and try it' days during the school holidays, canoeing for the disabled, an all-comers mini slalom, and participation in a summer playscheme for local youngsters.

To sum up, our hard work and patience has paid off, and the future of TKC looks rosey.

Len Smith, Chairman Tees Kayak Club.

"Dear Focus..." awaits your letters. If you have any interesting views, comments or observations then please write to the Editor at Flexel House.

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Trade News

The Premier, latest design from **Pyranha** was introduced with four prototypes at Grandtully, and has gone on to win the World K1 title in Bala. Premier, evolved from the Vedel of 1975 through the Elite range and then Pyranha say, the most successful range ever of slalom kayaks — the Equipe — to the new design, Premier. The Pyranha range has always achieved a responsive compromise between speed, manoeuvrability and directional stability. Premier the worlds best, claim Pyranha is a significant advance achieved through steady evolution and communication between factory and paddlers. Demonstration Premiers available at the Runcorn Centre or at major events. Pyranha Watersports Centre, Marina Village, Preston Brook, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 3DW. Tel: Runcorn 0928 716666.

Macey Electronics have introduced an electronic anti-theft device for Sail Boarders which can be easily be used for kayaks or any other roofrack items. Once fitted to your car this device, known as Boardsafe, can be connected to the kayak in seconds and will sound the car horn with an interrupted note if any attempt is made to remove the boat.

Easily fitted by any non-skilled person, this unit is available from **Macey Electronics**, 19 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey. Retail at £17.60p.

New Miniflar 2 — Now on Sale The new Miniflar 2 from Pains-Wessex, is now on general sale under the Pains-Wessex and Schermuly brand names and available from leading Yacht Chandlers throughout the UK.

This light weight, compact personal distress signalling kit weights 288 gms and measures only 150 mm x 66 mm x 19 mm, enabling it to be slipped easily into a pocket. The pouch is moulded in weather resistant PVC and incorporates a built-in lanyard attachment point, ensuring that the kit remains with the user at all times.

Miniflare 2 contains eight rod aerial flare cartridges complete with a pen sized firing penjector and *does not require a U.K. fire-arms licence*. Replacement packs of eight red stars, and accessory packs of eight collision warning white stars, are also available.

When designing the kit, reliability, safety and ease of operation were considered equally important as performance. In the new design the plastic pouch features an integral sealing cover, ensuring the signal cartridges are completely environmentally protected and thus eliminates the risk of corrosion. The penjector is fitted with a large pull ring to facilitate fast and easy withdrawal from the pouch, and features an uncocked firing assembly, ensuring that there is no risk of premature firing of the signal cartridges during loading.

Strand Glassfibre move to Wollaston, Northampton. Strand Glassfibre, Britain's leading distributor of glassfibre materials, polyester resins and ancillaries, is moving to new premises at Wollaston, Northamptonshire. The new premises are near to the manufacturing site of Scott Bader Co. Ltd. who supply Crystic resins distributed by Strand Glassfibre. Strand Glassfibre is a member of the Scott Bader group of companies.

The move, will enable the company to bring together a number of warehouse facilities which are currently split amongst various locations in West London. The reorganisation will result in improvements to Strand Glassfibre's customer service, and, as the new premises are within easy reach of the M1, will also improve deliveries to the company's network of branches.

Northwest Paddles, manufacturers of top quality wooden paddles, are to sell their **BLADES** direct from August 1st. This step will enable them to lower prices and give the canoeist a better deal. Their range of paddles will be available either from the Chapel workshop, at most slaloms or by mail order. For further details contact Northwest Paddles, The Chapel, Cholmondeley Road, Clifton, Near Runcorn, Cheshire or telephone Runcorn 66576 (evenings).

Canoe Safaris (NZ) Ltd, a small but experienced family firm, have been running highly successful tours for New Zealanders for two years. The strength of the pound, weakness of the New Zealand dollar and slackness in the air travel industry mean that conditions for travel to New Zealand are as good as they are ever likely to be and so they are now opening their 22 day tours to overseas paddlers. Itineraries are flexible to suit the abilities of canoeists and to allow time for sightseeing in addition to canoeing. Accommodation is also flexible allowing people to self-cater or to enjoy the use of top restaurants as their pockets permit. For the Summer holiday of a lifetime this Winter contact the British agent of Canoe Safaris (NZ) Ltd, Mrs S Fisher, 13 Wellington Cresc, Baughurst, Basingstoke, Hants RG26 5PF, tel Tadley (07356) 2911.

