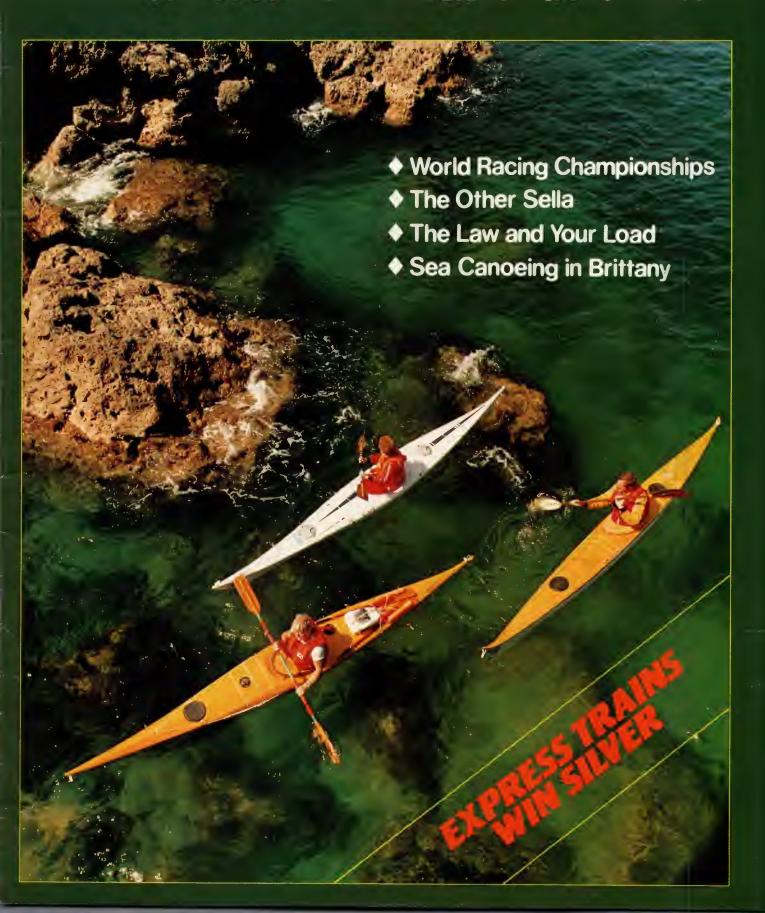
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FRONT COVER: Birds eye view of Derek Hutchinson with Dave Patrick and his wife, at South Shields. Photograph by Ron Jones of Derby

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The Trains holding off Russia and Yugoslavia

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RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MECHELEN-BELGIUM SUNDAY 18th AUGUST 1985



Andrew and Stephen Train — winners of the first ever British medal in Canadian Racing.



The Trains holding off Russia and Yugoslavia, the eventual winners, at the 6,000m mark.



With little interest for Britain on the Saturday, the British supporters looked forward to the Sunday with more hope. It was to be a day which demonstrated some of the best in British Sprint Canoeing and some of its greatest follies.

For myself, as the canoe coach, I looked forward to a day which could give us something to cheer about. Our best chances of success seemed to be in the late afternoon with the 10,000 metre events but the morning got off to a tremendous start when Eric Jamieson (Wey), in a very close race qualified for the 500m. C1 final. Shortly afterwards Andy Sherriff (Wey) and Jeremy West (Royal) qualified for the 500m. K2 final.

The morning cheer disappeared at noon where we were to witness one of the greatest follies of British Sprint Racing. Around the regular course, committee members responsible for the tragedy looked on as the 10,000m. K4 started without a British crew. Britain, with probably the greatest depth of

10,000m. kayak paddlers in the world and with a superb record since 1981 failed to field a crew — not because of lack of paddlers but because of the failure of the British Racing Committee to meet the objectives of its own constitution.

I have watched and been included with British teams since the late seventies. I watched with immense pride in 1981, when, stroked by Alan Williams, the K4 gained Britain's first ever medal. In 1982 and 1983 I saw courageous performances from British crews. Then in 1985 I watched in shame a race without a British crew — words cannot describe my anger at the failure of the Racing Committee. Its purpose is to serve the paddlers at all levels and it is an outrage that with padders available and the amount of public money put into the O.T.S. for crew training that they failed to turn out a crew. What a tragedy — what a disgrace.

As the afternoon started the paddlers began to rescue British Sprint Racing.

Despite the committee, a few had survived to race. First was the 500m. final, and in the C1 Eric Jamieson put on a good performance in finishing 9th, and the K2 of West and Sherriff finished 8th.

Just after 4 o'clock the 10,000 metre races started. First away in the C2 were Stephen and Andrew Train (Fladbury) followed by Eric in the C1 in his first C1, 10,000 metres at a World Championships, Stephen and Andrew their fourth — 7th at Nottingham 1981, 5th at Belgrade 1982, 5th at Tampere 1983. This time could they move up into the medals. 1985 was a vintage year for canoe racing — eighteen countries had entries and all the great names were present on the starting line.

After a false start the race was under way. Stephen and Andrew were drawn between the Polish and Yugoslavian crew on one side of the course with all the other major contenders on the other. The Poles sprinted towards the main group together with the Yugoslavs with the British crew staying in the

untroubled water down the centre of the course. At 500 metres Stephen and Andrew were behind but started to pull back towards the main group by 1,000 metres. The first turn was by the finishing tower and in full view of the British supporters, with chants of support. Stephen and Andrew came out of the turn in second place with the Russians in the lead. The Russians burned away from the turn followed by the British crew and as the Russians slowed down. Stephen and Andrew moved into the lead. From there on until the top turn the British crew led. At the turn the Russians put in a challenge but again as the crews left the turn, Stephen and Andrew went into the lead and held it for another lap. With 2,000 metres to go, four crews were in contention - Britain, Yugoslavia, Russia and Bulgaria. Shortly afterwards the Russians were dropped and the Yugoslavs took up the lead. Into the last 250 metres, the British crew were closing and holding off the challenge from the Bulgarians and that is how it ended with a silver medal for the Train brothers. For two paddlers a dream had come true and the congratulations started. There to welcome them was John Dudderidge, President of Honour of the BCU, Alan Williams and Steve Jackson with their wives, the Hungarian coaches who over many years had helped so much and Doug Parnham and Alan Edwards — great and respected names in the sport, all helping to make this a truly memorable day.

Out on the course Eric Jamieson had put up a remarkable race in the C1. After the 500 metre final he had hardly felt like starting in the 10,000 metres but out on the course his competitive spirit shone through. With 2,000 metres he had gained 3rd position and we were all hoping for a bronze but his abundant energy started to run out. He finished 9th but it was a truly magnificent effort from a great competitor.

