

CANOE FOCUS

No. 38 SPRING 1985. PRICE 75p

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION



- The National Canoeing Centre – First Impressions
- Olympic Reflections
- Harnessing White Water?
- Canoe Buyers Guide – Special Insert

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Slalom: Feedback, R. Fox, 154 Lichfield Road, Stone, Staffs. ST15 8PY.

Surf: Beachbreak, K.G. Smith, 100 Wood Road, Treforest, Pontypridd, Mid. Glam.

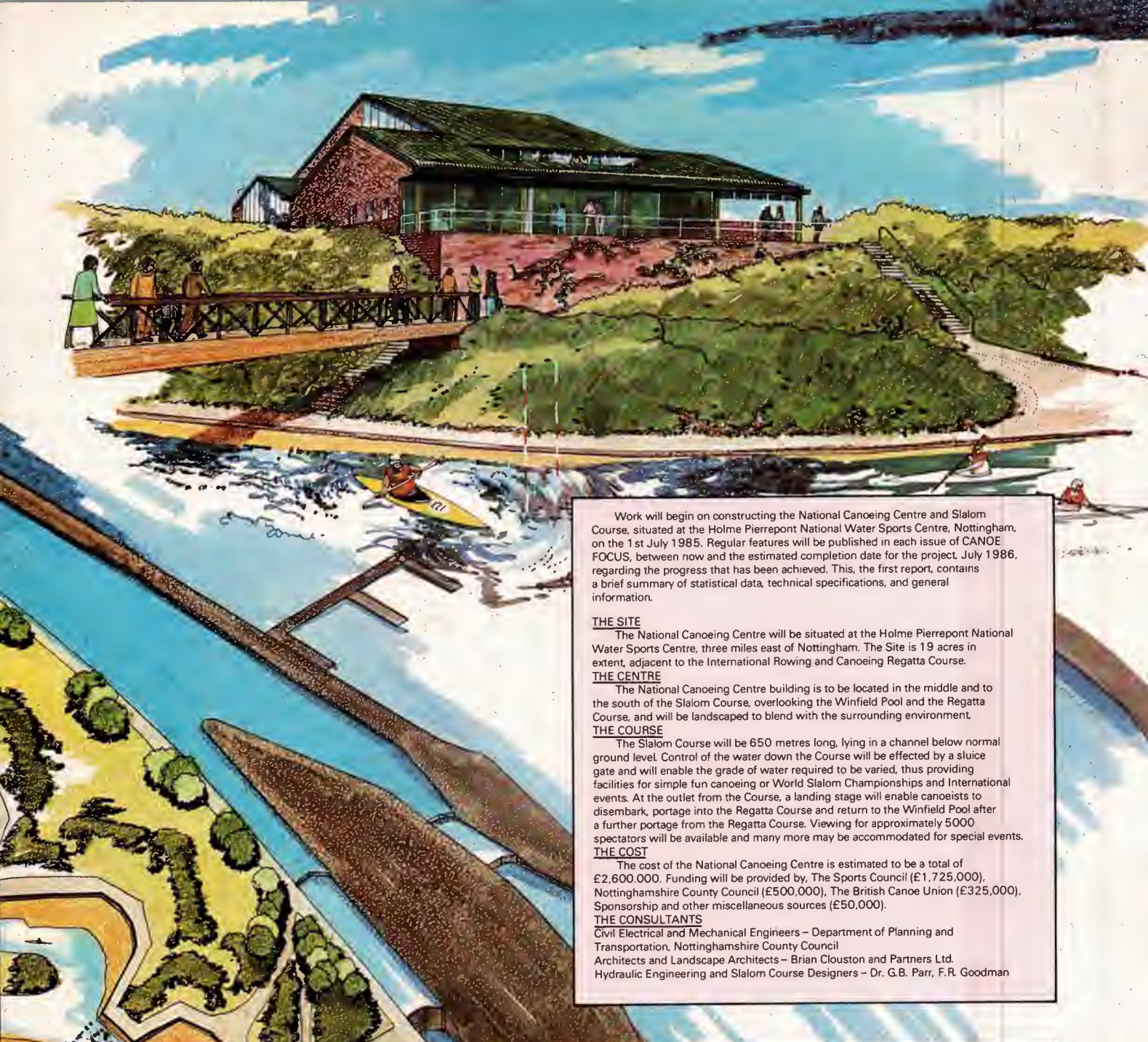
Open Canoe Touring: Canadian-Canoeist, John E. Pearton, 3 Menden House, 33 Manor Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 2LR.

Wales: Ceufad, Roger Hayward, Pen y Bont, Corwen, Clwyd.

Wild Water Racing: Wild Water News, D. Kay, 14 Lake View, Furners Vale, Stockport SK12 7QD.

The National Canoeing Centre- First Impressions





Work will begin on constructing the National Canoeing Centre and Slalom Course, situated at the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham, on the 1st July 1985. Regular features will be published in each issue of CANOE FOCUS, between now and the estimated completion date for the project, July 1986, regarding the progress that has been achieved. This, the first report, contains a brief summary of statistical data, technical specifications, and general information.

THE SITE

The National Canoeing Centre will be situated at the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre, three miles east of Nottingham. The Site is 19 acres in extent, adjacent to the International Rowing and Canoeing Regatta Course.

THE CENTRE

The National Canoeing Centre building is to be located in the middle and to the south of the Slalom Course, overlooking the Winfield Pool and the Regatta Course, and will be landscaped to blend with the surrounding environment.

THE COURSE

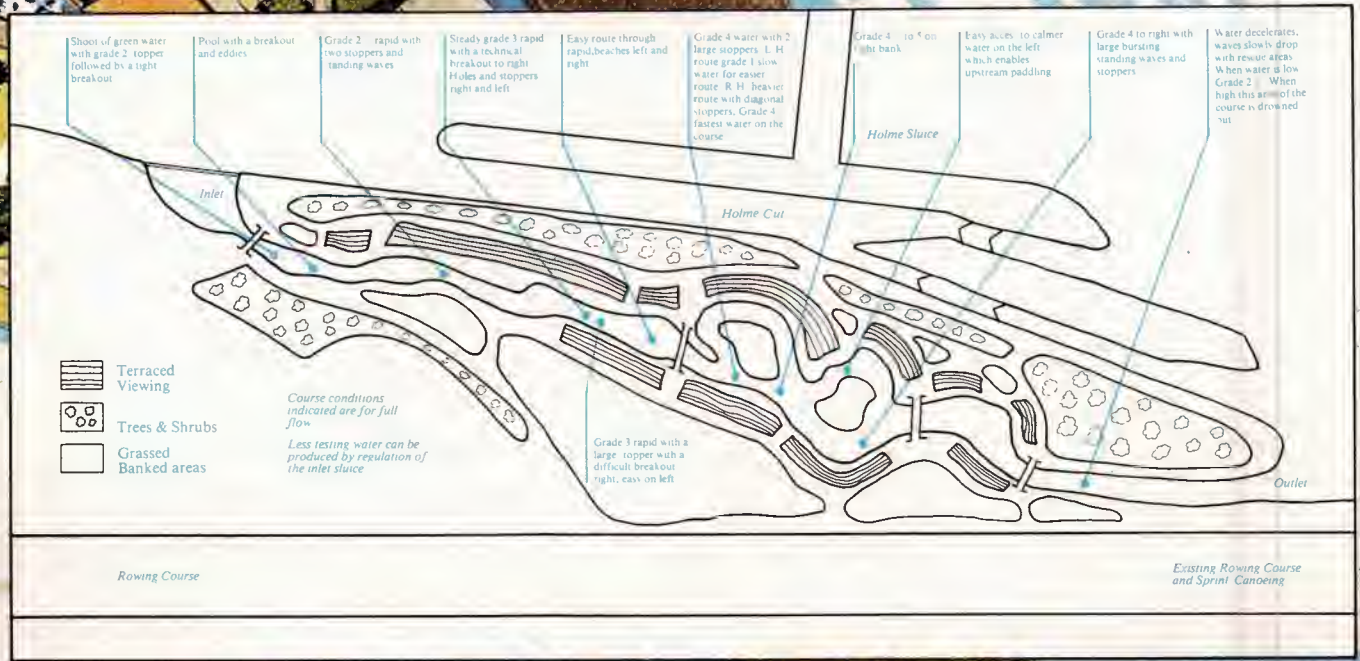
The Slalom Course will be 650 metres long, lying in a channel below normal ground level. Control of the water down the Course will be effected by a sluice gate and will enable the grade of water required to be varied, thus providing facilities for simple fun canoeing or World Slalom Championships and International events. At the outlet from the Course, a landing stage will enable canoeists to disembark, portage into the Regatta Course and return to the Winfield Pool after a further portage from the Regatta Course. Viewing for approximately 5000 spectators will be available and many more may be accommodated for special events.

THE COST

The cost of the National Canoeing Centre is estimated to be a total of £2,600,000. Funding will be provided by, The Sports Council (£1,725,000), Nottinghamshire County Council (£500,000), The British Canoe Union (£325,000), Sponsorship and other miscellaneous sources (£50,000).

THE CONSULTANTS

Civil Electrical and Mechanical Engineers – Department of Planning and Transportation, Nottinghamshire County Council
 Architects and Landscape Architects – Brian Clouston and Partners Ltd.
 Hydraulic Engineering and Slalom Course Designers – Dr. G.B. Parr, F.R. Goodman



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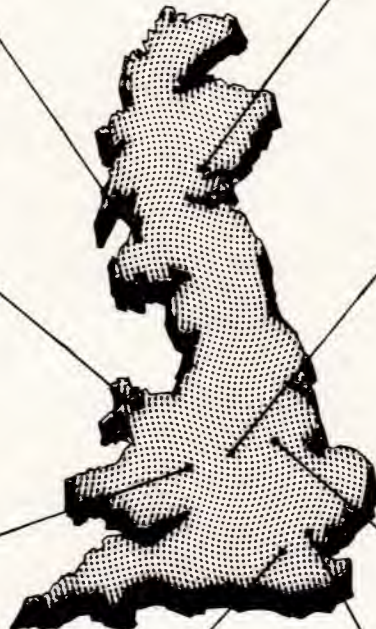
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News and Views



DAVID WEBB COMPLETES BOTHNIA

In spite of a bad summer David Webb completed his 1,056 nautical mile solo journey around the gulf of Bothnia, between Sweden and Finland, as reported in the last *Focus*. This brings his mileage around Europe to date to a grand total of around 4,500 nautical miles. Further ventures are in David's mind as we go to press, but his main concern is how he can continue to fund them.

He was storm-bound on several occasions during the Bothnia tour, which took a total of five months to complete. The Swedish Navy came up trumps in providing charts for the area, but at one time David had to convince the authorities that he was not a Russian Frogman!

Our most humble apologies must be expressed to David Webb for the monumental clanger dropped in the previous report, in that his name was recorded as David Mann, instead of David Webb. I won't go into the reasons for the howler - just plead insanity. Very sorry, David, but many congratulations on your incredible journeying.

Geoff Good

ALL-COMERS CHALLENGE

To mark the 'Birmingham Century' the Third Walsall Sea Scouts challenge all-comers to a 100 mile marathon canoe race on the canals of Warwickshire and Staffordshire. The challenge takes place on 4th May 1985. There are non-stop and relay classes for K1, K2, C1 and C2.

For full details send A5 sae to 53 Emery Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 3AW. Telephone: Walsall 646837.

THEFT OF CANOES FROM CAR ROOFS

Several queries have arisen from members concerning theft of canoes from car roofs. Members should note that the cover only applies when boats are locked on using the approved lock.

This lock is available from BCU Supplies and other good canoeing retailers at a cost of £8.50.

ROTOBATS ROUND SCOTLAND

Shaun Baker and Nick Mallabar have devised how to do it the hard way! They plan to paddle the 250 miles from Wick to Loch Morar between the first week in December and the middle of January. A winter expedition in

these waters is a serious undertaking. The icing on the cake for them is that they will be paddling 9'6" Rotobats!

SHORE '84

'Support for Handicapped Operation Raleigh Explorers' enables a handicapped young person to be a member of the team for each section of Operation Raleigh. Steve Devlin paddled the 1,100 miles from Konstang in West Germany via Fontainebleau in France to Richmond Surrey to raise money for SHORE. Valley Canoe Products lent Steve a Nordkapp and Whitewater Sports provided his propulsion with a Nimbus paddle. Raven Food Products and the Grain Food Store provided his 'fuel' and his safety was ensured by equipment loaned by Eintrad Marine and Thanet Marine Electronics.

To maintain his 'Britisher' image abroad Steve paddled wearing a bowler hat and had on hand his trusty broly, as our picture shows.



WAKEFIELD SPORTS AND LEISURE PARK

The City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council has unveiled proposals for a multi-million pound sport and leisure park to be constructed on a restored 200 acre opencast coal working site. The large water areas include a 1000 metre rowing and canoeing course. The project is seen as a northern equivalent to the Crystal Palace complex and one of international importance in the sporting world.

CANOE KAYAK XXII RALLYE INTERNACIONAL DEL RIO NOGUERA PALLARESA SORT

14-21 JULY 1985. Information from Casa de la Villa, Dr. Carlos Pol 1, Sort, Lerida, Spain.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Part II of the Control of Pollution Act, 1974 has now been brought into force. It extends control to estuaries and coastal waters and is an important advance in the government's

Greeting him are members of the Fontainebleau Marine Rescue Services of the Fire Brigade.

The trip had its moments! 200 portages at locks in only 600 km. Rope burns from abseiling into his canoe on the Canal du Rhon au Rhin. Attempted rescue of the occupants of a submerged car - there were no occupants! After crossing the channel by ferry a coastal paddle from Portsmouth and then up the Thames to Richmond arriving on 23rd December.

A number of BCU members are involved in Operation Raleigh including Brian Sheen, Chairman of the BCU Corps of Canoe Lifeguards. The participation so far by young handicapped people has been so successful that the aim is to increase the number of opportunities. Steve appeals to members wishing to help to send their donations to Operation Raleigh, Fund for the Handicapped, 8 Banks House, Clifton Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

efforts to preserve and enhance Britain. A national survey of rivers and estuaries is envisaged in 1986 to assist in developing programmes for the control of water pollution.

HIMALAYAN KP NUTS

Himalayan Kayak Expedition members Frank Staniland and Julie Hewett from Sheffield pose before their departure with Howard Brookman, Factory Director of their sponsor KP Nuts. The five member expedition will make the first descent by canoe of the Tamba Khosi River.



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CHEST HARNESSES

BY COLIN TEE

Some thoughts on the design and use of a chest harness for white water touring



The use of chest harnesses for white water canoeing is well known on the continent, the difficult white water rivers paddled in the alpine countries having made the chest harness a common piece of safety equipment. Perhaps due to the type of rivers we have available in Great Britain, there has been little history of its use at home. However, with white water touring being undertaken on ever increasing grades of difficulty, it seems that the time has come to evaluate the use of harnesses in this country. Several accidents have occurred recently, and are likely to continue to occur, where a method of attachment to the casualty which could be quickly and efficiently utilized, may have been of value.

Design Requirements

To design a harness of some type, I first of all started with what basic requirements would be needed. It seemed clear that the attachment point would need to be high on the body of the person using it. A waist attachment if used to tow a swimmer through the water would result in the body bending around the waist and the head being forced under. Later experiments proved this to be the case. A waist attachment would also be too low to be easily accessible, either whilst in the water or in the kayak. It therefore seemed a basic premise that the aid would have to be a chest harness. To put the sort of strain that could be inflicted on a person in a canoeing incident on one's chest is not ideal. However, assuming a buoyancy aid is worn, which provides a perfect garment for protecting the chest/back from undue strain this seems acceptable.

The second important design feature is that the harness can be easily and quickly released whilst under tension. It is vital that when one is attached to a rope that a canoeist can release himself from that rope via the harness. It is quite possible that in the process of a rescue the casualty's face is forced under water by the current working against the tension on the rope. The chest harness needs an infallible release mechanism, of simple design, so that it is easily taken off in an emergency.

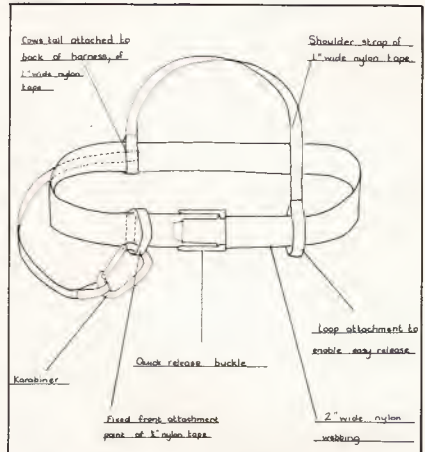
The third basic requirement was that the harness has attachment points easily accessible at front and back. In practice this means that the back attachment must be able to be used from the front (because of the difficulty of attaching oneself to the rear of the harness in an accident situation). In the experiments we undertook it soon became obvious the best point from which to be towed through the water, is by an attachment in the middle of the back.

If towed from the front, the head soon disappears under water. A back attachment is also important for tying oneself to something secure, when rescuing from the bank, and when a casualty needs to be pulled backwards (eg a trapped canoeist pushed up to the cockpit front). An attachment point at the front is also useful in certain circumstances.

The fourth basic requirement is that one can attach oneself to a rope quickly, efficiently with one hand (holding paddle/boat?) whilst in a difficult situation. A harness would be of little practical use if it was impossible to attach a rope to it in difficult circumstances.