New from **Krakatoa** this autumn is an all new white water racer. Designed with the 1982 Europa cup series in mind the "ELEKTRON" is a fairly high volume boat that handles really well on big water courses. The hull shape is designed to be as fast as possible without sacrificing too much stability, hull steering is excellent. The ELEKTRON will be sold in various kit forms as well as finished boats. Also latest on the paddle front are **STAR PADDLES**. These are a Kevlar/carbon/wood/glass composite blade with an alloy shaft. They are lighter and stronger than any wooden paddle and caused quite a stir at the World Championships at Bala. For further details contact:— Bedford. Tel: 0234-63031.

Mustang and Puma Kayaks introduced by **Wye Kayaks** in February this year have had a great impact on Marathon racing. Both K1 and K2 have won a race in most divisions of Marathon racing plus numerous placings.

Wye Kayaks are now stockists for the highly successful Krakatoa Mouldings Kayaks. Electras are always in stock or on short delivery.

Wye Kayaks are now stockists of the excellent American AFD Mountain house foods. These are accepted as the best dehydrated foods on the market. A mail order list is available from Wye Kayaks 31 East St Hereford.

The Canadian Canoe Company tell us that they have a fleet of 10 open canoes — 15' Grumman — available for hire, fully equipped with paddles and buoyancy aids, about £5,000 worth of equipment in all. The charge is £100 per day for the fleet, plus the cost of transporting them to and from the site. Mid-week bookings are preferred. Contact Ken Mort on Congleton 79861.

A number of centres and holiday companies now possess Grumman Canoes, including the Pirate Club, Islington Borough, Waterside Centre, Shaftesbury Homes, PGL, Barking OPC, Welsh Trail Co, Outdoor Leisure (Glasbury), Scout Activities Centre, York, YMCA Windemere, and Glenmore Lodge.

Harishok claim that the recent Slalom and Wild Water Canoeing World Championships held in Bala, North Wales, offered a first-class opportunity to the British canoe industry to prove that they really do lead the world in technical developments for water sports. For example, well over 50% of the canoes used by the competitors were designed and produced in Britain. 60% of the protective clothing and safety devices in use were developed and manufactured by one company, Harishok Limited of Hyde in Cheshire. And it's worth noting that 23 Gold Medallists were using Harishok designs when it came to the 'crunch' of that dramatic dash down the River Trywern.

LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON

PART-TIME YOUTH WORKER

Qualified £12.25. Unqualified £10.21 per session.

Part-time helper required for Tweeddale Activity & Adventure Centre in Sutton to organise and instruct canoeing activities one evening a week and occasional weekends. Instructor or SI preferred and an ability to teach rock climbing and mountain activities would be useful. Applicants should be over 25 and hold a clean driving licence.

Application forms and further details obtainable from Director of Education, The Grove, Carshalton, Surrey. Tel: 01-661 5749. Closing date 18th September 1981.

IN BRIEF

Malamute Saloon?

The quest for the Malamute Saloon has now cemented itself into the Fraser River Kayak Expedition which is exploring one of the largest rivers in North America.

This major expedition is the first to attempt a major white water river from source to ocean, 800 miles in only three weeks, and has been selected for one of the Mick Burke BBC TV awards by the Royal Geographical Society.

If Peter Knowles and company achieve their goal in one piece then they will be back in Britain shortly with a film scheduled to be shown on 'World About Us' next spring. — Watch this Space!

Access— National Campaign

How are the anglers behaving in your part of the world? Any bricks or brickbats been thrown? What have you done about it? Any photos or tapes recording the incidents? Have you told the police of these criminal acts? Don't forget to tell us at Head Office about them also, will you?

Cape Winners

For issuing the winning certificate in the second round draw of the Cape Open Racing Scheme, sponsored by Cape Industries Limited in association with the British Canoe Union Marathon Racing Committee, the Nottingham Kayak Club won £100 towards club funds, and Club member Mr. Mick Nadal won a new Cougar Sprint K1 kayak as holder of the winning certificate.

The prize was presented by Mr. David Llewellyn, a Divisional Chairman of Cape Industries, at the Canoe Regatta held at Nottingham Water Sports Centre over 20th/21st June.