The excitement was still there and we

looked forward to the K1 and K2 10,000 metres. In the K2, Paul Wells (Richmond) and Robin Ayres (Royal) after problems in the opening stages fought back to finish 7th. In the K1 Grayson Bourne, the committee nominee for the event, sadly retired, whilst Kevin Smith, Gold Medallist in Denmark three weeks earlier and the coaches choice, sat at home eating his Sunday tea in silent protest. Witnessing this performance, Britain's greatest ever paddler — Alan Williams sat on a bank watching in protest at the committee decision.

Williams, Smith and Bourne, all victims of committee politics.

Sunday, 19th August 1985 — a triumph for British Canoe paddling, a tragedy for some of its greatest paddlers and for the "committee selectors" — the most disgraceful performance ever!

David Train, Senior Canoe Coach (Racing)

1st World Junior Championships

Lake Albano, nesting in a picturesque wooded extinct volcano, below the village of Castel Gandolfo, about 25 miles from Rome, was the venue for the First Junior World Racing Championships from 25th-28th July.

With the sun beating down, and a very slight drift of air behind the competitors, the first race (Boys 500m K1 heat 1) was won by Reineck of West Germany in a fast time of 1m 46.85 secs. He went on to win the bronze medal in the final.

The end of the first morning's racing, comprising most of the 500m heats, saw all of the British crews comfortably straight into the semi finals apart from the boys K4 which qualified through the repecharge in the event.

The second day was the 1000m and girls K4 500m heats. The only British qualifier direct to the semi final was the K1 paddler, David Martyn (Wey), who cruised comfortably into third place in his heat. The K2 crew of Nick Fay (Worcester) and Rex Littlewood (Nottingham) easily qualified through the repecharge, as did the Girls K4 crew of Angela Dawson (Mercia) and Joanne Turvey (Royal).

The boys 1000m K4 crew of Stephen Rust (Leighton Buzzard), Gary Quittenton (Lincoln), Mark Adams (Army CC) and Paul Crawford (Gailey) was disappointly eliminated in the repecharge — the only crew not to make the semi finals in both distances.

The third day began well for Great Britain with Dave Martyn coming second in his 500m semi final in a time of 1m 50.21 secs. The fastest qualifier was Gutsche (East Germany) in 1m. 47.81 secs.

Suzy Perrett (Reading and Leighton Park) was the second Briton of the morning to race and she easily qualified for the final, in the fastest semi final by coming second in a time of 2m 0.87 secs.

One hour and fifty minutes later, with the temperature in the thirties Celcius, Suzy Perrett was racing again. She and Angela Dawson in the girls 500m K2 comfortably qualified for the final by coming second, only 3 seconds slower than the fastest qualifiers. Both the boys K2 and K4 were eliminated in the semi-finals.

The races on Sunday morning were brought forward an hour to start at 8 am so

that racing could be finished in time for all those connected with the championships to visit the Pope at his summer residence, in the Castle overlooking the regatta course.

Dave Martyn was in the first race of the day where he went on to make the 1000m final, where he finished eighth in a time of 3m 56.08 seconds. In spite of an awkward cross wind Gutsche (East Germany) won in a time of 3m 44.78 secs. The previous afternoon he had also won the 500m K1 in a remarkably fast time of 1m 43.94 secs. Dave Martyn was ninth, only six seconds slower, and only four seconds behind the bronze medallist.

Britains best results came from the girls. Suzy Perrett came fifth in the girls 500m K1 in a time of 2m 6.76 secs, less than two seconds behind the bronze medallist. One and a half hours later Suzy and Angela Dawson came sixth in the K2 in a time of 1m 52.07 secs, three seconds behind the bronze medallists.

The regatta ran on time apart from the first morning and the second part of the second morning. The very first race of the championships, scheduled for 9 am, started eleven minutes late and then had to be re-started after a false start. This delayed the whole morning's programme. On the second day there was a 25 minute delay while the starting personnel were transported from the 1000m start for the only 500m races of the morning — two heats of the girls K4. Apart from the organisational delays the only others were caused by the occasional false start, two of these by the Cuban crew in the boys 500m K2 final resulting in their disqualification.

Also, the rules were strictly enforced when the Austrian girl in the K1 event failed to turn up at the start. She was disqualified from the rest of the championships, thus eliminating the entire Austrian girls K4 crew, of which she was a member.

In the singles events East Germany wiped the board. Torsten Gutsche won both the boys 500m and 1000m K1, as did Mario Warthemann in the 500m and 1000m C1. Ramona Portwich, as well as winning the girls K1, was also in the winning K2 and K4 crews.

All the gold medals went to East Germany and the Soviet Union. In fact, of the 39 medals won in the thirteen events, 35 were

shared between East Germany, Soviet Union, Hungary and Romania. Bulgaria won a bronze in the C1 and the only three non-communist countries to win medals were West Germany — K1, 500m bronze, France — K1 1000m bronze, and the Australian crew of David Pommeroy and Ian Rowling who won the bronze medal in the K2 1000m.

Thirtyone countries entered the Junior World Championships. Of the 117 places in the finals, seven nations from the Eastern Block occupied 71 of these places. The remaining 46 were taken by twelve nations, leaving another twelve countries not represented in any of the finals.

On a points basis Great Britain's three finalists earned 12 points, sharing eleventh place with France. East Germany with 114, scored the most points.

In past Open Junior European Championships, as these competitions were previously know, Lesley Oliver, Barbara Mean and Jeremy West won medals. Although no Britons won medals this time the overall results rank very favourably with past performances.

After the last race of the championships the President of the International Canoe Federation, Sergio Orsi, presented the flag to the Yugoslavian representative for the next Junior World Championships in Belgrade in 1987.







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1985 NATIONAL SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS

KEVIN Smith was the man of the moment at the Senior Nationals at Nottingham in July, winning five of the six titles in Mens A, with only Jeremy West depriving him of a clean sweep by taking the K1 500m title.

Honours were more evenly divided in Mens B but the same names featured in Mens C with the Olivers from Lincoln taking three titles there plus a couple more in Mens Veteran A.

In Womens A Susie Perrett took three 500m golds with Anne Plant capturing the 1,000m and 6km honours, and Sandra Troop took the lion's share in Womens B with five wins from five events.

Apart from Laurence Oliver, the paddler to shine in Veteran A and B was Plymouth's Mike Thomasson, taking four titles, and in the Canadian races the honours were split between the Train brothers and Eric Jamieson.

PADDLING CHALLENGE CUP

GRAYSON Bourne of Royal Canoe Club was the winner of this year's Paddling Challenge Cup, the oldest canoe race in the country, held on the river Thames at Teddington on Friday 2 August.

Forty-six paddlers entered the 111-year-old event and Bourne finished just one second ahead of Alan Williams over the 10,000m course to take the trophy.