Other requirements for a harness are concerned with the materials used in its manufacture. Obviously the material used needs to be able to cope with the not inconsiderable forces which could be applied to it in its use. Research by Peter Reith Maier (Austria) indicates the likely forces involved. These are obviously related to the velocity of the water. As an indication of likely velocities we could experience on white water rivers – The Otztaler Ache (known by many British paddlers) has no section with a velocity over 12 kms per hour. A swimmer attached to a rope in water of this speed, would exert a load of some 120 kg on the rescuer. With the various requirements in mind I designed a prototype chest harness for white water touring (see Diagram 1).

DIAGRAM 1



The harness is a very simple design. It consists of a 2" band of nylon webbing which goes around the chest over the buoyancy aid. This is attached by a quick release buckle. A belay loop is stitched to the front of the harness. This has two uses, it provides the front belay loop and also a place to clip the back cowstail to enable easy attachment to the back of the harness. One shoulder strap of 1" nylon tape holds the 2" webbing up around the chest. One shoulder strap was used as it provided easier release from the harness. The shoulder strap is stitched at the back and a loop at the front is fed on to the 2" webbing. The whole harness disassembles quickly on release of the buckle.

Previous to this design I tried using Velcro for the quick release. Here the webbing was passed through a loop and fastened back on itself with Velcro. This however, was not found to be strong enough when the pull was anything other than a direct pull from the back.

Also considered was a combined buoyancy aid/harness. I discounted this as I considered it more versatile to have two separate aids. On flat water, easy paddling, a harness would not be necessary. The harness also, I believe *needs* to be worn over the buoyancy aid to give the essential protection to the chest. An integrated buoyancy aid/harness therefore would have to have the buoyancy part of the garment under the harness). Using this sort of aid it would also be essential that it fitted correctly or else there would be the possibility of the whole thing slipping off. A separate chest harness can be made to adjust to any size person. Further, I can see difficulties in making an integrated buoyancy aid/harness which can be easily attached to its back and also be quickly released. I believe a separate chest harness to be the most desirable.

Use of Chest Harness

It seems appropriate to divide the uses of a chest harness into two distinct sections. Firstly when the chest harness is worn by the casualty. Secondly when the chest harness is worn by the rescuer.

Chest Harness worn by casualty

Freely swimming. If the canoeist is swimming down a rapid then the rescue can be carried out more efficiently if he is wearing a harness. Without one, the swimmer would grab hold of the throw rope. With the resultant face-up-stream situation his head could be forced underwater. He may then let go of the rope. Even if one ignores this, it would be difficult to hold on to a rope for a long time. With a harness on, the strain is taken off the arms and hands, leaving them free for fending off rocks, climbing out, or holding on to gear. With the tow-point at the back being used, the face is not forced under water, but in fact a bow wave is created around the back of the swimmer and an air pocket occurs in front. Release from entrapment is easy with the quick release buckle.

Swimmer in stopper. This is a difficult situation to rescue from, in that the swimmer will only be at the surface for short periods. However, the chest harness could be of advantage, in that if a rope could be got to the swimmer it allows a quick way of attaching to it. It would be very difficult to attach oneself to a rope whilst underwater! With other methods of rescue such as a horizontal rope across the river, the swimmer may be able to attach himself to it with the back cowstail on the harness. It seems that certainly in any difficult rescue, the harness allows at least a quick attachment point to the swimmer, if a rope can be placed in his reach.

Entrapped canoeist. In the situation where a canoeist is trapped in his canoe or against an obstacle, it seems again that the harness can only increase the chance of freeing the casualty. A lot, of course, depends on whether the trapped canoeist can be reached by his rescuer, or a rope, and whether he can attach himself to it. If this is achieved, then it seems most likely that to free him a pull will be required backwards. Again, the back cowstail provides a suitable attachment point.

Chest Harness worn by rescuers

On the bank, rescuers wearing a chest harness have a quick method of tying on to any available belay points whilst throwing a rope or performing a pulling rescue.

With an entrapped canoeist in a mid-stream situation there is the possibility that a person needs to get to the place of the incident, either to help directly to free the victim, or to get a line to him. A rescuer may be able to paddle out—the line being attached to his harness reducing the risk of him being entangled by the rope. He is then faced with the problem of getting out of his boat to get to the entrapped canoeist, or of attaching the line to him from his boat—neither easy.

The second possibility seems to be to wade or swim out to the victim. A risky proposition. One would not like to be tied to a rescue rope. Therefore the harness seems to be the answer, being a safe method of attaching the rope to the swimming, wading rescuer.

A third *possible* use of the chest harness, it seems to me, is in a situation I have found myself frequently in. A swimmer is in a rapid with the rescuer escorting the swimmer downstream and to the bank. In the past I have instructed the swimmer to hold on to my stern toggle and attempted to tow the swimmer to the bank. This meets with varying degrees of success, depending on the river conditions. Frequently, however, the swimmer is unable to maintain his grip on the toggle. Is there another use for a harness here? The cowstail could be quickly clipped to the toggle of the rescuer's kayak. I have my reservations about this in that the rescuer could get into difficulties as well if he is not in control of the release of the swimmer. Alternatively, perhaps the cowstail could be attached to the rescuer's tow line. This enables the rescuer to release the swimmer if and when he desires.

Having thought about a design of a harness and its possible uses, we decided to put the design to the test, and to see how useful the harness is in practice.

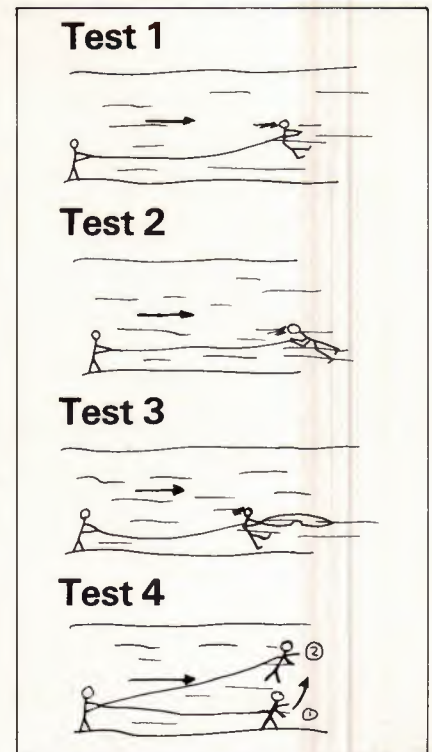
Experimental use of the Chest Harness

We used to River Ure at Slenningford Mill to do some fairly subjective tests on the uses of chest harnesses. The river was in quite a big flood. Our findings are set out below. We did various experiments with the harness and its uses in conjunction with throw lines. On the positive side we were impressed by the comfort the chest harness gave when being towed into the bank whilst swimming in a rapid (dia 2, Test 1).

There was a dramatic difference between being towed on one's back and holding on to the rope facing upstream (Test 2). The head was jerked under the water when the tension was taken up on the rope when holding it with one's arms. With the back tow it was easy to breathe throughout (Test 3). The throw rope was easily attached to the cowstail on the harness via the karabiner whilst swimming. One did need to prepare by unclipping the karabiner from the front attachment ready to clip on to the rope. This was essential because we found that the throw rope soon drifted out of reach even if thrown accurately.

Also in favour of the use of a chest harness we found there was a considerable jerk on the rope when the tension from the swimmer came on. This was strong enough to result in both of us ending up in the river! How many times in the past have we simply stood on the side of a fall rope in hand. After seeing what happens I will tie onto something in future—to

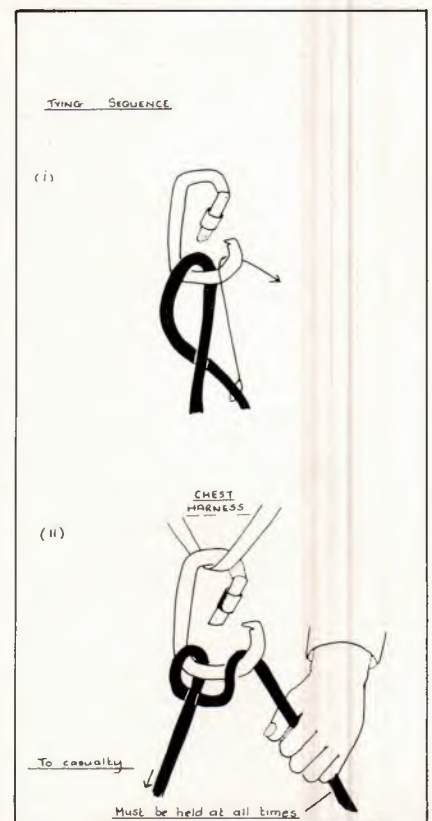
DIAGRAM 2



anything available! Here, of course, the harness would make life much simpler. The small force applied to the rescuer still felt quite considerable. It would have been quite a strain to maintain it for any length of time, particularly if not tied on.

Two alternatives seem to exist. Firstly to use an indirect belay to apply a friction brake (ie wrap the rope around a tree/rock). These of course are not always available. Secondly use a karabiner friction brake (ie an italian hitch – see diagram 3) which is simple and

DIAGRAM 3



quick to apply. In this one must ensure the rope not going to the swimmer is *always* held.

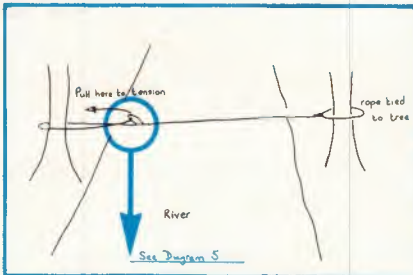
We then tried using the chest harness and rope to get a rescuer into a midstream position (dia 2. Test 4) We tied the rope onto the back attachment point. Firstly with tension from the rope we tried wading across a fast moving section to an island about 40 feet away, facing downstream. One soon lost one's footing.

Facing sideways upstream, leaning on the rope, we were able to make more progress, but it was difficult to move sideways because of the tension of the rope. This tended to swing the wader back into the bank. We did not manage to get across to the island using this wading method. The water was about chest depth. We decided that it would be extremely difficult to get somebody across to the desired position in this way.

As an alternative we then tried swimming. The swimmer went upstream of the belayer and swam with slack rope for the other side. By luck, we felt, the swimmer made it to the other side before the tension came on to the rope. In an earlier attempt he failed when the tension came on to him and he was dragged back into the bank side. Swimming was a bit hit and miss, and of course depends on how big the point which you are aiming for is, and how long your rope is!

We decided that a mid-stream situation would be extremely difficult to get to in the conditions prevailing – wide river in flood. A possibility we didn't try was to get a rope right across the river (long enough rope?) and to set up a horizontal rope across the location of the incident. This, however, requires good high belays and ability to tension the rope if it is envisaged that somebody is to go across on the rope (another use for one's harness – to attach to the rope). A simple method of tensioning a rope is shown in the attached diagrams (4/5).

DIAGRAM 4



Developments

One of the most important observations we made in our trials with the chest harness was that it is not as easy in practice as in theory. For instance, at best we had a 60% success rate when throwing a line to a swimmer. Unfortunately you may not get another chance – which raises the need for a back-up rescuer just in case.

A lot more needs to be done on chest harnesses – assessment of the strength of materials used, in particular. Using Rathmaier's results we have some idea of the forces involved in certain rescue situations – the overall load on a boat trapped in a 10km per hour current can be 400kg. The harness obviously needs to be strong enough to cope with this sort of strain.

However, there are two important considerations. Firstly, it is all very well having an extremely strong harness, but one must consider the forces that the person wearing

the harness can stand, before serious injury is sustained. Secondly, knowing the forces acting on the kayak/canoelist is one thing, but we also need to know whether we as rescuers are able to exert enough force to overcome these.

A test was done to look into this. We

DIAGRAM 6

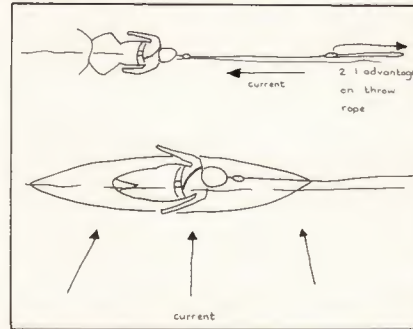
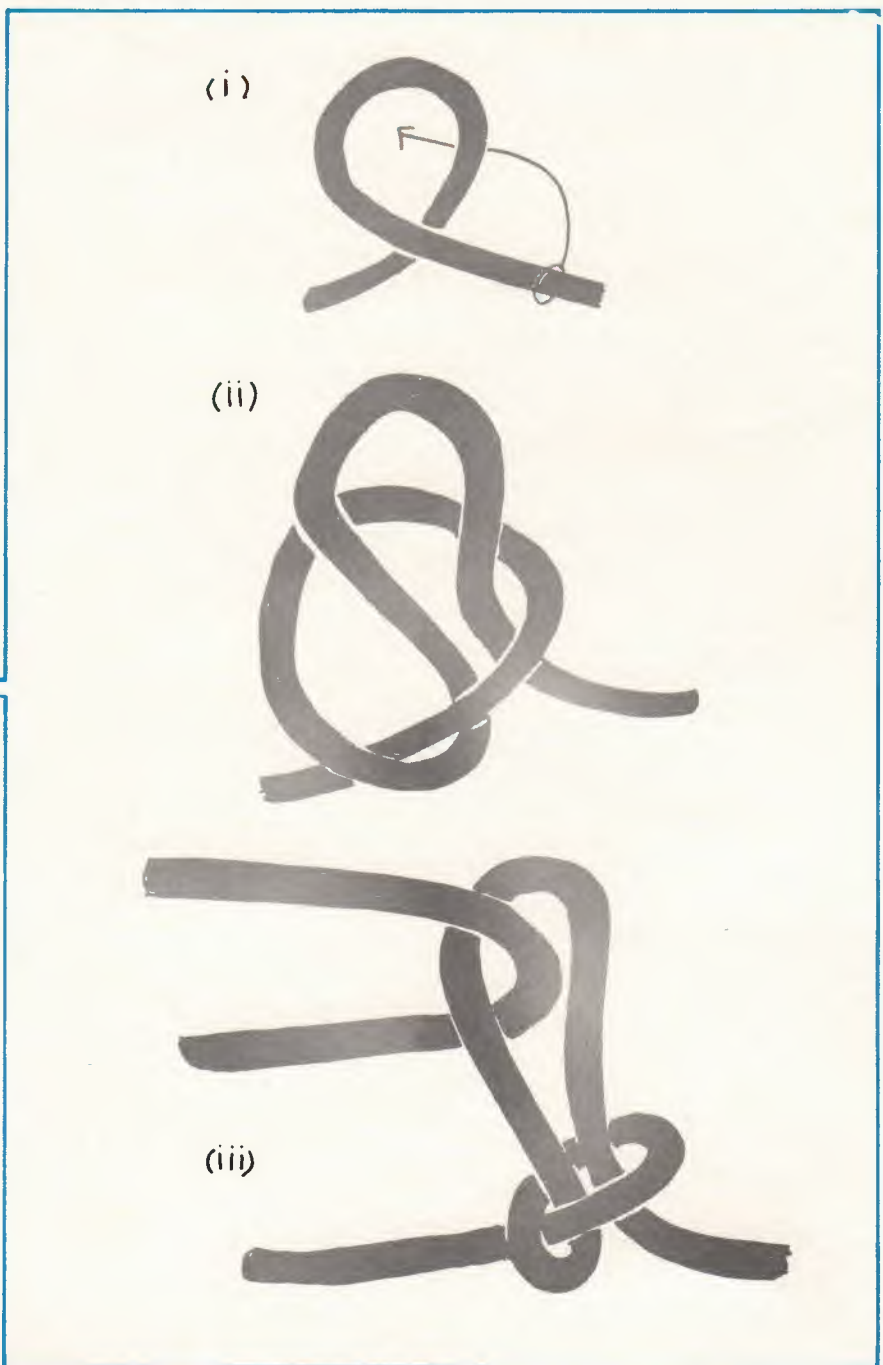


DIAGRAM 5



broached a plastic kayak, tensioning it until it deformed underneath. I then sat in the kayak wearing a chest harness, and a rescuer tried to pull me out. Using a 2:1 advantage he easily pulled me out of the broached kayak. Another point here – we tried pulling in two directions. Firstly from above – ie towards the head of the trapped canoeist (Test 5). This resulted in the harness riding up, and it would have possibly slipped off over the head of a trapped canoeist. Secondly we tried pulling the trapped canoeist towards the stern of the boat, ie straight back on the harness. The harness worked well, and the canoeist released from the boat without difficulty, with *one* rescuer using a 2:1 advantage. (Test 6).

Unfortunately I had no way of measuring the forces involved in these tests, and this is an area that needs more research in the future. However, from the trials we have done, it does seem a worthwhile safety aid, and one that is worthy of greater consideration.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK LUZMORE 1892-1984

It was with sadness that we received the news of the death on Boxing Day 1984, at the age of 92, of the Veteran Canoeist Frank Luzmore, Founder Member of the Richmond Canoe Club and the Canadian Canoe Association of Great Britain.

Frank took up the paddle eighty-six years ago but it was not until 1944, when he played a leading part in the formation of the Richmond Canoe Club, that he came in to prominence. He served that Club loyally, in various capacities, for the rest of his life.

In 1949 he took part in the first Devises to Westminster Canoe Race and went on to serve as its Organising Secretary for fourteen years.

When he retired in 1964 he left the Devises to Westminster Canoe Race firmly established in the National Sporting Calendar.

For several years Frank served on the Council of the British Canoe Union but withdrew to devote his energies to

working at club level, seeking particularly to promote the use of the Canadian Canoe. To this end he founded the Canadian Canoe Association of Great Britain, serving as its Secretary, then Vice President and for many years edited and produced its magazine "Canadian Canoeist".