Noel McNaught RIP

It is sad to have to report that Noel McNaught was drowned at sea off the coast of the Gower Peninsula in South Wales on the 9th May this year.

Noel was one of our individualists. He canoed many streams and rivers throughout the United Kingdom. I first met him soon after the war, when he joined a party who canoed from Taynuilt on Loch Etive, up Loch Linnhe and through the Caledonian Canal to Inverness. On that journey he met the lady who was later to become his wife. They had a son and a daughter and Noel took his son along with him on a number of his expeditions. A devoted member of the Canoe-Camping Club, he wrote articles about his trips for their magazine, and other publications. He wrote books, of which perhaps the best known are *The Canoeing Manual*, published in 1956, and *Canoeing Cruising Manual* published in 1974.

He was a lone canoeist, but one with vast experience and many years of canoeing behind him, both inland and at sea. It is a catastrophe that a tricky bit of water on the south coast of Wales should have caught him in this way. — *Oliver Cock.*

ICF Special Congress

Delegates from 33 of the 40 member nations of the International Canoe Federation met together at the Extraordinary Congress of the International Canoe Federation held in Rome on Saturday 25th April. The main business for consideration was to elect a new President of the Federation following the illness and consequent resignation after 20 years in office, of Charles de Coquereumont of France.

By unanimous acclamation, Professor Sergio Orsi, Italy, the past Secretary General was so elected. At the meeting of the Board of Management held on the day following the Congress, Caslav Veljic of Yugoslavia was nominated to perform the duties of Secretary General until the next Congress of the Federation to be held in Belgrade in 1982.

To mark the outstanding contribution of Charles de Coquereumont to international canoesport, he was elected as President of Honour of the International Canoe Federation and awarded their Gold Medal for meritorious service.

Whitbread Water Pentathlon

The National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont will be the venue for the Water Pentathlon Event which will be held on 6 September 1981 with the sponsorship of Whitbread.

The sports involved will be Board Sailing, Canoeing, Dinghy Sailing, Rowing and Snorkel Swimming and heats will be held in 4 categories:— Women, Junior Men, Men, Veteran Men. It is expected that racing will

start at 0900 hours and will finish at 1800 hours. Competitors will be required to race in all the five disciplines, and points will be awarded on finishing positions. The overall winner will receive the Wilkinson Sword to be held for one year, the finalists will receive presentation tankards.

Entry Forms, Rules of Racing, Schedules of equipment provided, details of accommodation etc. are available from the Event Secretary G. Dominic, 4 Willerby Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham. Tel. Nottingham 267675. There will be an entry fee of £2 which must be returned with the completed entry form.

Multi-disciplinary Sport Injuries Clinic

A very special multi-disciplinary clinic — thought to be the first of its kind in the UK is open at the new British School of Osteopathy in Suffolk Street, London SW1Y 4HG.

The clinic, which is open to sportsmen and women every Saturday between 2 pm and 5 pm, specialises in the treatment of sports injuries and is the first ever to have on its staff the complementary, and simultaneous skills of orthopaedic surgeons, orthopaedically orientated physicians, high level physiotherapists, remedial gymnasts, medically trained chiropodists and registered osteopaths and British School of Osteopathy students all working together for the benefit, and full recovery, of the patient.

Special low fees will be charged — £3 for treatment and if an X-ray is necessary, the fee charged will be half of the normal rate.

Focus Classified

FOR SALE

SNIPES AND APACHES. Small quantity of surf specification Snipes and Apaches. Been in store — slight colour fade — otherwise new. £65 each to clear. Block bouyancy. Fail safe footrests. Ideal scout groups, canoe clubs or individuals. Stan Holtorp (BCU Senior Instructor) 01 398 3118.

NEW CANOE SHOP canoes ex-stock including Apache, Snipe, Ardeche and Canadians, see it, try it, buy it. Large range of accessories. Also canoe hire. REMEMBER GOOD CANOES COST LESS AT SOUTHERN CANOEING 22 Bath Road, Devizes. Tel. (0380) 6255.

LAWRENCE SPRINTER K2. Immaculate condition. Almost new (March 81) £170 o.n.o. Tel. Burgess Hill 5218 (after six).