Results: 1 G Bourne (Royal) 40 minutes 36 seconds; 2 A Williams (Royal) 40.37; 3 I Lawler (Elmbridge) 41.02.

UK CHAMPIONSHIPS - 'CANOE WEEK'

A week interrupted frequently by gales caused substantial rescheduling of the gruelling nine race programme for the International, Canoe UK Championships at Hayling Island. Flexible race management resulted in all but one of the planned races being run on a mixture of courses, olympic and 'around the buoys' inside Chichester Harbour depending upon the depth of available water.

As has been the situation all year in the IC class, racing was exceptionally close among the record sized fleet, of 30 competitors, all of the first three boats in the overall results, counted positions below tenth in their points totals after discard, and there were five different race winners in the series.

At the start of the final race any one of six boats were in with a chance of taking the title. As it turned out, Robin Wood of Llandegfed found the lightest conditions of the week to his liking and was never headed after the first beat. The overall points leader prior to the final race was Roger Nelson of the home club but sadly for him he narrowly failed to secure the third place which would have given him the championships. Ian Perry of Great Yarmouth, known for his prowess in heavy conditions, took third overall, managing to shade Patrick Marshall, the top British helm at the last Worlds, by 1 point.

In addition to the De Quincey Championship series two of the longer races qualify their winners to compete for the most ancient trophy in small craft sailing, the 'Sailing Challenge Cup' which dates back to the 1870's.

The sail-off promised to be a classic international encounter between lan Perry of Great Britain and Ray Casey of West Germany, but lan managed to sail clear on the first beat and covered Ray with great care throughout the remainder of their match race.

As far as canoes were concerned there was little to choose speedwise between the all wood hulls made by Tony Miles, the glass/ wood composites from Intercance or the carbon/Kevlars of Pyranha; Miles claimed 1st 4th and 6th, Intercanoe 2nd and 5th and Pyranha with only two entries in 7th. With the exception of Nelson and possibly Wood who both showed some significant speed advantage on the occasions when the wind dropped below 15 knots, all of the top ten or fifteen boats were very evenly matched. Rig-wise the top boats were using either Batt or Aitken and Wane sails on Proctor D or Sovereign masts.

Race Winners

1; Ian Perry (City of Plymouth Trophy)

2; Roger Nelson

3; Ray Casey (Genetta Trophy)

4; Jens Reichart

5; Robin Wood (Murphy Howard Trophy)

6; Roger Nelson (Ken Davis Memorial Trophy)

Sailing Challenge Cup lan Perry Novices Trophy - Tom Collie

1st. R. Wood, Sapele Pride, Llandegfed SC 18 3/4 pts.

2nd. R. Nelson, un-named, Hayling Island SC 19 1/2 pts.

3rd. I. Perry, Faith, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston SC 22 3/4 pts

4th. P. Marshall, Active, Hayling Island SC 24

5th. Jens Reichart, Power, DKV (West Germany) 29 3/4 pts.

6th. P. Fothergill, un-named, Hayling Island 31 pts.

CANOE POLO CONTINENTAL CUP, **AMSTERDAM**

August Bank Holiday saw Amsterdam staging the biggest of this years continental Polo events. Eight English teams and one from Wales played, in the unusual delights of warm sunshine, on the two outdoor pitches.

The Dutch game, played to different rules and involving striking the ball with the paddle into the floating goals, is now known to various British teams, and most had been training hard.

Saturday morning saw the three different classes playing in preliminary rounds, and Sunday, playing for final positions. British teams ending up in each division in each class meant that there was always the British supporters cheering for somebody, usually louder than all the other countries put together, and by Sunday afternoon many loud voices were in evidence as well as some very tired paddlers.

Other than the odd shower of rain and losing the odd game, everybody was glad to be there and working out how to get back for next year. This surely is what Polo is all about.

Senior Results

1. LKV Rignland NL 2. Bereforest GB

1. Rotterdamse CC NL 2. Hamburg D

1. Great Britain B GB 2. Great Britain A GB

NATIONAL MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS, WORCESTER

This event reverted to its original time over the August Bank Holiday weekend, but along with a different course, this failed to increase the number of competitors over previous vears.

Our miserable British summer prior to the event ensured that the River Severn was running about 15" above normal summer level. This made for some interesting conditions at Bevere Weir, which accounted for about twenty capsizes during Saturday's racing. Higher water still on Sunday actually made the weir shoot a bit easier, which allied to Saturday's experiences meant that there were far fewer swimmers.

The Senior Mens events were held over a 12 mile course, with two portages at Bevere, using the long portage around the weir and two shoots. In the Mens K1 on Saturday Robin Belcher was in the lead after the first circuit, but dropped to third place following interference below the weir. The event was won by Alan Williams from Royal Canoe Club. The Ladies K1 was run on a 9 mile course, with one weir portage and shoot confirmed on the start line after some complaints from the competitors at the briefing! Anne Plant was well out in front as is usual at present, but Christine Belcher lost a place by capsizing at the weir, and retiring with a damaged boat. The places were closely contested with only 2 seconds separating Heather Brough and Gaye Clough.

Sunday's event took place in blustery showers, over the same course, with the river having risen about six inches from the previous day and then rising again during the afternoon events. The Mens K2 was won by P. Wells/A. Croucher twenty seconds clear of the second crew. The Ladies K2 event went off without any mishaps on the way, with a spread of 5 minutes between first and third placed crews.

The club trophy was won by Royal Canoe Club, who also collected a handsome Panther K1, donated by the Marathon Committee. The event's sponsors, Unique Plastic Mouldings, donated several pairs of racing paddles which went to all the individual winners of the senior and junior classes.

Mens K1		
1. A. Williams	Royal	1.41.11
2. P. Wells	Richmond	1.41.23
3. R. Belcher	Mercia	1.41.35
Ladies K1		
1. A. Plant	Lichfield	1.16.15
2. H. Brough	R & Leighton Pk	1.18.59
3. G. Clough	Lichfield	1.19.01
Mens K2		
1. P. Wells/		
A. Croucher	Rich/Wey	1.32.0
2. T. Cornish/		
B. Reynders		1.32.20
3. R. Kinch/		
R. Belcher	RLP/Mercia	1.32.23
Ladies K2		
1. A. Plant/		
G. Clough	Lichfield	1.16.12
2. C. Belcher/		
H. Brough	Mercia/RLP	1.18.05
3. A. Gillespie/		
D. Clarke	Worcester/Rich	1.21.16

News and Views

WORLD ROLLING RECORD SLASHED

On 18th July, witnessed by LCO Paul Newman, two world records were smashed in one fell swoop by the YMCA Canoe Club. Mick Wynne reduced the fastest 100 hand rolls record to 2 minutes 55 seconds, while Steve Flint took 8 minutes off the fastest 1000 eskimo rolls record so that it now stands at 44 minutes 7 seconds. The club members spend much of their time upside down at the Larkfield Leisure Centre, where they trained for five months. The canoeists seem to prefer being upside down as they showed on Boxing Day when rolling for charity in the icy waters of the River Medway with an air temperature of -4°C.