In 1965, Frank received the Award of Honour of the British Canoe Union in recognition of his long and meritorious service to canoeing.

During the last year or two, advancing age and disabilities associated with it forced Frank to withdraw from active involvement in the work of Club and Association, but even so he never lost his interest.

In 1982 his friends in the Richmond Canoe Club and the Canadian Canoe Club jointly arranged a Paddle at the Club House to celebrate his Ninetieth Birthday, and over one hundred old friends and colleagues drawn from the whole period 1940 -

1982 assembled to do him honour. Later that year, the CCA arranged a Birthday Luncheon by the river at Upware, followed by a canoe cruise in to Wicken Fen, in which Frank participated.

All who new Frank Luzmore will remember him for his skill with paddle, his enthusiasm, his willingness to share his experience with others and his modesty. We shall miss him.

John Dudderidge

1985

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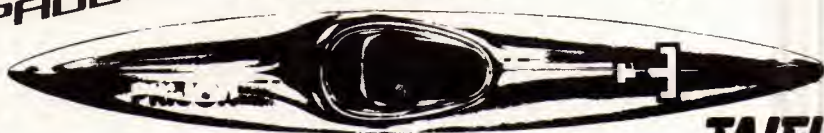


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COMPETITION

CANOE POLO

The National Leagues are at present being contested with keen competition in all divisions. The Youth Leagues have been completed with St. Albans winning Division 1 and North Bromsgrove High School Champions in Division 2.

The climax of the National Knock-out Competitions will take place at the International Canoe Exhibition in February, together with an International Tournament.

The programme will be:-

Saturday

League 1 - England. N. Ireland. France.

League 2 - Scotland. Wales. Germany.

The Ladies KO Final will take place at 12.40 pm between St. Albans Tigers and Leeds Poly or CPC Scotland.

Games will take place at 10.00 am- 10.50 am

11.20 am- 1.00 pm

4.40 pm- 5.10 pm (Final)

Sunday

Senior K.O ¼ Finals	9.30 am - Luton Tigers A	-v- GUP
	9.50 am - Leeds Poly	-v- CPC
	10.10 am - Bere Forest	-v- Gloucester Leisure Centre
Youth Semi-Finals	10.30 am - Luton Tigers	-v- Dudley
	11.50 am - St. Albans	-v- CPC
Senior Semi-Finals	12.10 pm - Bridgend	-v- Bere Forest
	3.10 pm - Winners Game 1	-v- Winners Game 2
	Winners Game 3	-v- Winners Game 4
Youth Final	4.15 pm.	
Senior Final	4.45 pm.	

The Canoe Polo AGM will take place on the Sunday at Crystal Palace at 1.00 pm.

National Leagues entries for 1985/86 should be submitted by 1 March 1985. Forms will be available at Crystal Palace or can be obtained from

Gerry Bannister, 112 Cherry Tree Ave., Walsall, West Midlands.

The weekend of 29 June/30 June 1985 will see a Europa Cup Competition at Crystal Palace. More details in the next edition of Focus.

WILD WATER RACING

Three Division A races have been held so far this season on the Rivers Dee, Dart and Tees. With five races still to come, some racers are looking for four good results towards the end of the season, nearer the time for team selection with the World Championships at Garmisch Partenkirchen in mind.

The first Dee race produced an excellent high water level to suit the rough water revellers, whilst the Dart and the Tees produced easier flatter conditions.

Ranking List Leaders

Only the Mens K1 event is still wide open with the other three classes looking as if they will be won with only half the season elapsed. Melvin Swallow, Chester, has a slim lead in the Mens K1 event with two wins. His vast experience would be useful to the team at Garmisch if he can maintain this form throughout the season. Andrew "Kiwi" Martin has second place with Jeremy Hibble, Leeds and Jon Dunseath, Warwick in contention too. Paddlers who can still upset the leaders are the "real" Dave Taylor, Gateshead, who has only one second place so far,

and Chris Humpage, RKC Koln coming up well this season taking a third at the Dart. Last year's champion DRH Taylor still has to show his form as he is currently training abroad.

The Ladies K1 Championship is firmly in Anne Plant's grip with three wins so she requires only one more to take the title yet again. Fiona Mitchell, Birmingham University, is in second place with Gail Allen, Ambleside close behind. Below this the position is unclear with Cynthia Berry, Rainbow/Forth chasing hard.

In the C1 class Steve Wells, Hounslow, is firmly in charge with three wins. Other positions are clear, going to Dave Williams, Nottingham Univ., Nick Pink, RKC Koln and Dave Ruse, Islington respectively. These four are the only ones who look in contention for Garmisch as there is a big time gap separating them from the rest of the class.

The C2's are in clear cut positions having come in the same order in each race, Kay/Pearton, Leeds, winning with Goldsmith/Evans, Brighton, and Stagg/Harvey, Nottingham, behind. The rest of the C2s are struggling to produce sufficiently credible results to be thinking of gaining the fourth World Championship place.

snatched a win at the depleted Teme event.

The Ladies Löwenbräu 500 Championship is already won by Cynthia Berry with three wins. She could only be equalled by Debbie Stapleford who took the fourth win at the Teme in the absence of faster competitors. Cynthia looks secure as it is unlikely that Debbie can win the last two events.

The Youth/Junior event is wide open, with the top two youths, Neil Stamps and Andy Curtis, each having two wins and one second to level on 70 points. Mick Febrey is first junior in third place overall with 50 points.

LÖWENBRÄU 500 RAPID RACING CHAMPIONSHIP

With four out of the six events completed, the Löwenbräu 500 Championship looks all set for an exciting finish.

The Mens K1 event is being led by Andrew Martin with 60 points out of 75. He needs one win to take the Löwenbräu 500 Championship. Mick Gillham is in second place with 56 points but could be caught by Kenny Bain or Melvin Jones, who

MARATHON RACING

The Exe Descent Canoe Marathon was held on Sunday, 18 November, organised by Exeter Canoe Club and sponsored by Strand Glassfibre.

There was the usual large entry with just over 600 making the start line and about 500 reaching the finish.

After one of the wettest autumns for several years, there were expectations of a high water level and an exciting race; but the river was disappointingly low by the weekend, although better than last year's bump and scrape. Drizzly weather over the weekend didn't help, but gave the organiser a headache as the number discs wouldn't stick to the boats.

The Senior Mens K1 event was won again by Robin Belcher from Rod Kinch in a close finish with a time of 1 hour 58 mins. The Senior Mens K2 was won by the Wells brothers from Richmond, in 1 hour 57 mins, also repeating last year's win. Anderson/Fraser, RAF were second and a mixed crew R. Ward/Christine Belcher were third in 2 hours 4 mins. - 4th place also went to a mixed crew. The Senior Mens Class 3 event was won by R. Murray from Windsor.

The Ladies K1 event was not contested - one wonders why when ladies are competing in mixed crews and class 3 boats. It would be nice to see this excellent race taken seriously by more of the lady paddlers in marathon.

The Ladies K2 event was again won by J. Guest/S. Troop of Lincoln Scouts, in a slow time of 3 hours 2 mins. The Ladies Class 3 event was won by Isobel Joice from the Wildwater racing stable with a time of 2 hours 20 mins.

The Junior events also had a good entry. The K1 event was won by Steve Bibby of Mercia in 2 hours 5 mins., a minute ahead of G. Dresser of Bryanston School in second place. The K2 prize went to G. McKeand/R. Agar, Newham in 2 hours 11 mins. and the Class 3 event reversed last year's positions with a win for D. Coulson, Bryanston School in 2 hours 10 mins., with N. Slater of Accrington having to settle for second place in 2 hours 12 mins.

LOCAL TELEVISION

There has recently been some good coverage of canoe sport on local TV, including some on Central TV, on the Löwenbräu 500 Rapid Racing Series taken on the Teme, and an excellent item prior to Robin Belcher's visit to Australia to compete in the Murray Marathon. It's a pity that the Rapid Racing item only showed paddlers from Central Paddlers, and completely excluded others involved, including local hot-shot Mick Gillham from Birmingham, currently in second place.

Clubs should make every effort to get representative news items to their local TV and radio programmes.



Ladies Löwenbräu 500 Champion, Cynthia Berry.
Photo by Ian Grimshaw

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No one applicant will be expected to be qualified to teach all the above, but a variety of abilities would be most advantageous. A preference will be given to those holding the BCU/S/Instructor award.

Candidates must have up-to-date First Aid and Life Saving qualifications.

The Centre is situated on the river Thames at Marlow Bucks. Accommodation will be provided at the Centre, and wages are £75 per week. Period from 1st April, till 30th September, 1985. For more information and application form please apply in writing to

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TOURING

SUR LES TRACES DE R.L. STEVENSON

An "International" team of eight canoeists travelled recently from their homes in Britain, Denmark, Holland and France to commence a re-enactment of an historic "voyage" made by Robert Louis Stevenson and his close friend and companion Sir Walter Grindlay Simpson in 1876, and immortalised in Stevenson's book "An Inland Voyage".

This re-enactment was of particular interest to the only female and British member of the team Sandy Irwin. For, as a member of the British Access Committee, with a special responsibility for publicity, this expedition provided ample opportunities to



discuss the various problems being experienced by our European counterparts and ourselves, from the ever increasing environmental and conservational lobby. For contrary to a popular belief held by some British canoeists our European counterparts no longer enjoy the "freedom to roam" that was once claimed. The facts are, that countries like West Germany and France are now under greater pressures, than even Great Britain. In recognition of this pressure and identifying canoeing as an environmentally orientated sport, the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe, in co-operation with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry of the Environment for France, commissioned this expedition. The aim was to "retrace the steps of Stevenson", commencing at the Hague in Holland, and by means of the varied natural and man-made waterways passing through Holland, Belgium and into France, having completed some 490 kilometres on reaching their destination St. Quentin, near Paris.

Their principal aim which was to open up and gain recognition of the touring waterways of Europe, has proved successful, with extensive interest and media coverage being



gained. Television coverage on four separate occasions plus numerous press interviews and a brief meeting with Belgian Royalty all helped to establish the case for the canoeists.

The journey was "logged" daily by the participants, with special note being made of the impact of man and technology on the environment. Details of the various flora and fauna were recorded and their abilities to cope with the ever changing landscape were noted. It also offered a superb opportunity for people of different nations to come together and discuss the various problems experienced in their own countries, with the common bond of seeking to further the interests of canoeing being their guide.

The second phase of the expedition is to produce for 1985 a "Guide to the Aquatic Course" and to link with it a "Water Sports Code". It is also envisaged that a quantity of educational back up material will be made available.

For the adventurous and inquisitive canoeist, the route offers some varied and interesting conditions ranging from the open and tidal waters of the Delta on to the, at times, picturesque canal systems of Holland and Belgium to the rapid rivers of France and finishing finally with the serenity of the St. Quentin Canal.

The route lends itself to be broken up into manageable sections, with ample camp sites on route. It is further hoped that there will be funds available for professional guides and advisers to help those individuals or groups wishing to plan a trip for 1985.

The participants were: AXEL EDINGER, Denmark a teacher in outdoor education and environmental studies and a former Olympic modern pentathlete. JEAN CLIN at 59 the

veteran of the team, and a former French National Veteran Champion. JOSE PELAYO—a 22 year old student from St. Quentin in France. RAYMOND PREDHOMME a canoe manufacturer and experienced wild water canoeist. DANIEL SOUVEAX—the expedition leader, a former French national C2 champion currently heading a scheme for the French Government in the region of L'Aisne for outdoor education and environmental studies. Daniel's experience and understanding sustained the group throughout the expedition and helped them through the sometimes difficult passages. HANS AMMERLAAN and HANS GROTTENDIECK from Holland, the two comparative beginners in the group were brought through by their strength, determination and interest, and made a major contribution to the overall expedition. SANDY IRWIN a former British Ladies Surf Champion and now director and chief instructor of her own watersports Centre and Sports Hotel. Finally the support crew who worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth trouble free expedition. PHILIPPE LEGLISE the French Ministry Man with overall responsibility for the expedition. ALAIN GUINIOT and BEN VAN GOOR for transport, team support and continuous encouragement. Last but not least JEAN LOUIS the cordon bleu chef who satisfied all appetites and culinary requirements. His five course "belly busters" became the highlight of the expedition at the end of each long and tiring day's paddling.

Details of routes will be made available to members when compiled and will be despatched on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Contact BCU, Flexel House, 45/47 High Street, Addlestone, Surrey.



Daniel Souveax, expedition leader with Sandy Irwin, sole lady paddler of the group.

IRISH CANOE UNION

A warm welcome is assured to all those attending the following events in Ireland in 1985.

Sea Canoeing Touring Weekend – Easter 6-8th April, on the West Coast of Ireland.

Canoe & Kayak Tour. River Barrow on the weekend of August 3-5. Camping will be available at GRAIGNAMANAGH.

For further details of these and other tours and events contact David Farrell Touring Officer at 9, Woodlawn Park, Mounttown, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

INTERNATIONAL TOURING CALENDAR

The British Canoe Union's Touring and Access Committees have compiled a calendar of International non competitive events and contact addresses for 1985. This

calendar will complement the competition calendar, and provide comprehensive information to those canoeists wishing to travel further afield this year. The leaflet is available to members from BCU Supplies.

CANAL RE-OPENED...

Blisworth tunnel on the Grand Union Canal in Northamptonshire was re-opened in August, after a four year closure.

In 1982, the Government gave the British Waterways Board the go-ahead for the £4.3 million repair programme involving a complete re-lining of the central section of the tunnel, which is one and three quarter miles long. This is the largest repair project undertaken by the Board, and restores the direct canal route between the South of England and the Midlands.



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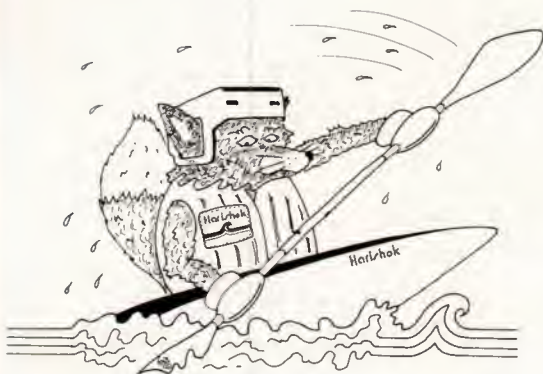
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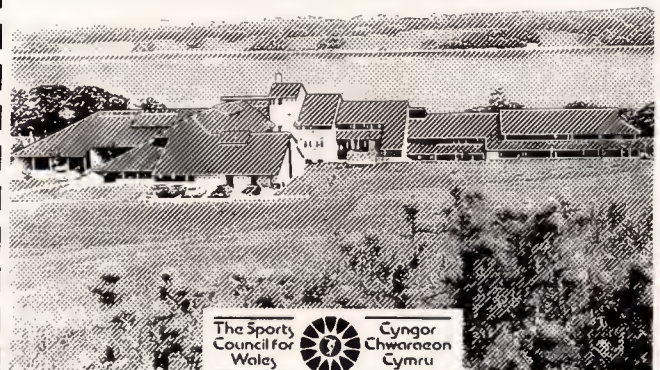
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TOURING (CONT)

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FESTIVAL TOUR '84/'85

Come paddle with the World in Canada during the 1985 International Canoe Tour and Festival to be held in North Eastern Ontario and the North Western Quebec in August of 1985.

The 1985 International Canoe Tour and Festival is being hosted in Canada by the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association under the sanction of the International Canoe Federation, the Olympic canoesport governing body.

The canoe trip portion takes place from Algonquin Park to James Bay and includes escorted tours, guided trips, as well as individual excursions on a variety of tour routes. All participants will be eligible for the Canadian World Tour Medallion Award. Each person who registers for the Tour will receive a Tour Passport and a distinctive Participation Scroll along with concessions on some of the tour memorabilia.

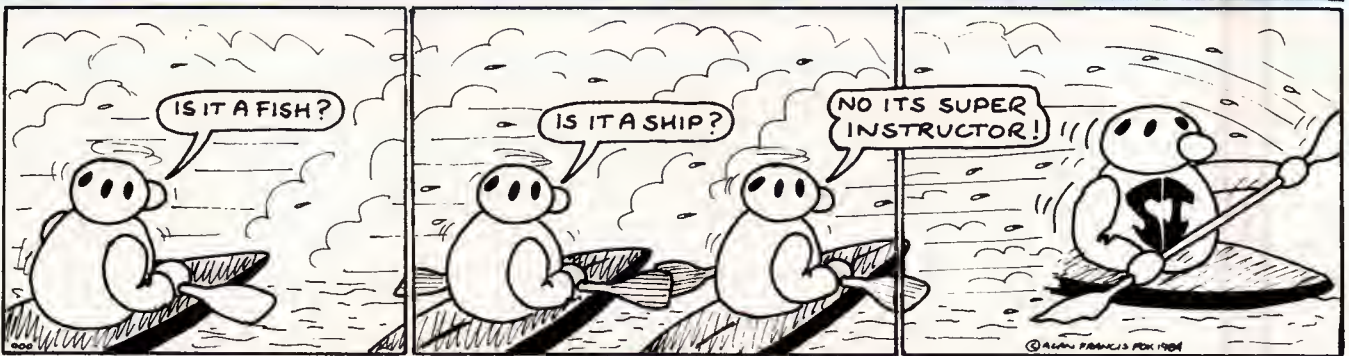
The Festival component will take place in Temagami, Ontario as well as in Toronto, Ontario where participants will be able to see museum displays on canoe history, Folklore and heritage from the Kanawa International Museum of Canoes and Kayaks. Participants can also participate in skill courses, both in camping and canoeing and can take part in the Smoothwater Marathon Canoe Race in Temagami, as well as become active or passive participants in canoe regattas and paddling the historic Voyageur canoes.