ARRAN PLASTICS can offer you a wide range of good quality canoes at reasonable prices. General purpose £65; Slalom £70; Touring £70. Plus Doubles, Trainers etc. Many more to choose from. Buy from stock or individual requirements catered for. Ring ALAN RICHARDSON EASTLEIGH HANTS 618058 evenings weekends.

CANOE BARGAINS Strengthened SNIPES to top quality specification. Ideal for instructors and enthusiasts. APACHES, for general purpose. Ideal for beginners. Block buoyancy and fail safe footrests as standard. Both models £85. Other models available. Phil Hunter - Lowestoft 83555.

NORDKAPP SEA KAYAK pump, decklines etc. Very good condition. £100. Tel. 0453 811066.

JAGUAR K1, SANDWICH CONSTRUCTION. Good Condition. £170 o.n.o. Telephone: Walton-on-Thames 25155.

PYRANHA ELITE C1 fairly good condition £90 o.n.o. Contact Mike Curran 01 223 7292.

ELITE 66SS. 100% Kevlar, silver with blue bottom. Immaculate condition. No leaks, any trial. £140. Contact Simon Heseltine, 10 Cliffestone Drive, East Morton, Keighley, W. Yorkshire.

General purpose Slalom Canoe. Good condition. £50. Tel. Tonbridge 350781.

OTTERSPTS plywood double, rudder, paddles splash covers £80. Wigan 223208.

GLASS LANCER K1. U/S Rudder, spraydeck once, excellent condition. £115 o.n.o. Phone Bradford 584653.

STIPYAK GP/Slalom canoe. Good condition, plus paddle, spraydeck, life vest. - 29 Hartland Road, Kilburn NW6.

SLALOM C2 close cockpits offset front left back right. Latest Pyranha model. Excellent condition. £260. Phone Nixon 061 427 4455.

CANOE TRAILER to hold six canoes. Indispension unit. £100 o.n.o. Phone Garston 61121 (Hertfordshire).

MARK GEES quality timber paddles for competition slalom, flat water racing, sea canoeing, touring, and kit paddles for the budget canoeist. Leaflets from Mark Gees, 19 Coombe Road, Hampton, Middlesex. TW12 3PB Tel. 01 979 6592.

LETTMAN Mk.4 White Water C1. Blue deck, Kevlar hull. V.G.C. Only used 3 races. £120. 01 445 5420.

P & H SURFER Mk. II BLUE/RED £60. **BARON FERRARA DIOLIN TRANS RED** v.g.c. £100 Tel: Paul Broadstone 697 687 Dorset.

P & H TWISTER Slalom C2. Centre cockpits, offset front right, rear left. Complete with 'U' Bars and 2 Kober Paddles. £150 the lot, or will split boat & paddles. Telephone 0942 218141 or 0942 46725.

P & H PHAZER White water touring boat. Newly built, diolen hull/glass deck. With paddles and spraydeck. £100. Telephone 0942 218141.

Plywood touring canoe 14½ foot, brand new. Complete with decklines £125 o.n.o. Phone Richard on Meopham 812677 (Kent).

APACHE nearly new £60. Phone Chelmsford 60814.

BAIDARKA EXPLORER, b/heads, hatches, pump, deck fittings, current value £280, little used. Best offer over £200. Also **CADET** £40. Phone Ware Herts. (0920) 4585.

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Teesdale. Barnard Castle. 3 bedrooms flat. Sleeps 6. 150 yards from Tees. No parking problems. Good walking country and pubs if water low. £48 p.w. September. £40 p.w. October-March. 0833-38138.

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Canoeing, Sailing and Water Skiing. Brighthouse Bay Holiday Park, Borgue, Kirkcudbright, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland.

Canoe Surfing Course: 27th-29th November 1981. A weekend residential course led by Raymond Rowe of Plas y Brenin and attended by John Ramwell, to cover practical aspects of Surf Canoeing. Details: Courtlands Centre (CF), Nr. Kingsbridge, S. Devon. Tel. Loddiswell (054 855) 227.

PERSONAL

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS GROUP. Personal introductions/dances, parties, talks, social events. Meet interesting attractive people. ALL AREAS. Tel. 01 278 0203 and 051 931 2844.

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We should like to congratulate all medal winners and are pleased that they chose our craft again. Gold medal winning and new craft are on display at our showroom and demonstrators of all our range are available for trial (on our new slalom course) as are our Touring and Racing Craft and the most comprehensive range of equipment for all aspects.

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