Mick Wynne in action



Ron Emes, the Union's Director received in audience by Pope John Paul at the papal summer residence, Castelgandolfo, together with other members of the International Canoe Federation Board of Management—Mondy Engel from Luxembourg, Ulrich Feldhoff from West Germany and Caslav Veljic from Yugoslavia. The Pope, whilst

addressing several hundred young canoeists who were attending the first World Junior Racing Championships in Rome in July, reminded them of his own earlier canoeing experiences and expressed his regret that he was unable to participate in the Championships!

COACHING



... don't forget to practise upside down as well...

TOO ONE-SIDED?

"Now scull for support on the other side" or "now show me your recovery stroke with your eyes closed — keep going, both sides!" Is your confidence still there? Are you equally at home on left and right?

There is a danger, once you have learned a basic skill reasonably well, to perfect it on your "better" side, and increasingly ignore your "off" side. This can continue to the point where you are really a one-sided canoeist, unable to progress to your full potential, because you cannot handle with confidence situations which demand a total ability on your "off" side.

Most instructors nowadays will insist upon rolling being learned to the extent where an equal ability exists on both sides with all rolls. This is an important principle, and should be applied at all times, with all the skills.

The principle should be extended to doing things in reverse. The classic situation here is the reverse ferry glide. Watch an accomplished paddler smoothly traverse a difficult current. Before worshipping his or her prowess, and thinking "will I ever be able to do that?" ask if you might see how it's done

backwards — that is, with the stern pointing upstream.

If the paddler achieves a similar performance — and in both directions — then full credit for accomplishment should be given. Buy you may well be in for a surprise.

The point to all this is that in order to become a complete canoeist, able eventually to cope with any situation of river or sea, you should practice on the side, or in the mode, in which you are least confident, until you have achieved an equal ability. Don't just go on getting better and better on your strong side.

Now if I had heeded this wisdom a few years ago I wouldn't have taken a chance recently in surf, and run right when I could have gone left. The result was a near collision, which was really inexcusable...

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WHETTED APPETITE! by John Hanson

As a family we visited La Cote d'Emeraude for just a few days two years ago, while on a camping holiday in France, complete of course with kayaks. In those days, coastal canoeing was frowned upon by the French Authorities, and canoes were denigrated to the lowly status of beach craft, and not allowed to sea. However, there were many attractive coves, cliffs, rocky estuaries, offshore islands, lighthouses on rocky outcrops, and thoughts started buzzing in our minds, 'we must come here again!' So our family holiday this year saw our 19 year old Volvo 121 Estate loaded with one sea hawk, and two

falls. Gigantic rock outcrops emerge from nowhere which simply weren't there when you passed that way two hours before.

Normally Brittany has the extra benefit of sunny temperature and warm seas, and my wife was quite happy sitting on the beach while the three of us lads went canoeing. This year alas even in Brittany it was hardly beach weather and for four days we had gales so could do nothing, but on the other days we were able to have half a dozen three hour trips and a day surfing.

The trips from St. Cast into Baie de la Frenaye involved a hard return with offshore

ROMINET PLATE ONE STORY OF THE CONTROL OF THE CONTR

Anas Acutas. Involved in our preparation was the need to have a Certificate of Competence provided by the BCU and also a notification that the kayaks would not be sold. There was the usual procedure of obtaining green card insurance, travel insurance and an E111 from the Department of Health and Social Security. A somewhat pleasant surprise was that our ferry company did not mind the kayaks being longer than the car, if they were on the roof, and the total height was less than two metres. We had 7cms to spare! Going by ferry from Weymouth to Cherbourg was a bit quicker than canoeing, and the journey to Pleboule near Matignon was just 150 miles and took about 41 hours. We had on our previous visit found a small farm which had converted farm buildings into gites. There were also camping facilities as well as bed and breakfast accommodation. Evening meals were optional, prices were very modest indeed, and food very french, as was the language!

The Emerald Coast is that stretch from St. Malo to St. Brieuc in the West. I suppose the name comes from the colour of the sea, but it is the coast line itself which is particularly interesting, along with the variations that go with it, in the ebb and flow of the tides. These tides (approximately 5 hours after high water Dover) are among the biggest in Europe, just over 30ft range, so not quite as big as those on the Severn estuary but enough for the french electricity generating authorities to build a massive tidal barrage across the Rance estuary with 24 pods of propellers. This tidal range changes the whole aspect of this granite coast, which is dotted with rocky islands and headlands, creating tidal races and overwind making a very choppy sea off the point. There was the paddle from Erquay to Erquay Point and the Three Pierres. From St. Cast we canoed to Fort La Latte, a most remarkable place, and calm enough for a few photographs. Between Fort La Latte and Cap Frehel, there are no landing places. There was a good swell between Sables d'Or and Ergay point and with the ebbing spring tides the rollers and reef were in a variety of changing

places, as the rock outcrops were exposed in turn.

From St. Lunaire we rounded the two headlands then picked our way through a rocky reef into the sound between St. Briac and Isle Argot. Here there was a very strong current and a confused sea with big waves, the most exciting sea conditions of the entire holiday. We had to paddle vigorously and concentrate hard both ways. The island itself

1985

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is a nature reserve, and no access allowed, needless to say we had to land on the beach! The return journey was fast with wind and sea behind us, and some lovely 'runs'.

After a rainy day, the sun tempted us out on our last day at 5.00pm. We crossed from St. Cast to St. Jacut sur Mer about 2 miles away in a placid calm. We stayed awhile in a remote bay on the Isle de Hebihens. Here we messed about with the kayaks and did a few rolls and bits of drill.

Throughout our stay we never saw another single canoeist on this coast, though there were plenty of wind surfers. Several people showed an interest in the kayaks, and noticed



they were different from the slalom boats! Perhaps with the easing of restrictions, sea canoeing may become popular. Most folk however I am sure, thought we were mad! We did see just one sign of encouragement, a book in a shop entitled "Kayak Sur Mer"... by Derek Hutchinson! The following information will help those following us.

1:50,000 Coastal Navigation Charts sheets 535 and 536 for the French Coast are available from Cartographiques Maritimes Cart Guide 9 Quai d'Artois, 94170 le Perreux-sur-Marne, France. Another useful address is the Federation Francaise de Canoe Kayak, 87 Quai de la Marne, 94340 Joinville, Haute-Marne, France. Don't forget to listen to the British Shipping Forecast for sea area Portland. Squalls were quite frequent with very poor visibility, so remember your compasses and all other gear.