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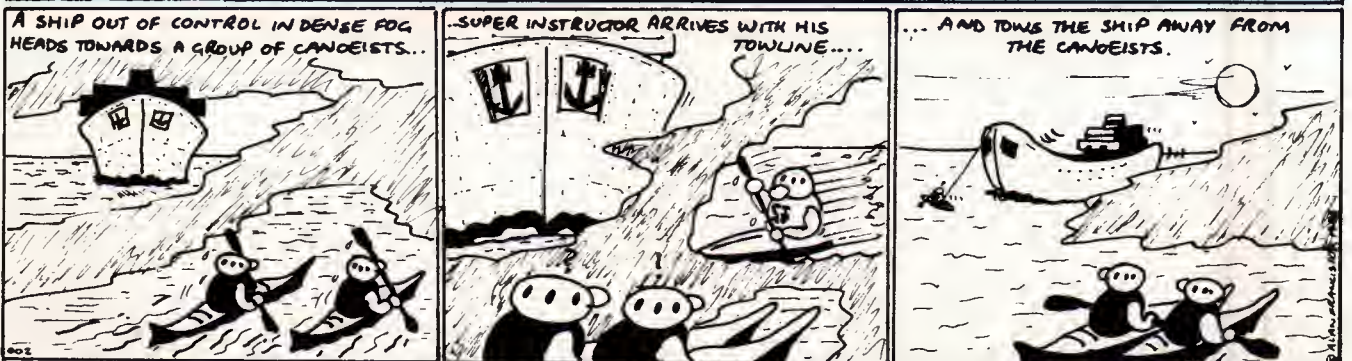


Those who have read 'Cosmic Kayak Tours', reviewed in the last edition of Focus, will be familiar with Alan Fox's cartoon canoeists. This particular character is already showing us that

he is no ordinary paddler. Watch this space for further episodes of the heroic adventures of SUPER INSTRUCTOR.

SUPER INSTRUCTOR

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POETIC LICENCE

It is fair to observe, that in all the many years that Hounddog has been involved with canoeing and canoeists, poetry, other than the "Kilroy" and "Eskimo Nell" variety, has hardly ever excited the interest of canoeing's masses. When, in these columns, Oliver Cock, delivered his Hamblede(o)n rhyme, it seemed that at last we were emerging from the cultural desert, and that perhaps we could anticipate that other aspiring bards would be encouraged to demonstrate their talents for versification.

So it has come to pass, and Hounddog has received three contributions from canoeists with an ear for an ode, which may help to raise the literary reputation of *Canoe Focus* from the abyss.

The first is a response to the Hamblede(o)n rhyme,

*Did you really get it right?
Or was there a slight oversight?
When paddlers play at Hambleden
They like the rain, now that we ken,
But batsmen tell a different tale
They hate to play in wind or hail
And surely not at HambleDEN,
HambleDON's the place for them.*

Hounddog, with great humility, replies,

*These e's and o's are vowels so vile,
They clearly cramp our literary style,
In future when the proofs are read,
We'll scrutinise before to bed
The final copy is despatched,
And if this fails, as well it may,
A change of programme, be assured,
Must in future be endured,
So avoiding embarrassment
For those whose time at night is spent,
Confusing 'den' and 'don' in Kent?*

And from the Antipodes, our colonial cousins from New Zealand have proudly submitted a poetic epic, that relates the story of their unique Gold Medal winning success at Los Angeles,

*Oh sing a song of Kiwiland
Of triumph in LA,
Eight shining bright Olympic golds
Flew home the other day,
So feast upon the fatted hogget
Decorate the town,
And never let the world forget
We won them sitting down.*

*Though other athletes preen and pose
Though proud Rumania struts,
We modest Kiwis went for gold
Sat firm upon our butts.
Though other nations ran and swam
And marathoned in number
We carved our place in history
Set fast on regions lumbar.*

*Sedentary our kayakers
Went out for golds, and got 'em.
Our rowing four were coxless, sure,
But coxless on their bottom.
Our yachtie sat upon his craft
Our horseman he stayed seated
Our other yachtie sat on bails
But still sat undefeated.*

*So sing a song of sitting down
A song of sit-upon
It seems that on our buttocks, we
Are second now to none.
We may lack glam and glitter but
At least we've found our flair –
It's time you'll find to get behind
The national derriere.*

*We sat for gold and got it folks,
We won them on our date.
On high the Aussies stood for four*

*While we sat down for eight.
We showed the speechless skippies
They'd have need of sterner stuff
To match the grim persistence of
The rugged Kiwi chuff.*

*We won them on our bums, you know,
It may well be the trend –
Our boxer got a silver, but
He'd sat down by the end.
And though we yield in track and field
It's wonderful to find
That proud Pacific spirit in
The strength of our behind.*

*There's those who say we're bankrupt,
And our currency is weak,
That economically we are
Recumbent, so to speak.
But all agree in sporting terms
Both vet'ran and beginner,
A Kiwi on his rectal region's
Sure to be a winner.*

*So gird the nether regions then,
The shape of things to come –
It seems a Kiwi's at his best
When steadfast on his bum.
So stuff the downward fiscal trends
So stuff the ones who plot 'em
And down the LMF reports
And up the Kiwi bottom!*

Finally, the following lines have been received from someone, who does not seem to be a member of the Union, who obviously knows a thing or two about building canoes, but very little, it would seem, about paddling,

*In the valley, by the river,
In the bosom of the forest;
And the forest's life was in it,
All its mystery and its magic,
All the lightness of the birch-tree,
All the toughness of the cedar,
All the larch's supple sinews;
And it floated on the river
Like a yellow leaf in Autumn,
Like a yellow water-lily.*

*Paddles none had Hiawatha,
Paddles none he had or needed,
For his thoughts as paddles served him,
And his wishes served to guide him;
Swift or slow at will he glided,
Veered to right or left at pleasure.*

An Anglers Angle

Extracts from an article published in the IWA Waterways Magazine August 1984 No. 141 and written by Lewis A. Harris – Angling Consultant to the IWA's Navigation, Technical and Amenity Committee, make it clear that some Anglers at least, welcome canoeists to their waters!

"Prisoners of our obsession and captives of ambition, here we sit on the towing path of a waterway. The obsession is fishing; the ambition is to catch a bigger fish than the last one, or more fish than our neighbours. Sometimes we sit alone, especially on week-days, hunched and motionless over a jutting fishing rod, while you glide by in your boat, wondering what the patient ass sitting there finds to enjoy in his motionless and seemingly unconscious posture

You have never seen one of us catch a fish have you? You may at times have seen one or a group of us slowly lift our heads, smile wanly or mouth an oath and then renew our somnolent ennui.

You are the navigator. To you is given, for a handful of silver, the privilege of steering your craft along the waterway so that you may enjoy the relaxing graceful progress of your slow movement.

We are the anglers. To us is given, for a handful of silver, the privilege of sitting here enjoying the sunshine or cursing the rain, or the wind, or you, and trying by the exercise of great skill and vast experience, to remove from the water some of its piscine inhabitants; to confine them in a vast net for hours and then have them weighed and returned to the water. Afterwards to wend our way in the twilight from the towing path to our transport, to hold an impromptu inquest, with our companions,

as to the probability of our success had you not decided to move from A to B while we were sitting there.

We know about you, why you are there, what you are doing and what your passing presence does for us.

You may be surprised to learn that you are welcome. Your screw will stir up the silt and colour the water so that our chances of catching are improved. Now there is a paradox: that our chances of catching are improved by the murkiness induced by your passage! It is because the fishes, which are not so afraid of you as you might think, cannot see us sitting there and, moreover, your passage has moved the insects, worms, larvae and other animals which comprise the fishes' larder, from beneath the silt and the bottom debris so they can be found and eaten, and in this search for food our baited hook is located and that is eaten too and we rejoice, for now the fun has begun and will continue, gradually dying down as the water clears, until another of you comes drifting by and it starts all over again.

We do not hate you unless you give us cause. If you are a "cowboy" cruiser with hooligan instincts and habits, we will soon recognise that. You will most likely make rude gestures at us, or come too close to our bank, or decide to turn your boat around where we sit.

There is of course, the possibility that we, not being members of an angling club nor the National Federation of Anglers, are just as likely to be angling "cowboys" – leavers or litter and cutters down of trees. We might even be the possessors of guns, too, or the users of foul language, or expositors of our persons in the process of natural functions. But not if we are members of an angling club of the NFA. We, the anglers who care, will just sit there hunched over our rods and minding our own business.

I could in fact go on to write a book full of do's and don'ts for anglers and boaters. It would all boil down to the simple statement that we do not desire to hinder your progress and pleasure any more than you want to ensnare our tackle and scare the fishes. We would much rather buy you a pint than throw a pint of maggots at you. And if, through inattention or carelessness, we annoy you, we do not do it deliberately. We understand that you too would rather not annoy us and, except for the occasional "cowboy" we regard you as a responsible and law-abiding citizen of the water as we are ourselves. Please talk to us; we are articulate."

Sounds reasonable to me!



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CANOE RACING: OLYMPIC REGATTA LOS ANGELES 1984

OFFICIAL BRITISH OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION REPORT
BY CAPTAIN MIKE HASLAM RAOC

Once again the spectre of a multi-national boycott cast its shadow over the Olympic Canoe Racing Regatta. Whereas in 1980, at the 22nd Olympiad in Moscow, it had been Western nations who failed to attend, this year in Los Angeles, with the exception of Yugoslavia and Romania, it was the turn of the Eastern Europeans to miss this jewel in the canoeing world's crown.

The non-attendance of such powerful canoeing nations as the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary and Poland was an undoubted disappointment to everyone – officials, competitors and spectators alike but despite the boycott 28 nations, amongst the highest number ever, attended the Olympic Regatta and the standard of the racing, particularly in the kayak events was of the very highest quality too.

Lake Casitas, the site chosen for the regatta, was some 60 miles to the north of Los Angeles and 40 miles inland from the coastal town of Santa Barbara. It was here, at the University of California, Santa Barbara, that the athletes were housed in the most picturesque of the three Olympic Villages. The facilities within the village were more than adequate and the living quarters well appointed with the majority of athletes accommodation in twin rooms. A welcome departure from Olympic tradition was the non-segregation of male and female competitors into separate accommodation areas. This enabled the Team as a whole to be accommodated together, making life for the team managers just that little bit easier.

A fact that made life harder for everyone however, was the travelling distance between the village at UCSB and Lake Casitas. At least three hours a day had to be allowed for this sometimes tedious journey, over a twisting mountain road and along a traffic jammed freeway. This journey, coupled with the early race start times made necessary by the variable wind conditions and high temperatures that blighted the regatta course by midday, caused some concern. A camper van hired by the headquarters staff and located near to Lake Casitas, in which those athletes racing early in the day stayed the previous night, partly resolved the situation.

Generally the facilities at Lake Casitas were very good, despite most of them being temporary features constructed of canvas. The Commissioner for Canoeing and his staff were friendly and helpful providing an excellent administrative service for both officials and athletes. Technically the competition was well conducted by the regatta officials (from both East and West) appointed by the International Canoe Federation. Unfortunately the electronic scoreboard only catered for six lanes of racing which, whilst perfectly acceptable for the Olympic Rowing Regatta, held the previous week, was not adequate for the nine lanes used in canoe racing.

For the British Canoe Racing Team the 23rd Olympiad was the most successful Olympic Regatta ever, with our athletes reaching ten finals out of the twelve kayak and canoe events entered. This achievement easily beat the previous best of two finals out of eleven races entered at both the Montreal and Moscow Olympic Games. The expectations of many observers at home, on British television and in the Press, after the hard



OLYMPIC REFLECTIONS



Steve Jackson, Britain's 1000m Kayak Specialist

fought semi-finals was of one – or more medals, but it was not to be. Undoubtedly the team were themselves, disappointed at not coming home with at least one medal. But such a disappointment really only reflects prior expectations, for the truth of Olympic competition is that whilst the ambition of every athlete is to win a medal; in reality to reach an Olympic final is the pinnacle of success achieved by but a very few.

Despite the boycott, informed sources did not put British canoeists among the favourites to win medals. Their achievement therefore, in reaching so many finals should not be underestimated. In this context the fifth place of the mens kayak fours (K4) 1000 metre crew of Jeremy West, Grayson Bourne, Andy Sherrif and Kevin Smith, in a time of 3.04.59, a mere half a second from winning a Bronze medal, in a race that proved to be the most exciting of the whole Olympic Regatta, deserves particular mention. So too does the fifth place of David Upson in the mens kayak singles (K1) 500 metre Final, for this was the best result ever achieved by an individual British competitor at either an Olympic or

World Championship Regatta. Steven Train achieved another British first by reaching the canoe singles (C1) 1000 metre final, in which he gained a very creditable sixth place. For the British women the highest place achieved was in the kayak fours 500 metre race, a new event in the Olympic programme, in which Jan Lawler, Lucy Perrett, Debbie Watson and Leslie Smither were placed seventh.

In the absence of most of the East European favourites the majority of the 36 Olympic medals, predictably, went to Commonwealth countries. The achievement of the New Zealand team in winning four gold medals from the five mens kayak events entered was, however, quite outstanding. In Ian Ferguson they had the star of the competition for he won three gold medals, in the kayak singles and pairs at 500 metres and the kayak fours at 1000 metres and earned himself a very large niche in his country's sporting history. For the British too there was some satisfaction to be gained from his achievement, for Ian had lived and trained in England, for a few years, during his long quest for that Olympic success.

Canada with a total of six medals, two each of gold, silver and bronze, and Australia with one Bronze completed the Commonwealth's haul of eleven medals. With this kind of domination of an Olympic sport, the inclusion of canoeing with rowing, as a fully participating sport, in the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games must, surely, now be inevitable.

Of the remaining medals Sweden with six, France and Romania with four each took the lions share. West Germany and Yugoslavia managed three each and the balance was divided amongst Denmark, Holland, Spain and the USA. The missing nations most definitely brought a new look to the final medals table but their absence only served to make those who did complete all the more determined to achieve success and prove themselves to be worthy of the title of Olympic Champion.

As the last canoe and kayak were lifted from the rippling waters of Lake Casitas it was time to reflect. The Romanians and Yugoslavians carrying the Eastern European banner, remained dominant in the canoe events as expected, but both failed to make any real impact in the kayak races, whilst the Swedish women and New Zealand men, all regular medal winners in recent World Championships, produced performances worthy of any past Olympic Regatta in their respective kayak finals. For the young and talented British Team it had been a testing occasion in which most had felt the unique pressures of an Olympic competition, for the first time. In the full glare of public attention and expectation that an Olympic Games brings, this is a very daunting but necessary experience if medals are eventually to be won.

For 1988 we look to South Korea and Seoul, a total unknown to the canoeing world, for the Far East with the exception of Hong Kong, Singapore and China boasts very little in the way of canoe racing expertise or facilities. It remains to be seen which canoeing nations attend the 24th Olympiad but it is now a matter of fact that those who attended the 23rd Olympiad upheld the finest of Olympic traditions and kept the Olympic spirit burning strong and bright.

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21st INTERNATIONAL CANOE EXHIBITION

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1985 sees a considerable expansion of the International Canoe Exhibition with two new exhibition halls with 18 new stands. This year's exhibition will take place on Saturday 23rd February (10.00 am – 6.00 pm) and Sunday 24th February (9.30 am – 5.30 pm) and is again expected to break the record attendance of last year. New craft and equipment will be displayed by the traditional exhibitors and a number of new exhibitors will be there including two from Europe. The programme will, as usual, include a comprehensive programme of activities in the Olympic sized swimming pool. In addition to the normal indoor slalom championships and the International Canoe Polo Tournament, there will again be the Canoe Superstars Competition for ladies and men, together with a fun competition programme for clubs. A full programme is listed below.

Films

This year sees a dramatic change in the film programme. In order to cater for a wider variation of films we move into 3 smaller video areas located in the Crystal Palace squash courts. Altogether 6 different programmes will be featured showing 9 different films covering many aspects of the sport and showing a wide range of exciting tapes. The cost per one hour programme is 30p, payable on the door. A full programme, which is however subject to change, is listed below.

CANOE POLO

The Saturday programme at Crystal Palace features the International Polo Tournament. Germany, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland and possibly France will compete for the trophy, winning in the process the largest International Canoe Polo event in the world.

Sunday brings forth the big guns of the National Polo league in the culmination of the straight knockout competition which probably

involves every canoe polo team in the land. If the final lives up to the standard set by Luton Tigers and Bere Forest last year, then it will certainly be the event to watch during the weekend.

The National Youth and Ladies trophies will also be competed for at Crystal Palace in a sport which grows stronger by the year!

BCU Stands

We look forward to seeing you at Crystal Palace in February. The BCU Headquarters Stand will again be located on the main concourse and will display all goods available from BCU supplies and offer a membership service for new and re-joining members. Technical advice on different aspects of canoeing will be available from a number of specialist committee and regional stands which again will include BCU Coaching and BCU Access stands in the second exhibition hall.

Exceptional Value Admission prices have been pegged at 1984 prices – adults £2.00 and children £1.00. Parking is available on site. Refreshments available throughout the day.