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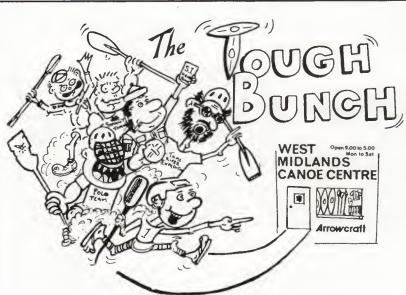
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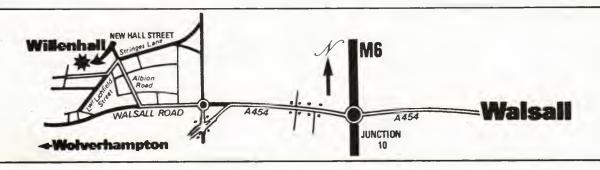
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CITIUS-ALTIUS-FORTIUS

By RON EMES Director of the British Canoe Union

The silver medal won by the Train brothers in the C2 10,000 metres event at the recent World Racing Championships in Belgium, adds to the superbachievements of British Canoeists in the three Senior World Championships held in the canoeing disciplines of Racing, Slalom and Wild Water Racing during 1985. Richard Fox, gold medal, K1 men; Martin Hedges, bronze medal C1 Men; Gail Allan, bronze medal, K1 women; a bronze medal for the K1 womens team, all won at the World Slalom Championships, and a bronze medal for the K1 womens team in the World Wild Water Racing Championships, is very impressive bag of medals for the year, six in all.

These outstanding successes, following on those of the 1984 international season, and the truly remarkable results of 1983, 4 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 3 bronze medals confirm Britain's emergence during the eighties as one of the top three all round canoeing nations, together with France and West Germany. It has not always been so, and the reasons for the dramatic change in Britian's canoeing fortunes are not too difficult to identify.

The first World Racing Championships for example, were held in 1933, and during the intervening 48 years, until 1981 that is, only 1 medal had ever been won, and that in 1959 by the enormously talented young Ron Rhodes, a bronze medal in the K1 1,000 metres. In each World Championships since 1981, Britains has won medals. The first World Slalom Championships were held in 1949, and until 1981, a period of 32 years that is, only four medals were won by British paddlers, Paul Farrant a gold in 1959, Dave Mitchell a silver in 1967, a silver in the 1969 team event and Albert Kerr a gold in 1977, 1979 was the first of the great years for Britain, and no less than 8 gold, 4 silver, and 6 bronze World Championships medals have been won by the slalom team since that time. No-one will deny that world standards of performance have improved enormously during the past 50 years or so, and that in relative terms it is therefore much more difficult to win World Championships medals in 1985 than it was in 1955. No-one will deny the innate advantages possessed by those other nations against whom Britain must compete for world supremecy. In Slalom for example, the training environment available to the alpine countries, West Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, and in racing the total political

and economic commitment of the communist bloc countries to success in Olympic Sport. Those old-timers who dedicated themselves to their sport years ago would not agree that their commitment or will to win was any less than that of their present day successors.

What then is so different? Well unquestionably the most important factor is money. Since the early 70's more than £1 million of government grant has been paid directly towards the costs of preparing international canoeists to compete abroad, and to subsidising their travel to international competitions. Since 1978 almost a £‡ million has been received by international canoeists from the Sports Aid Foundation as a contribution towards their personal training expenses. There are of course many other important considerations, not the least of which are coaching standards, governing body policies, the general health of the sporting base from which potential international athletes will emerge, facilities and equipment, but all will ultimately rely upon the level of financial investment in the sport. To quote a well-known and vastly experienced sports administrator "The speed at which a canoe may be propelled through water is directly proportional to the amount of grant aid available". To reduce some 15 years or so of hard work, dedication and commitment by athletes, coaches and administrators to the most simplistic financial terms therefore, each of the 22 World Championships medals won by British canoeists since 1981, has cost the taxpayer and the Sports Aid Foundation between them approximately £57,000 each, or about £4,000 per year. No-one will ever know how much individuals or organisations have contributed in addition to this amount, but it will certainly be at least twice as much.

Inevitably the question that arises from this analysis must be, 'Is it all worthwhile?' To answer for everyone would be impossible, but obviously the Sports Council thinks so, the British Canoe Union thinks so, and all those who support financially and morally our international athletes think so. After all when a British canoeist stands on the victory podium at a World Championships, the Union Jack flying and the national anthem playing, there are few who would not feel personal pride in their achievement, few who would not share the pleasure of the occasion and want to belong to it all.



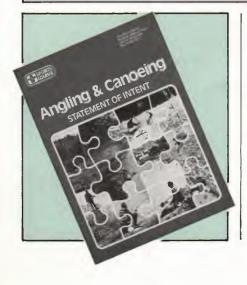
water space available for canoeists. During his term he has experienced resounding success and bitter disappointment. The publication of the "Statement of Intent" in 1983, regarded by all but a tiny minority of canoeists as the most important, progressive and beneficial agreement ever to be negotiated, the launching of the British Waterways Board Licencing Scheme, the consolidation of the work of the Access Committee, and the recent publication of the Sports Council's study, "Rights of Navigation", were particular high spots during his three years of service. On the other hand the complete failure of canoeists and anglers in Yorkshire to resolve their respective problems, and the consequent refusal of the Angling Organisations to implement the "Statement of Intent" has proven most discouraging, and has certainly created a general air of pessimism and despondency regarding the availability of sporting waters to canoeists in the future.

That Roger departs at a a time when there is increasing militism being displayed by anglers and canoeists, when threatening postures, and provocative language have become more common is beyond dispute. Hopefully it will be possible to re-establish harmony and mutual understanding by the application of good sense and wise counsel.

The Union would wish to express their grateful thanks to Roger Irwin for his endeavours on their behalf, for his commitment and untiring enthusiasm for their cause, and, no matter how difficult the circumstances, his cheefful and good humoured determination to obtain the best possible deal for his fellow canoeists.

CONGRATULATIONS

At the International Marathon Cups Event held in Luxembourg last month, John Dudderidge OBE, President of Honour and founder member of the Union almost 50 years ago, was presented with a commemorative plaque by the Chairman of the International Canoe Federation Marathon Racing Committee, for his services to International Marathon Racing. John, who despite his advanced years, is as fit, energetic and enthusiastic as ever, and remains a committed internationalist. He was in Belgium for the World Racing Championships in August, and had the enormous pleasure for someone who was present at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, of watching the Train brothers winning their silver medal in the C2 10,000 metre event. Also spectating on this occasion was Steve Jackson, who as the current K2 10,000 metre World Champion with Alan Wil-liams, saw the Swedish crew of Berger/Edholm win their crown. Steve recently graduated from Sandhurst as the outstanding officer on his course, being awarded the coveted Sword of Honour. Obviously a man of outstanding talent. Hopefully he will be challenging for World Championships medals again next year.



ACCESS — THREE YEARS ON

Roger Irwin, the Union's National Access Officer, has regrettably and reluctantly been obliged to resign his office. It was his expressed intention when first appointed in 1983, not to serve the Union in a professional capacity for more than three or four years. No doubt the disruption of his affairs that was a consequence of commuting from his home on the Isle of Wight, to the Union's Headquarters at Addlestone, and travelling to the four corners of Britain on Access business, has contributed to his decision not to retain his existing office. He continues on a temporary basis, as the Union's Access Consultant, until his replacement is appointed. Roger was of course, the first full-time officer to be employed by the Union, with responsibility for promoting the policies and objectives of the National Access Committee, and seeking to develop the expansion of

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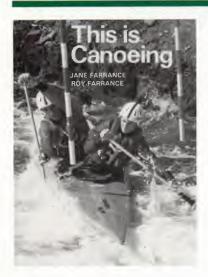
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BOOKS



THIS IS CANOEING

by Jane and Roy Farrance BCU Supplies £8.70 inc p&p Review by Peter Lee

Jane and Roy have many years experience in competing as well as coaching and organising canoeing events. They have held national titles in Sprint, Slalom and Wildwater canoeing and have gained a broad and deep knowledge of our sport to share with us.

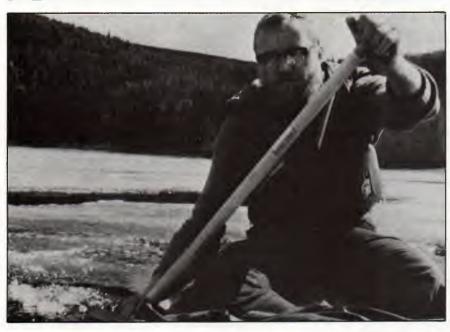
Their aim is to introduce the basics of

Canadian and Kayak paddling and to cover all the Sections from Design, Building and Racing through to Sea Canoeing and Touring in 22 chapters. The largest chapter is on Rapids and River Reading and also white water technique, while the smallest is one page on canoe sailing.

There are over 200 black and white photographs and 42 line illustrations plus 10 very good colour photographs showing the international grading system for white water.

Each skill is dealt with in clear step by step instructions supported with excellent photographs and line drawings. After the explanation of each stroke, some common faults are included, which will be helpful to both beginners and instructors alike. In the whitewater technique section after explaining how to perform a particular manoeuvre, there are some suggestions on how to improve your skills, and, going on to the advanced situations, including how to loop on standing waves and get out of stoppers.

Although this book was written in 1982 with the Australian canoeist in mind, the basic techniques and skills are of course the same — they don't paddle upside down all the time in Australial Jane and Roy have produced a book that will broaden the canoeist's experience with an emphasis on safety. Although some aspects are very brief this book will fill the gaps for both the young and older canoeist alike. A good read for all, deserving a place on all canoeists' bookshelves.



YUKON SOLO

By Karel Dohnal Available from BCU Supplies Reviewed by Geoff Good

Karel Dohnal paddled from the source to the mouth of the famed Yukon River during 1983. His journey of 1,930 miles took 66 days, during which the powerful current bore him along, but he had to contend with strong winds, torrential rain, and wide vagaries of climate.

His very readable record of this journey tells of numerous interesting incidents and encounters along the way.

"Stay there Mr, stay right there! I'll go get my Polaroid camera!" shouted a small eskimo boy as Karel's canoe approached Alakanuk at the end of the voyage. This role-reversal occurrence is a light-hearted comment on the otherwise sickening social decline which he logs of the once proud and self-contained native people of the wilderness area — both Indian and Eskimo.



Guy Baker Reviews

MARSYANDI — The illusive river of Annapurna by Alan Barber BCU Supplies £3.75 inc p&p

The first thing you will probably do when you pick up this book is to flick through and look at all the glossy photographs. There are more than two dozen to choose from, and they are of the highest quality, as one would expect with Sid Perou amongst the four-strong camera crew.

Taking place in 1980, the expedition consisted of 25 members, of which 17 were canoeists, plus over 100 porters. The list of members reads in part like a "who's who" of the canoeing trade, and it seems unlikely that such a large expedition will leave this country for a while, with the trend now towards the much smaller "alpine" approach to canoeing.

A detailed description is included of the planning stage, and the problems involved with moving so much gear, including Landrover and trailer to Nepal. This is useful material. The trek to Menang is well described, as the group start off with all the luxuries of modern Himalayan treking parties. But life gets tougher for some when the party split into three separate groups "for optimum cover of the river". This was not part of the original plan.

As well as being extremely dangerous, parts of the early canoeing appeared very frustrating, with the river dropping into unknown gorges, necessitating difficult portages. There is a confusing episode with lost canoeists wandering around the Himalayas looking for each other at night!

Good descriptions exist of paddling large volume grade V water, with the joys and thrills of holes and stoppers. Several amusing anecdotes are included.

The book ends with a Himalayan River Guide — essential for anyone going to paddle in Nepal.

Questions like the ethics of giving Mars bars to the local children, knowing their value to be 1/200th part of their parents yearly income, and the problems inherent in controlling such a large group, are not really touched. A book written by a canoeist for canoeists.

CANOEING THROUGH LIFE

by Nick Inman, Findhorn Press, The Park, Forres, N36 0TZ, Scotland Price 90p inc p&p

This cartoon-style booklet uses the analogy of canoeing down a river as an illustration of one's journey through life itself.

It is well produced and worth reading and thinking about. Some will find it of particular help — but not as a guide to canoeing!

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As announced in the last issue of Focus, Alan Edge and Brian Greenaway take up full time appointments with the BCU as Assistant Directors of Coaching for Competition from 1 November 1985.

Their prime responsibility will be the training of coaches at all levels for marathon, racing, slalom and wild water racing. The production of resource material both for coaches and competitors in these disciplines, will be another main task.

Beyond that it is intended that Alan and Brian will support the international team coaches. Their services will also be available to clubs by arrangement, to train the clubs' coaches and paddlers on their local waters.

Alan Edge was a member of the British Mens Slalom Team from 1973 until 1980, and was its Captain in Jonquiere in 1979 when the men's kayak team Gold Medal was first won.

During these years, he achieved a number of creditable results both as an individual, and as a team paddler, in major internationals.

In 1981 Alan became Youth Team Coach, then Ladies Team Coach, and took over from John Macleod as Senior Team Coach in 1984.