INTERNATIONAL CANOE EXHIBITION 1985 FILM PROGRAMME

Cinema 1 commences at 10.35
(last showing 4.15.)

Cinema 2 and 3 at 10.45
(last showing 4.45.)

Half hour earlier on Sunday. Each programme one hour.

CINEMA 1

- a) i. Waterfall kayaking
- ii. Grand Canyon (1983)
- b) Valley of Ice

CINEMA 2

- a) i. Pushing the limit – Breath of White Water
- ii. Corsica

- b) I.C.F. Promotional film.

CINEMA 3

- a) i. Turkey a la Carte
- ii. Fast and Clean

- b) K2 – In search of Excitement.

POOL PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

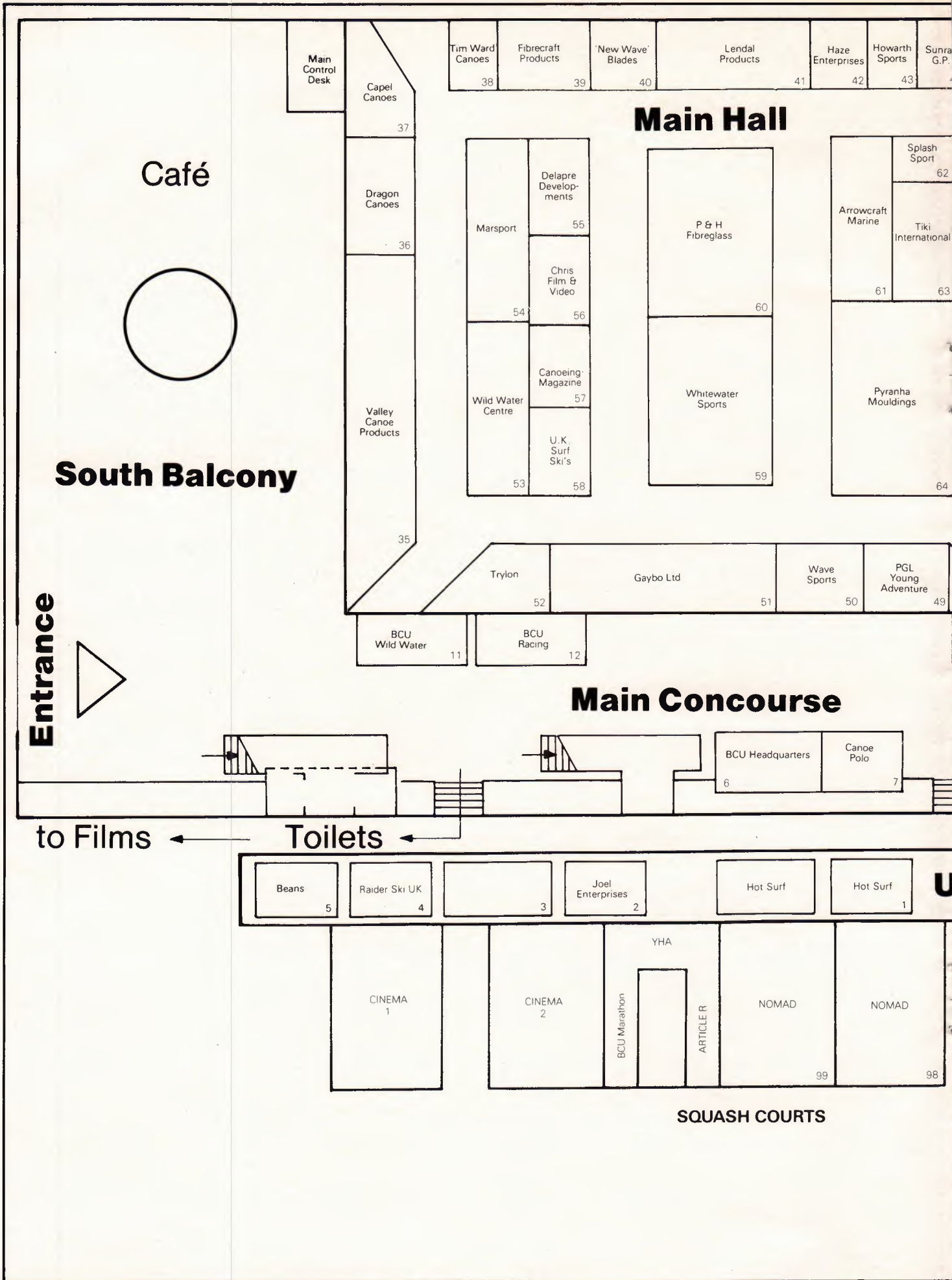
- 1000 – 1050 *Polo* International Matches
- 1050 – 1120 *Game* Inter-Club event
- 1120 – 1300 *Polo*
- 1300 – 1350 *Slalom* Regional Heats
- 1350 – 1410 Corps of Canoe Lifeguards demonstration
- 1450 – 1500 *Slalom* Regional Heats
- 1500 – 1530 *Canoe Superstars* – Men
- 1530 – 1620 *Slalom* Regional Finals
- 1620 – 1640 *Placid Water Demonstration*
- 1640 Ladies *POLO* Final.
- 1710 International *POLO* Final
- 1750 *POLO* Presentation

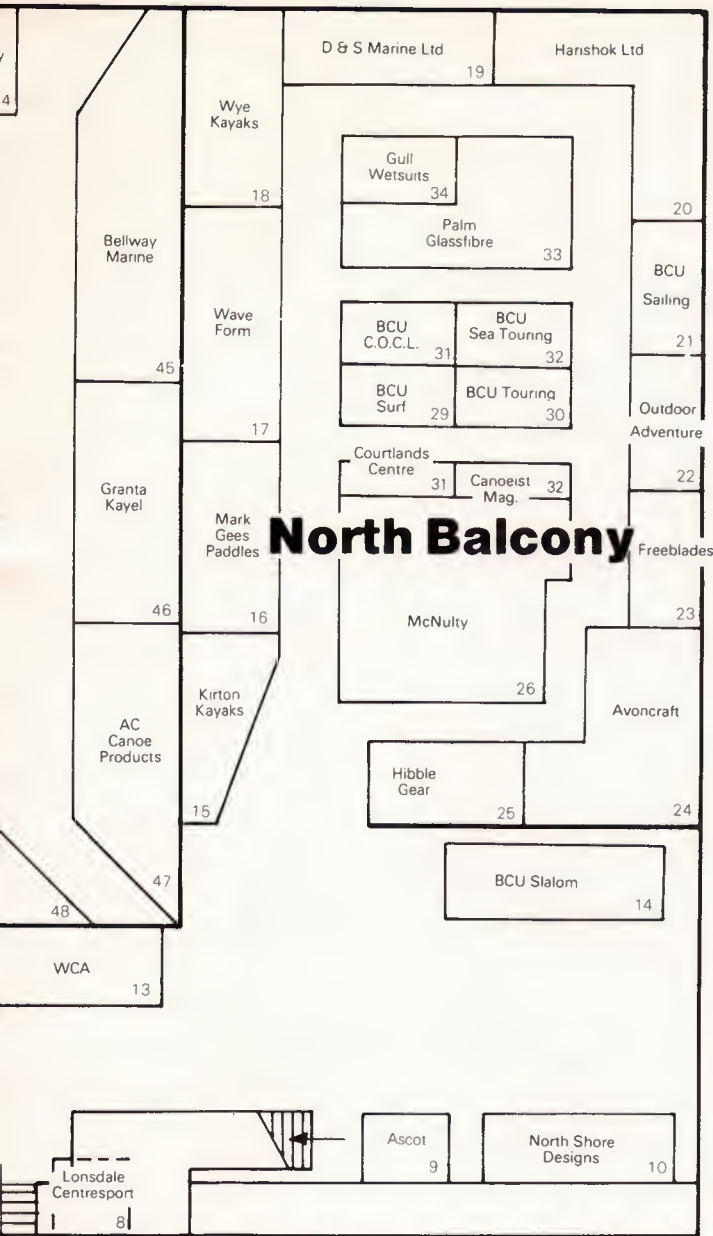
POLO PROGRAMME

SUNDAY

- 930 – 1050 *Polo* 4 Quarter Finals
- 1050 – 1145 *Slalom*
- 1145 – 1150 *Presentations*
- 1150 – 1230 *Polo* Yourh semi final
- 1230 – 1300 *Canoe Superstars* Ladies
- 1300 – 1330 *Game* Inter Club Event
- 1330 – 1425 *Slalom* Final
- 1425 – 1440 *Presentations* Slalom
- 1440 – 1510 Corps of Canoe Lifeguards Demonstration
- 1510 – 1550 *Polo* Semi Finals
- 1550 – 1615 *Placid Water* Demonstration
- 1615 – 1715 *Polo* Youth Final 1615 Senior Final 1645
- 1715 Polo Presentations

BCU North West 67	Inland Waterways Association 68	Devizes-Westminster Canoe Race Committee 69	Canadian Canoe Association of Great Britain 70	Canoe Camping Club 71	Trans Pennine Marathon/BWB 72	EXPEDITIONS STAND 73	
National Sailing Centre 66	National Association of Boys' Clubs 97	Sea Rangers Association 96	Boys Brigade 95	French Canoe Association 94	R.N.L.I. 93	R.L.S.S. 92	Long River Canoeists Club 74
	BCU London & South East Region 87	BCU Access 88	Cardington Slalom Course 89	BCU Eastern Region 90	Canofan Tryweryn 91		
I.L.E.A.	Surf Life Saving Association 86	PLAS Y BRENIN 85	BCU Coaching 84	BCU South West Region 83		National Scout Association 75	
	BCU Southern Region 79	Swedish Tourist Board 80	BCU East Midlands 81	BCU West Midlands 82			
I.L.E.A.			BCU Canoeing for the Disabled 78	Advanced Sea Kayak Club 77	Calshot Activities Centre 76		





North Balcony



AND FILM FESTIVAL

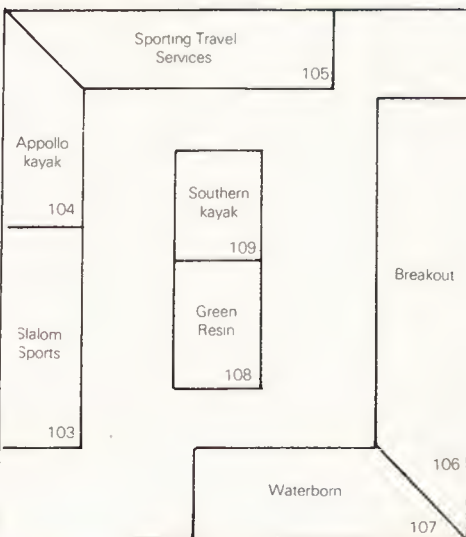
**Crystal Palace
National Sports Centre
23-24 February 1985**

→ Toilets → **Exhibition Hall 2**

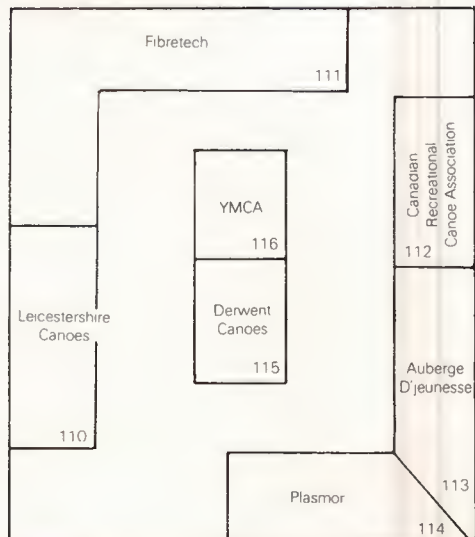
Upper Balcony



EXHIBITION HALL 3



EXHIBITION HALL 4



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CANOLFAN TRYWERYN

The National White Water Centre

The long distant summer of 1984 produced a record number of users at the National White Water Centre. The main thrust came from the increased use of the site for slalom events and this despite having had to cancel the novice event in August and the Welsh Canoeing Association's Canw Tryweryn event in early September.

Llyn Celyn, the reservoir supplying the Tryweryn, dropped to an all-time low and the estimate by Welsh Water Authority was that it would take at least to the spring of 1985 to refill. In the event, Celyn has made a remarkable recovery and has filled to the extent where there could possibly be some releases early in the New Year. Unfortunately Llyn Brenig the sister reservoir to Celyn is filling very slowly in comparison and because

WVA base their calculations on the overall water reserves, this may affect the summer release pattern in 1985.

Physical development at the centre has started with the provision of proper changing accommodation including more toilet facilities and showers. It is hoped that this phase of development will be finished by the end of January. In addition the Management Committee have approved a scheme to increase and improve the parking area and this has to be completed by the end of March 1985. A study of possible improvements to the area above the international slalom site is being carried out and it is hoped to be able to use this area for one or two major slaloms each year. Investigations are being carried out to see if there is any way in which the site can be



utilised when no releases are being made from the dam, perhaps by the use of movable batters or something similar, to make the centre a 365 days a year site.

Access arrangements for 1985 have been agreed with local landowners, Bala Angling Association and other local interests. Basically this means a number of days during the fishing season when the whole length of the river is available for use.

Agreement has been reached for four weekends, an improvement over 1984, whilst of course access to the area from the fish pass to Tyn-Y-Cornel bridge continues to be available all year round. In the winter months – from mid-October until the end of February – the whole of the river is available subject to water releases being made. On many occasions in the winter it is possible to use the lower part of the river, even when no releases are being made. However this does tend to occur at short notice, mainly after heavy rain when many of the other mountain rivers in Wales are also in spate.

Welsh Water Authority have guaranteed four release weekends in 1985 and these are scheduled for competition in either slalom or wild water racing. Wild Water Racing have agreed to share the May date with the touring committee and the September date will be allocated to slalom and touring.

In addition, Rapid Racing have once again arranged to hold their TV based international event on the Tryweryn from 1-4 April. The latest word on this event is that it will have a much more international flavour than in 1984. There are also four non-guaranteed weekend releases during the summer which are taken up with slalom events, although part of the site may be available for non-competitors. A calendar of events for 1985 will be available at the International Canoeing Exhibition at Crystal Palace in February.

Finally, up-to-date information can be obtained 24 hours a day by ringing Bala-STD 0678 520826. If you need to speak to the manager, George Davis, you can leave a message after the end of the recorded message and he will contact you. Please speak slowly and clearly and leave your name and address or telephone number.

The address for all correspondence is: Canolfan Tryweryn, The National White Water Centre, Council Offices, High Street, BALA, Gwynedd.



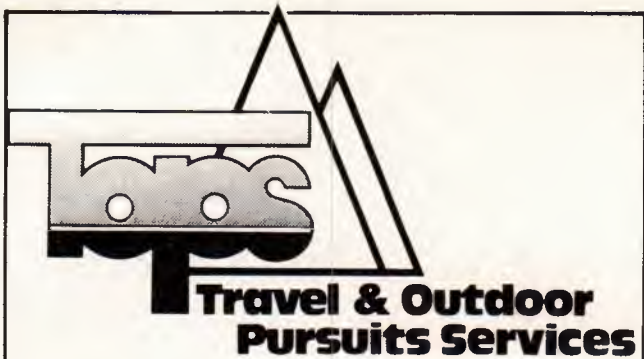
Llyn Celyn, showing the site of Capel Celyn, the village drowned beneath Llyn Celyn



Dennis Rodgers

NEW DIRECTOR FOR HOLME PIERREPONT

Dennis Rodgers moves in February from Crystal Palace, where he is Assistant Director, to take over from Stan Dibley as Director of the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont. Dennis Rodgers intends to make the facilities enjoyed by top class athletes more accessible to the local community. The BCU has worked for thirteen years with Stan Dibley and wishes him an enjoyable retirement.



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Action on access

NEW ACCESS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPOINTED

Douglas Caffyn spent two years in the Air Force before going overseas to teach mathematics in schools in Jamaica and Kenya and at the University of Malawi. Only when he returned to England in 1976 did he find water unpolluted by bilharzia. On his first canoeing course on the Isle of Wight he was extraordinarily lucky to find as instructors those brilliant dynamic personalities Roger and Sandy Irwin and like many other students before under their magnetic and enthusiastic leadership took an immediate love to the sport. He was soon persuaded to accept the post of treasurer of the Access Committee and finds that his work as a Company Secretary provides a good basic knowledge for the work of the Access Committee. Age ensures that he will always remain on the administrative wing of the Union's affairs rather than becoming a competitor.



ACCESS TEAM GAIN NEW STRENGTH

With the appointment of four new Regional Access Officers, the "Team" enters 1985 with a complete complement of Principal Officers. All Regions however still require local Access Officers formerly River Advisers.

If you feel able to assist the BCU to help others gain improved access to waters suitable for canoeing then contact your Regional Access Officer for more information.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to:

Ron Treptow

- RAO Cumbria, 5 The Green, Ambleside, Cumbria, Lake District.

Bob Graham

- RAO North East, 19 Halton Road, Newton Hall, Durham City.

Mark "Ossie" Osborne

- RAO Eastern Region, Templars, 5 Earls Close, Great Haddam Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts.

Mike Twiggs

- RAO Yorkshire & Humberside, 8 Weston Avenue, Queensbury, Bradford, Yorks.

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN? "RIVER USK"

Dave Hope of Plas Pencelli, Brecon, Powys, the local Access Officer for the River Usk, has requested that we notify members of certain dangers and restrictions which canoeists may experience.

He advises that the Access agreement is limited to the close season for salmon and trout plus a spate clause, between 18 October and 26 January and extends from Sennybridge to the sea. The agreement involves the notification of the Riparian Owners of intended use. All groups should therefore contact Dave at the above address, prior to planned trips.