Brian Greenaway is featured paddling with John Day, whom he partnered in this years' Devizes-Westminster. Brian and John won both the Senior events and the Veterans' Trophy! This was 20 years after Brian first entered the D-W, paddling for Battersea Air Cadets.

As Olympic Squad Coach, Brian has led the Racing Team to unprecedented success in recent years, culminating in our achieving ten out of the twelve finals at Los Angeles.

The proven ability, both as paddlers and coaches, of Brian and Alan, will undoubtedly prove a tremendous asset to the Union now that they are full time. Much good work has been achieved by past volunteer national coaches. That can now be consolidated and progressed, and our continuing voluntary team coaching structure given the back-up it deserves.



Alan Edge



Brian Greenaway

ORITI IARY -

KEN GULLIVER

It is with deep regret that we report the death. whilst undergoing an operation, of Ken Gulliver, Regional Coaching Organiser for the South East.

Ken was probably best known as the Warden of Burwash Place Outdoor Pursuits Centre for many years. Jack Travers, a life-long

friend writes:

Hundreds of students, both adult and children, passed through the doors of Burwash Place. Each and every one left the richer for having met Ken. Only maximum effort was acceptable from student and instructor alike from breakfast until the last piece of equipment had been cleaned and put away. And yet the predominant sound was laughter. Ken's face appeared to wear a perpetual grin.

To reminisce with him was to recall anecdote after anecdote. Only men of outstanding quality can combine ability, discipline and humour in the right proportions to inspire staff and student to produce their best at all times. Ken achieved this time and again with his courses. He will be remembered with respect, affection and gratitude.

The full tribute, written by Jack, has appeared in CoDe.



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Action on access

TIME FOR CHANGE?

Members will have noted from FOCUS No.40 page 31 that I have submitted my resignation from the post of National Access Officer. I believe that my resignation will present the BCU with a unique and timely opportunity to review both the present role of the National Access Officer, and to evaluate and act, on the increasing pressure exerted by some members who seek a speedy resolve to what they perceive, as the apparent lack of progress made in achieving more and varied access for canoeists.

So what of the future? With the recent and long awaited publication of the Sports Council's study paper on Rights of Navigation, the Access Team will be moving rapidly into a new era of access negotiations. The review will be seen as timely, as the Statement of Intent has still not been fully implemented and the Access Team marks time, urgently in need of a shot in the arm if their efforts and patience are to be extended.

The "Team" have worked steadfastly within the guidelines of the Statement of Intent to improve access. Repeatedly they have been denied that access, in some cases even to the point of being denied the opportunity to discuss their goal. Many of us trust that the Sports Council's study paper on navigation rights may prove to be the key which turns on and revitalises the "Team's" life blood, that is to provide access for its members. I personally hope that even now the anglers will avail themselves of the machinery offered by the BCU to stave off the threatened free for all which can produce victory for neither side and anguish to all.

For my part, I shall continue to serve the BCU in general and the Access Committee in particular in whatever capacity their requirements and my available time will permit. Finally, I offer my very best wishes to all friends and colleagues for their help, support and kindness shown to me during my sometimes difficult but enjoyable commuting days to Addlestone. To my successor, I wish every success for the future.

Roger Irwin

O.J. COCK M.B.E.

We report in this issue that Oliver Cock has recently been in hospital for a minor operation. We all wish Oliver a speedy recovery and restful convalescene period and look forward to seeing him back in full flight.

A REPLY TO 'IRATE OF HEREFORD'

It is a good thing that this letter comes from only a minority of canoeist interest, otherwise what a thankless job we unpaid Access Officers would have. As access officer for the River Teme, it is I that have introduced the

pass system for access to the Upper Teme. This was not brought in to cause canoeists more problems, or to give me extra work. (I have more than enough of it as it is!).

The main reason for bringing in the pass system was for the convenience of canoeists on the Upper Teme. The Teme is only a small river, and if every club that canoes on this section all arrived on the same date it does not take too much imagination to see what chaos would be caused by some 400 canoeists all trying to canoe and play about on this short section of river. I therefore, try to ensure that only two or three clubs have access on each 'designated' day.

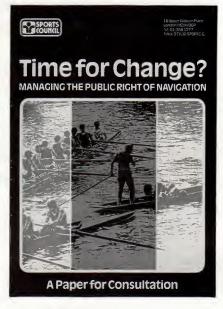
This also brings us onto the "puppet of the fisherman". Much as I would like to have free access to all our Rivers, we do at the present time have to work in with the Riparian owners and the fishing interests (after all, they do pay the Riparian owners for the privilege, which puts us at a disadvantage from the start). However, on the Teme I have, after several years of hard work, a very good relationship with both the Riparian owners and the fishing interests, and it is no longer a case of 'us and them'. We are now working together, and this has given us a lot more access to the Upper Teme. When I first took over as access officer, the Upper Teme could only be canoed on the last weekend of the months September - February, and whilst this did mean we could canoe the section, it was very rigidly controlled, with the Angling Clubs determined that no more access was going to be allowed, and if at all possible, would cut us down on the small amount we had already. This attitude did not suit either party, the anglers were manning barricades, not giving an inch, and we were out to defend our position what ever, and the Riparian owners were caught in the middle getting very cheesed off with the whole battle.

After several meetings which must have made Arthur Scargill and lan MacGregor look like a tea party, we started to make progress. The hard and fast dates we had for access interfered with some fishing contests, which had in the past caused disruption, so we changed our dates so as not to clash. In response the angling clubs agreed not to oppose an increase in access dates to us.

The Riparian owners were happy and we now have a situation where once the angling clubs and myself have agreed on dates, they are willing to give us access, so the fishing interests are much happier, the Riparian owners do not have to be judge and jury, and there are more access dates.

In my opinion, a good compromise, and until any possible change in the law, the only way we can carry on.

Chris Charters, Access Officer, River Teme



TIME FOR CHANGE

The Access Committee at their meeting on 21st September, will have discussed at length, the implications and recommendations as presented in the Sports Council Consultation paper The Public Right of Navigation and A Time for Change. Informal meetings with the principal author Mr. Arthur Telling have already taken place. All relevant points from that meeting will be laid before the committee in due course. These meetings have provided additional important information to assist in our claims to the rights of public navigation. It should however, be noted that the Access Committee will continue to welcome all negotiations from riparian and angling interests, where equitable agreements can be entered into, thereby reducing conflict.

ACCESS NEGOTIATIONS

The National Anglers' Council have asked us to print the following two letters which we are pleased to do:-

To: The Director, BCU

CANOE ACCESS NEGOTIATIONS

You will be well acquainted with the details of the problems which arose between canoeists and anglers in Yorkshire. We are advised by Roger Irwin that the BCU Regional Officer whose activities were largely responsible forthis unfortunate situation has now resigned and has been replaced. Mr. Irwin is anxious for us to call an early meeting of the National Access Committee and also to encourage a resumption of discussions locally in Yorkshire.