Dave warns that the agreement does not include the Glanusk Estate (Llangynidr to Crickhowell). The owner will not permit trips during the open season. The estate runs a game shoot, which frequently takes place across the river! Hence the advice to keep your head down? Those wishing to use this part of the river should make their own arrangements direct with the Viscountess D'Isle at the Glanusk Estate Office, Crickhowell, Powys. The estate will make a £5.00 administration charge for processing each application. We of course view this as "bad news" and will be striving in 1985 to extend the agreement and dispose of all individual charges to groups.

For full details of the agreement contact Dave Hope at the above address. Our congratulations go to Dave for all his hard work in maintaining the agreement.

Know Anyone Famous?

Can you help? We are all aware of the need for support and media exposure in our battle to improve access to the countryside and water. The Ramblers Association have just made, what at first seems an unusual appointment, that of Mike Harding the famed singing comedian from Manchester, as their new President.

At first glance you might wonder what interest or experience Mike has to offer the cause of improved access. You will quickly learn that he is well versed in the history of the fight for access to the countryside; that he believes the fight is far from over and that he intends to make his term of office a memorable one.

We wish Mike well, and trust that the battle on all fronts can be won by exercising common sense, sound judgement and meaningful negotiations, and thereby establishing equitable agreements for access to land and water.

P.S. Know anyone famous to champion our cause by way of patronage?

Beware the shy otter

The otter being an extremely shy animal, usually feeds at night. By day they hide up deep in the roots of overhanging trees. The canoeist slipping quietly along, is far more likely to see the signs of their presence by way of footprints along the sandbank or perhaps the remains of a fish they fed on over-night, than to actually make a sighting. One is therefore immediately minded to ask what adverse impact such harmless a sport as canoeing can have on the nocturnal habits of the shy otter.

We firmly believe that our impact on the environment is minimal, whilst the enjoyment to be gained from that environment is maximal. It is therefore both disappointing and of great concern that some genuine environmentalists, possibly due to lack of knowledge of our activities, and some less scrupulous bodies who wish merely to climb on the environmental band wagon are seeking to use such harmless a creature as the otter to deny canoeists the opportunity and in many cases the right to enjoy their chosen recreational pastime.

Accordingly we need to educate and seek the support of the genuine, and condemn out of hand the manipulators, who seek to restrict our activities.

Any members who can offer support or evidence of "harmonious" relations between canoeists and otter colonies are requested to forward details and photographs if applicable to BCU Headquarters, marked for the attention of the National Access Officer.

Please note it is not our wish to further alienate the environmentalist who may see this exercise as being the establishment of an "otter witch hunt". Accordingly, only those who within their normal canoeing activities encounter otter colonies are requested to respond.



Mike Harding, "The Rochdale Cowboy", President of the Ramblers Association.

DITIONS... EXPEDITIONS... EXPE

London Youth Himalayas Canoe Expedition – River Zanskar

Returning from Australia in 1983 I took the opportunity to go to the Indian Himalayas to search for a canoeable river. I found the River Zanskar and walked along its bank inspecting it wherever possible. It did not look very pleasant in places but with a lower water level it should all be possible I thought.

I returned to England and applied for the Mike Jones Award with the idea of taking a young team of paddlers drawn from the Inner London Education Authority Water Sports Centres.

In February 1984 I was surprised but pleased to learn that I had won the award. It was good to know that Sir Richard Vickers, of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust who administered the award, had confidence in my ambitious plan.

If I was going to take five young paddlers on grade IV and V in the Himalayas I wanted someone with experience with whom I could share the responsibility. Micky Coin was busy showing his Iceland Breakthrough film at the time, who else better to come with me?

Unfortunately he already had other plans but gave me plenty of help and advice. This was the case with everyone I asked. I went through nearly the whole Fraser River Expedition team before Peter Knowles (Green Slime) suggested I contact Geoff Gill in Cornwall. I explained my plans to him and he said he would come.

It was already May, so time was running short. I had been writing to India trying to organise more than 30 mules, food for three weeks, transport connections and a raft support crew. Replies to my letters were taking six weeks to arrive.

I decided to approach the trekking companies who operated in the area. After all, they were the experts so if I could find one that offered all the services at the right price, why not let someone else do the donkey work. Kashmir Holidays of Soho London were interested in helping me, and when I told them that Miles Biggs an independent film maker with a company called Wilderness Films – whose name I had discovered amongst the files at the Royal Geographical Society, would be accompanying us, they agreed to help. They solved the boat problem by arranging a deal with Thai Airlines for £135 per boat one way. The service and arrangements they made in India were second to none.

About this time, Micky Coin introduced me to John Taylor of Wave Sports who had provided a lot of the canoeing equipment for his Iceland trip. I gave John a long list of our requirements and he soon had sponsorship deals arranged with Splashdown, Sweden Therm, Marlin Wetsuits and Gaiforce. Much of the canoeing equipment was directly from Wave Sports' own line.

By June, I was feeling confident that the expedition would go ahead and I was beginning to finalise arrangements. But who was going with me? I had to have a doctor and fortunately knew just the right man. Neil Vass. I had been climbing and walking with him before and he thought this would be a 'real gas'. I also needed a raft crew and general support crew. Paul Atterton, Kate Easey and Stephen Hammond joined me. All these people were prepared to fork out £1,000 as

the subsidy was not available for everyone. Miles the cameraman and Jenny the sound recordist were going to double up as paddlers in the rafts.

I had circulated the top 200 companies in the country for help, using the film and the promise of full credits as my main selling point. For all this I received three boxes of Yorkies and a promise of syrup from Tate and Lyle if I worked out the man hour requirement for the expedition. I contacted all the local Education Authority Water Sports Centres in London and suggested they help finance a youth for the expedition. No-one had the money. Some of the young paddlers who were considering the trip were unable to come because of the lack of financial support. The only way of fulfilling one of my main objectives, that of taking a young team, was to take those that could afford it. A disappointing criteria for choosing the expedition team.



Portaging, mule style, among the glaciers

I had three paddlers – Paul Anthony 20, Adrian Boyce 21 and Jim Yhnell 18, all of whom were working and prepared to pay for much of the trip themselves. We went to the Alps on a training trip and worked our way through the Alpine White Water guide, testing our Dancers, rubber decks, New Wave Hydraextremes and other pieces of equipment we were to take with us to the Himalayas. After one week of good white water, made so enjoyable by the well written guide, I was confident in the paddling ability of the party and in the equipment.

August, less than one month to go and I was still one paddler and one rafter short, when I received a call from Geoff Gill saying he had injured his back in a windsurfing accident and would be unable to go. Chris May had come with us to the Alps, so he stepped in at the last moment to take Geoff's place.

I was working at a watersports centre in London and convinced Andy Wellman 19, that there wasn't much difference between sailing and rafting. A generous bank manager and my raft crew was complete. Michael Conway 19, was thinking of coming but had to go to Leeds Polytechnic. I told him I had booked all his tickets so left him no choice. We

were complete: six canoeists, six rafters (including cameraman, sound recordist and doctor).

I had a tough interview with the Young Explorer's Trust of the Royal Geographical Society and received an award of £400 and their approval.

On 8 September, we landed at Delhi airport and fortunately passed straight through customs avoiding any import duties on the boats and equipment. We stepped out of the airport and were met with garlands of flowers placed around our necks. It was 2.30 am, 80°C and 90% humidity. We had arrived in India. The relief I felt was immense, somehow it seemed as if I had already accomplished the expedition.

The next day, after testing our buoyancy aids in the swimming pool, we drove North in our own bus with the canoes inside and baskets of chickens on the roof. The chickens started to die in the heat and at each restaurant that we stopped, the only thing on the menu was chicken.

We reached Manali at 10,000 feet and the next day had a warm up paddle on the River Bease. The gradient was 4%, or horrendous! It was not a team effort, but everyone for themselves as the others watched with intrepidation from the bank. I led and was quickly out of sight of the others as I dropped down and around a corner. The front of my boat came flying out of a stopper, I thought I was going to reverse loop and remember thinking "Is this why people advised me against Dancers in the Himalayas". I paddled furiously into an eddy, totally out of breath, and scrambled onto a huge boulder, throwline at the ready. Paul Anthony followed and joined me with his usual grin on the face, saying "That's the biggest I've ever done". Adrian had not been so lucky; he was upside down when he hit a large boulder in midstream, he dropped down the side of it and reverse looped from upside down to land upright. Chris, not used to the paddles he was using, had an epic rolling session when he put in five rolls in less than fifty metres as each drop left him no time to recover. We decided that the Bease was not the ideal river on which to 'warm up', so after one kilometre of some of the biggest canoeing any of us had done, we had a 'play around' under the bridge near the town. We had attracted much attention and found ourselves being watched by a thousand amazed faces. That evening we enjoyed our last beer for three weeks with plenty to talk about.

Another frightening bus journey took us over the Rhotang La pass at 13,000 feet and on towards Darcha, our destination. We had the opportunity to inspect other rivers en route including the Chenals. They were much lower than the previous year and even looked canoeable.

We set off from Darcha at 11,000 feet the following day, accompanied by our two Nepalese raftsmen, a cook, cooks assistant, thirty five mules, ten porters and a guide. We were not going to pass un-noticed. The first day was not without incident. Sam Roberts was accompanying us as a representative of Kashmir Holidays. By midday he had begun to vomit blood and the doctor said the situation

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was serious. Sam felt unable to continue so Chris walked him back down. He was to meet us in Padum our half way point where the rafts were to be inflated. It was to take him ten days and involved returning to Delhi, a flight and a long overland journey by truck.

The weather at this stage of the expedition was very warm with the sun beating down on us through a clear blue sky. We had set off before the mules and on several occasions managed to lose our way, ending up half way up a mountain before our error was confirmed.

We reached what I knew to be the camp sight before the mules, and our cook and raftsmen had ended up on the other side of the river we had been following, with no way of crossing it. There was no sign of the canoes. Paul Anthony was having a rough time with nausea and was being treated by Neil.

Two days later and several thousand feet higher, the weather had changed considerably and we were now walking in our thinsulate sallopettes and duvette jackets. The air was much thinner and everyone was concentrating on following the boots of the person in front.

Two of our party were on mules by the time we reached the foot of the glacier at 16,000 feet. The main party trekked on while I waited for Neil, Andy and Paul. Eventually they appeared. Andy has been strapped to another mule while two porters carried the original payload – the seventh canoe. Neil and Paul looked extremely concerned. Andy was hyperthermic and totally exhausted. The mule beneath him was struggling and our guide who had gone back to help, looked very worried.

We made it to the top of the Shingo La at 17,000 feet at 4 o'clock and supported Andy as he walked trance-like down to the camp at 14,300 feet. It was dark when we eventually arrived and were met by the main party looking relieved to see us. An hour later Andy was feeling well enough to eat a plate of chips. It had been a long day.

Sunday 16th, we gathered our canoe equipment and set off to find the source of the Zaskar. 17,000 feet under our belts, everyone was feeling better. The Zaskar flowed from the foot of a glacier and plunged quickly down a rocky gorge. We climbed into our shiny new gear, took the customary photographs and set off from the highest navigable point possible at 14,400 feet.

It was 12.30 pm and the river lacked the days melt, it was low at first but we were happy to be on the water and soon left our support crew behind. A late lunch at 3.30 and when we returned to the water at 4 o'clock it was like a different river. It started to drop and didn't stop. It fell through a series of mini gorges caused by the concentration of boulders along both banks. We were paddling continuous grade IV and never knew what was to come. It was late in the day and we began to regret having spent so long inspecting the earlier shallow rapids.

The sun was behind clouds and we were all feeling the cold. I was exhausted by leading such committing and technical water and gratefully shared the lead with other members of the team. We had our first swim when Michael dropped over a large drop without the



Seal launching from a rope bridge

forward speed to take him through the awaiting stopper. I reached for him with my paddle from the small breakout I was in and pulled him to the side. His boat was quickly recovered but he was too cold and exhausted to continue, so trekked the remainder of the way to the camp. We finished at 6 o'clock having paddled 14 kilometres and dropped 1,300 feet, much of which was in the last 6 kilometres.

Not wanting to get caught on the river so late again, we set off at 9 o'clock the next day but were chased down the valley by an ominous dark cloud. It began to rain which, combined with the wind was freezing.

The canoeing was grade III-IV but we were treating it with respect. At one point the whole river compressed into a two foot gap before descending underground. We portaged!

At 2 o'clock we entered a deep gorge with our 'support' team 700 feet above our heads. It was totally committing. We paddled from

breakout to breakout with the knowledge that I had 150 feet of rope in my canoe if we had to climb out. Our hands were numb, and we were reluctant to get out of our canoes knowing we had to fit a tight rubber deck back on. In spite of this there were some good portages. By 4.30 pm we were out of the gorge met by the support team and invited into a local house for tea and roast barley. We had paddled 20 kilometres and dropped another 1,000 feet to 12,217.

A rest day followed and we visited Phuctal Monastery, 1,500 years old with 80 yellow cap monks as interested in us as we were in them.

A major tributary, the Tsarap Chu, which was crystal clear, joined our silt laden river at this point and doubled the volume of the river. There were three more days paddling to reach Padum. These included a large grade V rapid that we paddled and an overnight bivi when our support crew failed to stop us passing the camp sight high above our heads and we paddled past. We spent the night in a derelict hut, burning parts of the roof to stay warm, as the snow fell outside and testing our emergency equipment.

We reached Padum where the valley widens and were met by Sam and the two rafters. Winter was on the way because even though we were dropping in altitude, it was now cold all the time.

Our pony men payed off, the rest of the party floated off down the river in two 16 foot inflatable rafts. Another large tributary the Stod Chu joined the Zaskar but the valley was wide and the river slow and shallow. The wind blew the sand into our faces as we paddled across this desert in the Himalayas. The rafters were not happy. This was not what I had promised. It was cold, there were few rapids, sand was everywhere and morale was low.

The next day had more hard paddling on flat water as the sun tried its best to warm us. The sides of the gorge began to close in, the river quickened and some large grade III

Clowning on a small rapid





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rapids ensured everyone was wet and cold. Suddenly Paul Anthony, who had been playing on everything, was caught sideways in a large stopper running nearly the width of the river. From my breakout below I could just see difficulty but with a huge effort in a reverse sweep stroke on the upstream side, Paul managed to turn the boat in the stopper and was thrown clear to role up downstream. This effort nearly dislocated his shoulder and he was unable to paddle for the remainder of this trip. He has been unable to paddle since and is still receiving treatment.

Campsites in the gorge for three nights were few and far between. No choice remained but to camp beneath boulders that looked like they might fall at any moment. We were surrounded by cliffs more than a thousand feet high on either side, there was

little opportunity to scout ahead and the river was the only way out. We continued without incident admiring the spectacular scenery, when one of the rafts dropped into a large hole and was held. The cameraman and sound recordist were trapped against the upstream tube of the raft for several minutes before being flushed under the raft and picked up downstream by the canoeists. Neil went under the raft and then climbed back in on the downstream side. Meanwhile the cook and guide had jumped clear downstream, followed closely by Andy who said afterwards "I knew things were serious when the natives started deserting".

An early camp that afternoon while people recovered their senses. The camera crew, unused to white water, were in a state of shock, worse still, the 16mm cine camera had

been lost, but fortunately the waterproof film containers were safe.

There were 50 kilometres of paddling left to be done on the last day. The river still had more rapids left in it, which surprised us all especially Andy who I was examining for his one and two star when he found himself canoeing down a respectable grade IV rapid. This gave us our second swimmer.

We made it to the confluence with the Indus late in the afternoon and were met by jeeps to take us back to civilisation. We left our canoes in Leh and spent another week in India as tourists before returning to England.

Anyone interested in paddling in North India in the seven boats still there, should contact Guy Baker, 35 Stanton House, Thames Street, Greenwich, London, SE10.

BRITISH RIVER KWAI EXPEDITION 1984

Peter Barton and Peter and Jane Salisbury have returned safely from the River Kwai but as expected, not without incident.

Their problems started when Peter Barton was robbed of his camera in Bangkok and their other camera was discovered to be damaged when they reached the river head.

After an arduous journey in a truck that took them to the most northerly frontier town of Sankalaburi, Peter Barton then discovered that his kayak was badly damaged; the ends were torn, where the frame had pulled the skin apart and the bottom was holed. In spite of attempts to mend it he still described it as a "folding sieve" when he tried to paddle it. Consequently he was forced to leave Peter and Jane to paddle their 18 foot kayak on their own.

They had been warned by the governor of the problems involved with trying to navigate above the huge dam that had recently been constructed. It would mean a forty mile paddle across a flooded forest, there would be nowhere to land as the sides of the lake would be jungle covered slopes, snakes were being driven into the branches of the daily rising water, and would love to transfer to a canoe. Also, although it was forty miles in a direct line, the sections of high ground resulted in a very curvaceous route, without the aid of a compass that would not function, in an area of such high concentrations of iron-ore.

Within ten minutes of starting on the lake, they were lost and having to retrace their route. Often they had to paddle up to three miles up a backwater before finding a dead end. It was going to be very difficult if not impossible to cross the lake so they eventually accepted a lift from a fishing boat that delivered them to a construction workers camp.

From there they were given a lift to the dam construction site where the River Kwai Noi proper, starts. It was 20 feet wide but only inches deep. Marks on the rocks showed it had dropped ten feet since the construction of the dam.

First night on the river after a bumpy paddle they received 'typical Thai friendliness', when they shared the hospitality of a Thai

family and sheltered from the rain.

The river deepened and they encountered more snakes, including an 18 foot King Cobra whose massive head reared up out of the water only two feet away from the canoe. Suddenly they swept around a bend and straight into a roughly made jungle bridge - where the whole waters of the Kwai were forced into a four foot hole with a steel Hawser hanging down the centre. Jane was forced to drop her paddle as the steel rope rasped between her arm and the side of the canoe.

A fifty mile day for 13 hours with temperatures in the hundreds and Peter fortunately just managed to avoid heat stroke when they were lucky enough to find a "River Kwai Jungle Raft" that had a shower on board.

The National Park Warden offered them a bungalow the next night where they were kept awake by the sound of the bamboo growing and were then invaded by huge ants that carried their food off.

The shallow water behind them, they continued down river passing fascinated European tourists who were staying on the "long tail boats" and avoiding fishermen's nets that were staked out across the river.

After 300 miles of hard paddling they reached the confluence with the Kwai Yai and from thereon the river became the Mai Klong. This was the end of the Kwai Noi and as they stepped ashore for the last time they were in for a big surprise. Within five minutes they were surrounded by police cars and policemen. Due to a misunderstanding when Peter Barton had made his way to the dam by fishing boat to meet Peter and Jane now knowing they had already passed through, Peter Barton had reported them missing to the British Embassy. Two people had been murdered in the area so the British Embassy had instigated a military search involving the police, border guards, forest rangers and the air force.

The team have expressed their thanks to the British Canoe Union without whose help financially of a grant of £700 this trip would not have been possible. A full report of the expedition will be available from the International Long River Canoeists club.

JOINT SERVICES EXPEDITION, BRABANT ISLAND, ANTARCTICA 1983-85

Brabant Island is a remote island off the Antarctic Peninsula about 1,000 miles south of Cape Horn. The island is so inhospitable that only four landings are recorded.

The aims of the expedition are to combine the scientific exploration of Brabant Island with the adventure and challenge of survival in the Antarctic, including a first ascent of Mount Parry 8,300 ft.

The overwintering party have completed the Antarctic year with only tents and snow-holes for shelter. The sixteen man second summer party left Britain on 26th November and have relieved them. Their aim is to continue the scientific studies, climb the mountains at the southern end of the island and explore the coastline by kayak - some of the most southerly canoeing ever attempted.

The team have taken four Nordcap canoes that have been slightly modified so that they will fit together to form a raft. An inflatable dingy will provide support where necessary and a circumnavigation of the island may be attempted, although large ice cliffs formed by the glaciers descending directly into the sea are expected to make this extremely hazardous.

This final phase will leave the island on board HMS Endurance at the end of March, 1985.

Other potential explorers and we at Focus are always pleased to hear about your expeditions and outings, be they international forages to undiscovered backwaters or just fun days out. Details particularly helpful to others who might like to follow your route or join in next time are: types of craft used, planning involved, gear chosen, food taken, times, distances and speeds clocked, events that happened and problems encountered along the way. Keep your reports coming in.

SPRING CLEARANCE SALE

Owing to a changed export order we have a quantity of brand new Baidarka Explorer sea kayaks surplus to our requirements. There are all of diolen hull construction and most are fitted with V.C.P. hatches, bulkheads, retractable skegs, deck lines, chart and spare paddle elastics. At the same time we are also clearing a few secondhand or ex-demonstration sea kayaks.

If you are interested in placing an order, please either telephone or send a £25.00 deposit and we will reserve the kayak for you. The kayaks may be viewed and collected from our works or we will deliver to Crystal Palace, week ending 23rd/24th February 1985, for a nominal £10.00 delivery charge. Prices quoted are at least 25% off our 1984 retail selling price, representing a £95.00 saving on most models.

KAYAK No.	MODEL	DECK	HULL	PUMP	RETRACTABLE SKEG	EXPEDITION/BASIC	1984 PRICE	SALE PRICE
1	BAIDARKA EXPLORER	WHITE	WHITE	NO	YES	EXPEDITION	£379.50	£284.00
2	BAIDARKA EXPLORER	YELLOW	YELLOW	NO	YES	BASIC	£273.70	£205.00
3	BAIDARKA EXPLORER	YELLOW	YELLOW	NO	YES	EXPEDITION	£379.50	£284.00
4	BAIDARKA EXPLORER	BLUE	WHITE	NO	YES	EXPEDITION	£379.50	£284.00
5	BAIDARKA EXPLORER	YELLOW	WHITE	NO	YES	EXPEDITION	£379.50	£284.00
6	BAIDARKA EXPLORER	YELLOW	WHITE	NO	YES	BASIC	£273.70	£205.00
7	BAIDARKA EXPLORER	ORANGE	WHITE	NO	YES	EXPEDITION	£379.50	£284.00
8	BAIDARKA EXPLORER	RED	WHITE	NO	YES	EXPEDITION	£379.50	£284.00
9	BAIDARKA EXPLORER (All Kevlar)	YELLOW	WHITE	NO	YES	EXPEDITION	£550.00	£350.00
10	BAIDARKA EXPLORER (All Kevlar)	BLUE	WHITE	NO	YES	EXPEDITION	£550.00	£350.00
11	DAWN TREADER	RED	RED	YES	NO	EXPEDITION	£382.95	£287.00
12	ESKIMO	BLUE	BLUE	NO	NO	EXPEDITION	£330.00	£247.00
13	ESKIMO	BLUE	BLUE	NO	NO	BASIC	£218.50	£163.00
14	ESKIMO (No fittings)	BLUE	BLUE	NO	NO	BASIC	£189.75	£142.00
15	ICEFLOE	YELLOW	YELLOW	YES	NO	EXPEDITION	£382.95	£306.00
16	ICEFLOE	WHITE	WHITE	YES	NO	EXPEDITION	£403.65	£320.00

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Trade News

Andy Hall Tries A Swedish Line...

You know how the heart twitches when you get an unexpected parcel. It was even better when out popped a new throwing line, exactly the same as the one I have coveted for the last three years. Not so good was the next day's post, when an invoice for £11 arrived, and a letter from Geoff Good asking me to take a look at this yellow specimen.

It was the first time I'd seen another throwing line like mine. Apparently Perry and Co of Birkenhead have started importing these Swedish specials. They've souped it up a bit with a plastic covering to make the throw handle easy to get hold of, but basically it was the same yellow bag - quite heavy compared with most British equivalents - with 23 metres of 350 kg breaking strain line stuffed into the bag which contains the float. The line floats, and the bag flies further than any other

throw-bag I've looked at. We had a throw bag competition on the Senior Instructor's course at Tyne Green, Hexham, and mine went further than any other.

One problem with some other commercially produced bags is that they can't be thrown for a second time very effectively. Obviously if you were throwing a line to someone in a stopper you'd probably miss first throw. This one has enough weight to take it right out to its full distance again.

The only query I have with it concerns the line. It does kink quite easily, and is quite thin, but I've not come across anything other than a 45m 9mm climbing rope that would cope with a Ron Treptow on Langdale Beck, or a John Wilde on the Sun Kosi. This rope is quite suitable for pulling people, and even full boats, through fast flowing water.



The home - and commercially-made throw-bags under consideration.

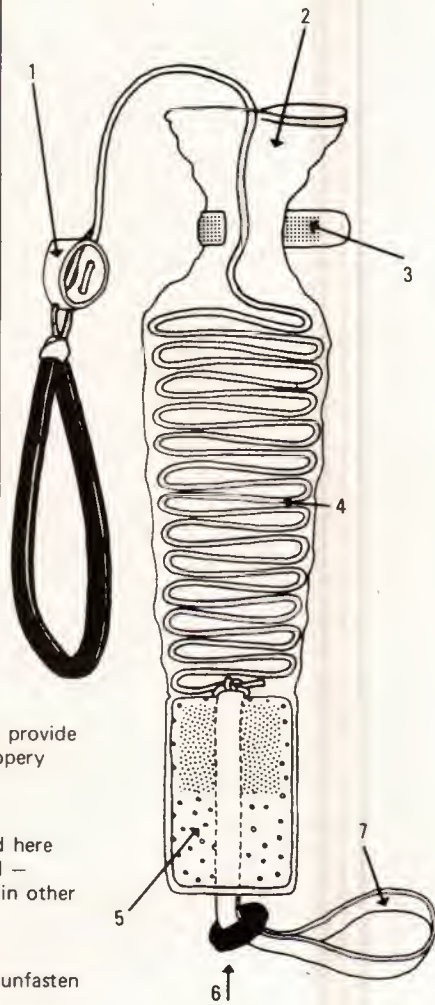


A view of the throwing contest.

On the whole it is pretty expensive, but if you are lazy like me, and can't be bothered to make one (like some of the beauts at Tyne Green) I think it's one of the best available in Britain. If you want to buy a real stormer, try Germany!

A word of warning. It would be highly inadvisable in any conditions in which a canoeist was likely to require the bag, for the victim to make use of the tightening disc.

Available from: R. Perry & Co, Ltd, 90 Church Street, Birkenhead, Merseyside.



(1) Metal foot spike to provide firm footing on slippery ground or ice.

(2) Neck of bag - hold here with throwing hand - holding black loop in other hand.

(3) Velcro fastening - unfasten before throwing.

(4) 23 metres braided polypropylene line which will run out smoothly without snagging (breaking strain 350 Kg.).

(5) Plastic block with built in weight which is buoyant.

(6) Tightening disc.

(7) Loop - victim fastens this round wrist using tightening disc. (6)

'New' Canadian Paddle Handle

Ottersports Limited of Northampton have introduced a new Canadian Paddle Handle, moulded in Super-Strength ABS Thermoplastic.

In addition to the more pleasing appearance, the new handle provides a far more comfortable and superior grip, which must be good news for the Canadian Canoe enthusiasts.

Ottersports range of Canadian Paddles will in future be fitted with the new Handle, at no extra cost. Alternatively, they can be supplied as a separate item if required.

Ottersports Limited, 39 Ash Street, Northampton, NN1 3HX. (0604) 39405 or 39161.



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Keeping Warm with Diamond Wet Suits

How do you train realistically during the winter? What do you wear to keep you warm yet give you unrestricted movement? One person who has managed to solve this annual problem is world slalom champion Richard Fox. Now, through his association with Diamond Wet Suits, other canoeists can enjoy the same comfort and warmth as he does.

Diamond Wet Suits is launching a new range of canoeing products at the National Canoe Exhibition. They have all been inspired and tested by Richard Fox and are made to stand up to the rigours of harsh conditions.



Specially designed long johns, trousers and shorts are all in thin (2mm) neoprene which, according to Richard, gives the best combination of warmth and stretch. There's a choice of black smoothskin neoprene, lined on the inside only, or of neoprene lined on both sides in attractive colours.

The smoothskin gives greater warmth and stretch. It is ideal for slalom paddlers who want good heat retention for white water workouts and a sure grip in the boat. The double-lined material gives greater wear resistance and offers a choice of colours.

The styles of trousers, shorts and long johns reflect Richard's wealth of experience of world class paddling. Comfort and unrestricted movement are of paramount importance, so the trousers and shorts are cut high at the back and low at the front, and the zipless long john has cutaway arm holes to allow even the most active paddler complete freedom of movement.

Last, but by no means least, comes a revolutionary new type of footwear, a soft-soled wet suit boot with rubber protection around the heel and on the sole. Made of 3mm double-lined neoprene, it is supple enough to wear in a low-line slalom kayak and tough enough for walking over rocky river banks.

Diamond's canoeist range will be on show and for sale on dealer stands at the National Canoe Exhibition.

More information is available from Diamond Wet Suits Limited, Northolt Drive, Bolton, BL3 6RE. (0204) 28225.

Lindenkraft

The name Lindenkraft may be new to many readers but growing numbers of outdoor enthusiasts are to be seen in the colourful range of handmade fibrepile jackets, polar sweaters and malopettes under the LK Logo.

All items can be personalised with colourful motifs or patches, to order, and the high quality clothing is not expensive.

Unusual items available include fibrepile mittens, balaclavas, waistcoats and all-in-one suits.

There are two new items this year. One is the 'May Day Flag' - an emergency signal ideal for canoeists, windsurfers and other water users, costing only £1.50. The other, the expedition pocket tabard, which quickly velcros over a conventional buoyancy aid to provide 2 good pockets for flares, towline, chocolate and all those other goodies the experienced touring paddler or instructor likes to have to hand.

Details and price lists are available from Linden Kuyser, 2 Walkers Lane North, Blackfield, SO4 1YA, Southampton. (0703) 892842.

Nordkapp selected

The Nordkapp sea-expedition kayak became world-famous after becoming the first kayak to be paddled around Cape Horn in 1977. It is now moving even further south to Antarctica. It has been selected by the Joint Services Expedition to Brabant Island where it will be used for general exploration, equipment delivery and scientific work.

The Nordkapp will provide the expedition with a first-rate sea-boat, and a special adaptation by Valley Canoe, allows them to be linked, forming a

Thermal Paddle Mitts

Splashsport are pleased to announce that their Thermal Paddle Mitts have been selected for use by the Joint Services Expedition to Brabant Island, Antarctica.

The kayaking phase of the expedition began in December, and plans to circumnavigate Brabant Island, involving the most southerly canoeing yet undertaken.

In trials using the Paddle Mitts in Scotland they were found to be very effective, and their insulating properties are sure to be a boon in the icy waters of the Southern Ocean.



Palm Glassfibre Mouldings Ltd., are on the move. From March onwards they will be based at Harbour Road, Portishead, Bristol. Their new telephone number will be Bristol (0272) 842740.

catamaran, so that a stable platform can be made for platon trawling and other purposes.

The photograph shows Nordkapps, with their special deck attachments for conversion to catamaran, out on a training trip before leaving for the Antarctic.

Photo: Tim Hall (JSE Brabant Island)



Multiclip Universal Fastener

Multi-Clip is a unique fastener, which will secure objects of almost any shape or size. The limitless range of applications, apart from canoeing, include motoring, DIY, camping, caravanning, gardening and general household.

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From Field and Trek Ltd. The 'Rolls Royce' of sleeping bags. They weigh in at 13ozs or 20ozs and are filled with hungarian goose down to give a better warmth to weight ratio and allow packing to a smaller volume. The slant wall baffle design allows maximum loft of the down and prevents the filling from "migrating". The box foot, mummy shape and generous length add to its efficiency and comfort. Further details and prices from: Field & Trek (Equipment) Ltd, at Brentwood. (0277) 233122.

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The Granta Kaye! Sea Rover is the first of a new range of kayaks designed for sea touring in 4.6m and 5.25m lengths. The deep 'V' section ensures good directional characteristics. Fine water lines offer ease of forward movement and speed whilst the well splayed sides from narrow chines add to lateral stability and reduce roll.

Each Granta Kaye! kit is complete with all materials required for construction, using only the conventional types of tools that an average handy man would have around the house. A very comprehensive set of building instructions take a novice from a kit of plywood parts to the finished craft of which he or she can be justly proud and which will last several generations of users with only common sense maintenance and care. Only the varnish or paint is omitted from Kaye! kits, as this is very much the personal choice of the owner.

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OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW

By RON EMES Director of the British Canoe Union



Just four issues of *Canoe Focus* each year, with severe limitations on the space provided for an editorial writer wishing to indulge his modest literary talents, provides a most effective discipline, and certainly discourages even the mildest verbosity. This enforced brevity, which is always a difficult burden to bear, becomes particularly inhibiting when producing the Spring publication of *Canoe Focus*. For it is the Spring issue wherein the pundits comment on the year past, and the year to come. An opportunity for reviewing the state of the Union and for speculating what might have been and what might be, an occasion for objective analysis, subjective judgements, diagnosis, prognostications, excuses, and just plain wishful thinking. No matter, whilst the Spring issue is the time for all of these things, pragmatism, as ever, is the watchword, and the Editorial must be restricted to essentials. There is no space, I regret, for prosaic reminiscing. The year past, readers will observe, has been dealt with, if somewhat summarily and in suitably formalised terms, in the "Annual Report of the Council of Management for 1984", which is enclosed with this issue of *Canoe Focus* for your edification, and despite the frustrations, for there were so many exciting and interesting occurrences in 1984 deserving special attention, this will have to do.

The year to come, on the other hand, has not yet been subjected to scrutiny, other than in the most general terms within the pages of the Union's 10-year Development Plan, and whilst not aspiring to the clairvoyant status of 'Old Moore', there are certain portentous developments that will occur in the world of canoeing and canoes during 1985, regarding which I am prepared to pontificate with confidence, and which I consider to be of more than usual interest and importance to all.

Top of the list must be the turning of the first sod at the Holme Pierrepont National Sports Centre, and a start on the construction of the new £3 million Slalom Course and National Canoeing Centre. Perhaps the most exciting and imaginative water sports facility development ever to be undertaken in Britain, and possibly the World. Of particular interest for touring and recreationalists, are the negotiations presently being conducted with the British

Waterways Board, for a block licence, that will enable all members of the Union to navigate the 2000 miles or so of canals and rivers within the Board's jurisdiction, and hopefully this facility will be available by mid 1985. Our World Champions will this year be defending their titles, Richard Fox, Mens Slalom K1, Liz Sharman, Womens Slalom K1, the Mens Slalom K1 Team Champions, and Alan Williams and Steve Jackson, the K2 10,000 metres event.

1985 will, at last, be the year that the new "Guide to the Waterways of England and Wales" will be published, thus replacing the original guide, written almost 50 years ago. The National Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, will become the first museum in Britain to display a collection of modern historic canoes, including the original Baltic "Rob Roy", and several other canoes of contemporary historic interest.

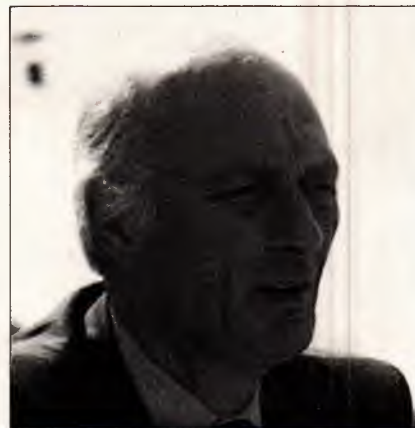
In November, the National Coaching Committee will appoint a new Assistant Director of Coaching for competition, the first addition to the Union's professional coaching staff since 1961, and certainly one of the most important coaching developments since the Coaching Scheme began in the late 50's.

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, will be the unprecedented appeal to be launched in 1985, for £200,000.00 towards the cost of building the National Canoeing Centre and Slalom Course. A daunting task for any voluntary governing body of sport, even one with a record for the enthusiastic optimism demonstrated by the Union in the past.

These projects are of course, merely the most glamorous of the enterprises that will be successfully undertaken by the Union during 1985. Just as important to many members, will be the hundreds of slaloms, regattas, races, tours, courses, and other goings on, that will be organised throughout the year, and enjoyed by canoeists all over Britain. These events are what canoeing is really all about, and it is the continued ability of the Union to encourage mass participation in these activities that will be the true measure of the Union's achievements in 1985.

The misuse of drugs in sport – a positive response

The British Canoe Union have always actively subscribed to the philosophy, generally acceptable to the majority of the British and International sports establishment, that because drugs may encourage unfair advantage in sport, and are a threat to the physical and mental health of athletes, their use in any form should be strictly prohibited. As a positive demonstration of their commitment to the eradication of drug abuse, the Union undertook two important measures during 1984. The first, provided for the participation of their four major competitive disciplines, Racing, Marathon Racing, Slalom and Wild Water Racing, in the Sports Council's Pilot Independent Sampling



Officers Scheme. The second, which sought to encourage the application of stricter standards of drug control at International level, involved the submission to the 1984 Congress of the International Canoe Federation of a motion, declaring –

"That in accordance with the policy of the International Olympic Committee to eradicate the misuse of drugs in sport the International Canoe Federation should positively demonstrate its total commitment to their fundamental ideals and principles – that 'doping is incompatible with the standards of sports ethics' – and shall initiate a system of random visits to member nations of the Federation, for the purposes of conducting drugs tests on athletes in training or at competitions."

Both these measures were successfully undertaken by the Union, random drug tests were conducted at a number of events by the Sports Council's Independent Sampling Officers, without any positive results being recorded, and delegates to the Congress of the International Canoe Federation unanimously approved the motion submitted for their consideration by the Union. As further confirmation of their determination to deter their members from using drugs as a means of improving their performance, the Council of Management agreed at their last meeting, to the following new rule –

"A competitor found to have a doping substance or/and a metabolite of a doping substance present in his urine when participating at a British Canoe Union event or activity, shall be disqualified from that event or activity, and the circumstances reported to the British Canoe Union Council of Management, and shall remain ineligible for participation in all British Canoe Union events and activities until re-instated."

Additionally, any person assisting or inciting others to use doping substances shall be considered to have committed a breach of these Rules, and will be subjected to disciplinary action."

The penalties of contravention of the foregoing Rules, shall be determined from time to time by the British Canoe Union Council of Management, and will include, in the absence of mitigating circumstances, the imposition of a mandatory maximum suspension for life from participation in British Canoe Union events and activities."

The uncompromising attitude of the Union towards the misuse of drugs in Sport could hardly be more graphically emphasised.



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BOOKS

GETTING ABOUT IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Anthony Greenbank - Penguin Books Limited, 145 cms x 225 cms. 189 pages £5.95 Hardback.

This book is claimed by the publishers to present a definitive guide to outdoor activities and adventure sports which can be enjoyed by beginners and experts alike.

Anthony Greenbank is a former Outward Bound Instructor who has written many books for young people on camping, survival and climbing, and who devotes much of his own time to climbing and mountaineering. His practical experience and enthusiasm cover all aspects of outdoor adventure. The contents of the book include rope obstacle courses, cross country walking, skiing and cycling, hill walking, scrambling and gorge walking, bivouacking, camping and snowholing, fell running and orienteering, lake and river rafting, flat and white water canoeing, rock and ice climbing, caving and potholing, hang-gliding, small boat sailing and board sailing.

The book, although well written and presented attempts the near impossible in terms of the diversity of subjects covered and the amount of information which can necessarily be included on

each topic. However as a broad guide to the various activities and the constant need for safety education in each, Tony has however achieved his aim. The appendices include a very useful list of established centres and their addresses, which will prove invaluable for the would-be adventurer. A comprehensive list of addresses of respective governing bodies of the various activities, will also prove of great use to the novice and expert alike.

In each section, information is given on how the complete beginner can embark on the sport, with the emphasis on safety, the need for the right training and equipment and the way to build up confidence by acquiring the correct skills. Throughout the book the author attempts quite successfully, to communicate the special excitement of outdoor pursuits, the spice of danger, the thrill of achievement that comes from mastering difficulties, the wonderful sensation of swinging on ropes through high trees or windsurfing on whitecapped waves driven by strong winds.

The book has a foreword by Chris Bonnington, who outlines the present opportunities for open air adventure, and the long overdue need for such a book.

For those wishing to gain an insight into these various activities, this book will serve as a valued addition to the bookshelf.



ANGMAGSSALIK ROUND BRITAIN

by J Clarke from the log by Geoffrey Hunter £3.50 inc p&rp from BCU Supplies

What had seemed 'a good idea at the time' lost its appeal within the first few miles of Geoffrey Hunter's solo attempt to circumnavigate mainland Britain. Paddling a wooden Angmagssalik kayak which he called 'Nimrod' Geoff set out from Maidstone Canoe Club on 3 May 1970. A journey intended to take three months, in fact finished on 7 November - in 'Nimrod II'!

This is the true story of one man's battle against the scepticism of friends and workmates, lack of funds, fear of the unknown, boredom, and often inadequate shelter and provisions. Within a week 'Nimrod' was abandoned on Maplin Sands, to be recovered the next day when the returning tide brought it ashore. The epic occurrence of the whole voyage however, was the complete loss of the kayak off the Solway Firth, involving an overnight 'sleep' on a buoy, and a two-mile swim to the shore the following day.

Much has changed since Geoffrey Hunter set out, not totally confident of his personal ability, and not equipped with pump and the other fittings which today are taken for granted. I suspect, for instance, that he would find a different attitude now from the staff of the activity centres he stayed at, who he felt at that time were critical of his solo endeavour.

Coastguard Officers, with few exceptions, gave him encouragement and practical support. Almost totally dependent upon the hospitality of those he met on the way, at times he encountered great generosity, and established lasting friendships. On other occasions Geoff was ignored or left to fend for himself when at a very low ebb. At one time he had to take two weeks out to work at Billy Butlins in order to raise a few pounds to meet his immediate needs.

The book is a very readable true adventure story, and gives a fascinating insight into the philosophy and doggedness of one of canoeing's unassuming characters.

The Angmagssalik, by the way, is still obtainable in kit form, or ready-made, in wood, from Granta Boats Ltd.



Geoff Hunter chatting with Sir Alec Rose at HMS Vernon, Portsmouth.

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- ☆ After long experience of the high performance, facilities and safety of the SEA TIGER I could recommend no other sea kayak. H.H. - (Mid-Glam. Local Coaching Organiser)
- ☆ The performance, facilities and layout ensure the SEA TIGER will be a market leader sooner or later. P.L. - (Argyll)



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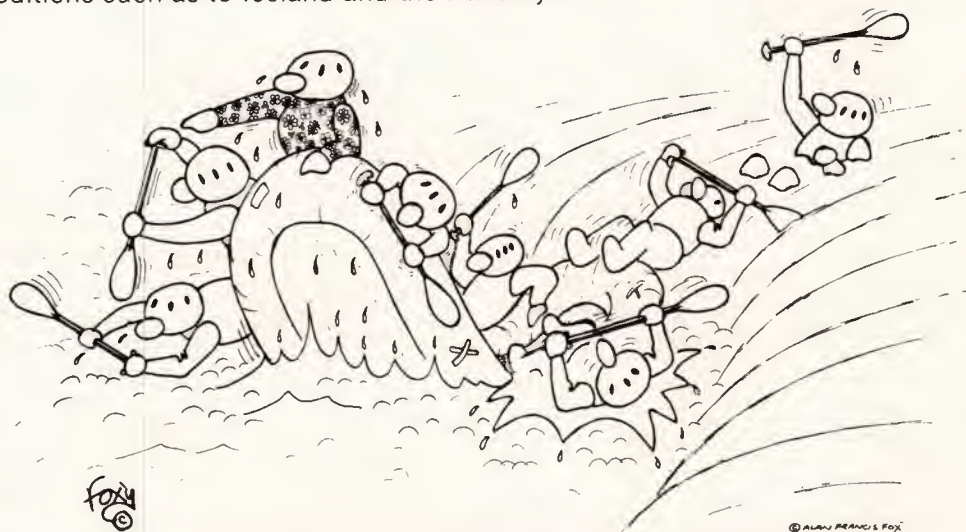
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Dear Focus...

MEMBERS ONLY POLO

Dear Focus,

I am writing to you in protest of unfair membership fees for playing Canoe Polo. Why should a person who is wanting to play League Canoe Polo have to pay full BCU membership of £13.50 just to play three polo matches. I must also point out that he/she is also paying for boat insurance in this fee which is not required.

I have been trying my best to help organise the Northern div. polo and I am repeatedly getting complaints about this unfair system. It is my view and that of many others that there should be a rethink on this membership fee.

Marjorie Hartley, Brighouse.

Gerry Bannister, BCU Canoe Polo Chairman comments:

Our sport of canoeing is run by the BCU members, who make the rules through the established constitutional process. Polo is treated the same as all disciplines, but polo competitors enjoy more water time than some. With the Polo Committee's 1985 priority to increase local competition members can expect increasing water time and experience. This will increase standards, improve the level of the national league and give ever better value for subscriptions.

Polo like all canoeing does not just happen. It needs its voluntary officers and officials to run the sport, all of whom have to be well trained and assessed. It needs the governing body structure provided by the BCU within which to operate. It needs the league structure provided by the Polo Committee. These are some of the vital, behind the scenes benefits financed by subscriptions.

Few BCU members choose to make use of all benefits, but membership-wide benefits are needed to keep costs down. This applies to insurance including third party insurance which is essential to polo players who wish to use swimming pools. Canoeing is much cheaper than most sports and members enjoy hours of work by officials for nothing. Instead of saying we pay too much lets concentrate on providing more sport for our subscriptions.

ALSO REMARKABLE CLYDE

Dear Focus

I must take you to task about a remark by Houndog in Canoe Focus No.37, under the heading 'Remarkable Royal'. You state that 'None (of the pre-1900 clubs) survived the first world war but Royal'. Way off the scent Houndog!

Clyde Canoe Club was founded in 1873, its first boathouse was at Rosenath on the north shore of the Firth of Clyde and it was one of the four founder clubs of the British Canoe Union in 1936. Only three years later it was one of the four founder clubs of the Scottish Canoe Association.

After the second world war the Clyde Canoe Club concentrated more on sailing and although no longer affiliated to the Scottish

Canoe Association they will have a number of active canoeists in their membership. Clyde also have in their boathouse, now on Loch Lomond, a number of interesting old wooden paddling and sailing canoes. In its early years members of the Clyde undertook a number of adventurous trips to the Western Isles.

Duncan R. Winning, Largs.

Houndog is grateful to be corrected by SCA member, Duncan Winning, but claims that he was only put on the scent of clubs currently affiliated. Long standing members will be very interested to see that Duncan is still involved in our sport. Has Houndog overlooked any other clubs?

RAPID PROMOTION

Dear Focus,

May I bring your attention to an outstanding achievement in Slalom? Paula Reid, a leading member of the Nomad Kayak Club has, in one season, paddled her way up from the Novice Division to Div' one.

I have spoken to many people in the Slalom fraternity and no one can recall this ever having been achieved in the ladies ranks before. Our current World and British Champion, Richard Fox did this, I am informed by Dad Roger. I am also informed that there is an award to the under 18 gent (Sexism?) that achieves this each season.

How about some sort of recognition for Paula's lightning promotion and hard work? As Press Officer of our Club I made sure that the local paper carried the news, but I do not feel that this is enough. How about it? Do any of Canoe Focus' readers have comments or suggestions?

Anne Barrie, Nomad KC, Watford.

National Development Officer comments: Congratulations to Paula Reid and thank you Anne for telling us about her. Members of the BCU Slalom Committee will see your letter and may decide to follow up your suggestion for recognition for ladies comparable to the Nomad Youth Award for K1 men under 18. Any member interested in details of this award should send sae to the BCU Slalom Secretary.

It is hoped that all clubs will appoint press officers who will feed information to Focus as well as to the media. Focus is eager to receive articles, preferably with photographs, which our paddling members will enjoy reading. We intend to improve the system within the BCU for gathering and publicising canoeing news and information, but we shall always rely heavily on those who know to pass it on to us themselves rather than assume that someone else will do so. So often that someone else does not yet exist!

'GRAND PRIX' SLALOMS

Dear Focus,

In the Winter 1984 Edition number 37 you carried a letter from a reader in Somerset on Grand Prix Slalom.

The idea of Grand Prix is not to replace

slalom as it stands at present but to run in line with it. The idea is also not to hit the poles (as this slows you down) but to pass through each gate. The main reason for no penalties is to eliminate so many judges and also to simplify the rules.

May I end by pointing out that at the Grand Prix held at the Fosters International in October 1984 to my knowledge not one of the first three men hit a pole, so its not a pole bashing sprint.

John Gosling

Grand Prix Organiser,
Fosters International.

Dear Focus . . .

Canoe Focus encourages letters to the editor but reserves the right to edit and condense to fill the space available. All letters will be treated as having been submitted for publication and must include a name and address for verification. Please send all correspondence to: "Letters", Canoe Focus, British Canoe Union, 45-47 High Street, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey. KT15 1JV

BOAT INSURANCE Changes to Excess

Due to the high level of claims against the boat insurance scheme for incidents on white water it has been necessary to increase the excess on waters Grade 2 or above from £25.00 to £50.00.

The excess on grade 1 water remains at £25.00.

John Drew Memorial Trust Fund

The Trustees of the Fund will be announcing their proposals for disbursements from the fund early in the New Year.

They would like to thank all those people who have given so generously to date, and add that more funds are still urgently needed.

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Rapido or Snipe	119.00
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Roto Bat	129.00
Roto Bat Whitewater Spec	169.00
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PE Surf	115.00
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Perception Dancer	212.00
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Perception Mirage	224.00
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Coleman 15'	360.00
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Focus Classified

Trade advertisements at 15p per word (minimum £3.00) must be pre-paid, ads of a personal nature will be published free on submission of membership number.

WANTED

CANADIAN CEDARWOOD CANOE wanted must be perfect. Edwards 101 High Street, Stevenage. Tel: 0438 312751 (Office).

K1, required for 1985 D-W, for Finnish lady competitor to borrow or hire for the Easter week. If you feel you may be able to help please contact Carole Potter on Cardiff (0222) 624580.

FOR SALE

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BEACH SAFETY CODE 26p Expedition First Aid 90p (2nd Edition) Canoeing Abroad this Year 85p All prices include p & p B. Sheen, 92 Par Green, Par, Cornwall.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Canoe Insurance - Send sae for details to Joan Baker, JB Insurances 17/30 High Street, Waterbeach, Cambridge.

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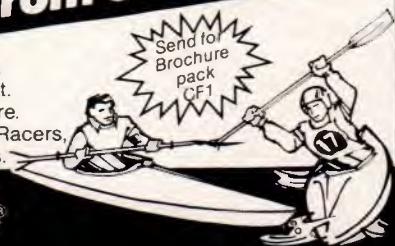
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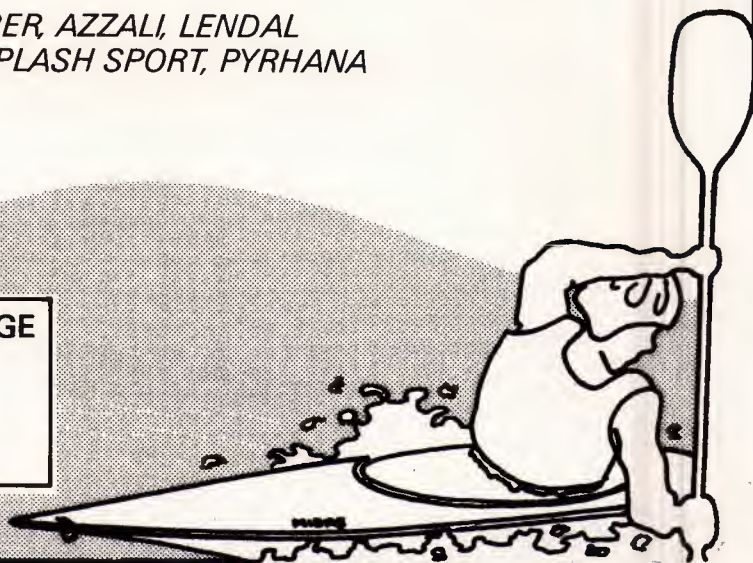
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