However, before any further local negotiations begin the National Anglers' Council, which represents many coarse and game anglers, and the Country Landowners' Association, which represents many riparian owners, believe it is essential to make clear their views on the whole question of access.

The following points have been agreed between our two organisations:-

- 1. NAC and CLA subscribe to the spirit of the Statement of Intent in principle that sharing of waters is possible provided all parties involved are in complete agreement.
- 2. Canoeing negotiators may have misunderstood the Statement of Intent. This does not

lay down any legal obligation on anglers or riparian owners to reach access agreements with canoeists. It simply lays down guidelines as to how such agreements might be obtained on waters where there is no public right of navigation.

- 3. On such waters, which are private property in law, the onus for obtaining access rests with the canoeists. We would therefore expect them to promote the meetings to explore access opportunities in line with the Statement of Intent.
- 4. Access agreements on private waters offer no benefits whatsoever to the owners or fishing tenants. Access negotiations are, therefore, of a highly sensitive nature and should be conducted without publicity or public comment until firm agreement has been reached.
- 5. Public statements by responsible BCU representatives implying threats or bringing pressure to bear on angling clubs and riparian owners, as has occurred in Yorkshire, will prejudice opportunities for access agreements in the future.
- 6. In view of what has taken place in Yorkshire and because it might be assumed by the canoeing interests that support for the Statement of Intent implies some obligation on anglers and riparian owners to implement countrywide access agreements, the NAC and CLA seek assurances from the BCU that their representatives understand and accept the points emphasised in this letter.

Unless we receive assurances on the above points it will be difficult for us, in the light of what happened in Yorkshire, to recommend our members to take part in any discussions on access in the future.

Yours sincerely,

P.H. Tombleson. Executive Director. National Anglers' Council

To: Executive Director, NAC

ANGLING AND CANOEING: STATEMENT OF INTENT

I refer to our previous correspondence regarding the above matter, and am pleased to advise you that I have now had an opportunity to consult with the Chairman of the National Access Committee, and Roger Irwin, my National Access Officer, regarding your letter dated 1st November 1984.

We note that the assurances sought by the National Anglers' Council and the Country Landowners' Association, referred to in your letter, are either expressed or implied within the 'Statement of Intent', and to this extent you have the unreserved support of the British Canoe Union for the various statements contained in your letter.

Accordingly, your Council may now consider it appropriate to encourage the resumption of local discussions between anglers and canoeists regarding access matters, and to re-convene a meeting of the National Anglers' Council National Access Committee, perhaps early in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Ronald W. Emes MBE Director British Canoe Union

The Statement of Intent also says:- "Consultation and co-operation is therefore the key message of this statement", and "At national level the bodies concerned have, therefore, agreed to do all in their power to seek ways and means of reducing the problems of con-

flict on the one hand and to co-operate in the provision of reasonable and acceptable access".

The B.C.U. believes that once reasonable and acceptable access has been provided on all rivers, disputes and arguments will become a thing of the past.

We look forward to meetings at Regional level with all those who support sound and sensible access agreements.

D.J.M Caffyn

Chairman BCU Access Committee

RECREATION

MIKE JONES RALLY 7th and 8th DECEMBER 1985

This fun packed weekend will again be based at Llangollen. Touring on the River Dee will be available, and also possibly on the Tryweryn should water levels allow. The usual competitions, film shows, videos and lectures add to an excellent weekend.

Tickets this year will be £2.50 per person fully inclusive of camping, tours, lectures etc. Broadsheet and advance stickers from M J Rally Ticket Office, 18 Temple Street, Padfield, Hadfield, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 7EX. Please enclose SAE. Cheques payable to M J Rallly.

All other enquiries to M J Rally Secretary, 125 Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

BCU NOTICE AGM SEA TOURING COMMITTEE

The AGM of the Sea Touring Committee will take place at the Anglesey School of Sea Canoeing, Trearddur Bay, on Saturday 26th October 1985 at 19.00 hours.

The meeting is open to all BCU members and their invited guests but only individual members of the BCU may vote.

C M O'Connell Hon Sec STC 9 The Green, Kirksanton, Millom, Cumbria, LA18 4NP. Telephone 0657 3031.

LEVEN WILD WATER TEST

All enquiries re Leven Wild Water Test should be addressed to Jim Stilling, 11 Carlingdale, Burneside, Kendal, Cumbria. (Enclosing a SAE). Telephone Kendal 22349.

AN INCIDENT IN SPAIN

In early June this year a party of paddlers from Moray House were apprehended by the Guardia Civil on the River Ara in the Huesca district of the Pyrenees. They were charged with trespassing on the river and had their kayaks confiscated. The proceedings against them were brought by ICONA a government department responsible for land and water resources and conservation.

It is worth saying that we had paddled these rivers without any difficulties for many of the last 12 years and that this year's Tourist Board literature extols the canoeing of the area without mention of restrictions.

We soon discovered that legal proceedings in previous cases with both Spanish and French canoeists had been protracted (several weeks). The question of guilt or innocence became academic at this point and we made strenuous efforts to regain our gear before dwindling resources forced us to leave without it. We enlisted the aid of many Spanish friends and the Spanish Tourist

Board but met with only sympathy not action. After three days of fruitless parleying I contacted the British Embassy and perhaps as a consequence very quickly thereafter we were able to pay a paltry fine and regain our boats. Annoyingly this process involved us in a 200km drive to the ICONA offices in Huesca which was more costly than the fines themselves.

Understanding the finer legal points of the incident was beyond our limited communication skills but it appears that there is a ban on canoeing on the headwaters of the River Ebro in Aragon Province which extends to many if not all, of the good white rivers. On some sections of some rivers canoeing is allowed on Tuesdays and Fridays but only with a permit obtainable from ICONA in Zaragoze, the provincial capital.

There were contradictory accounts of the regulations from the Police, the Tourist Board and from ICONA officials. What did become apparent, but never officially conceded, was that the pressure was largely responsible for these restrictions.

If you are planning a trip to the Pyrenees it may save you a lot of trouble to get to know the exact regulations. It will be worth it.

Nev Crowther, Outdoor Education Unit, Moray House College, Edinburgh.

BWB LICENCE UPDATE

When individuals renew their BCU membership they will receive an identification sticker to display on their canoes when using BWB waters or waters covered by access agreements. Until then, use the green stickers you already have. If you lose your sticker it cannot be replaced. The licence is personal to you, but the sticker can be transferred to the canoe you are paddling. To make this easy, you can obtain adhesive plastic wallets at 35p each from BCU Supplies for each of your canoes.

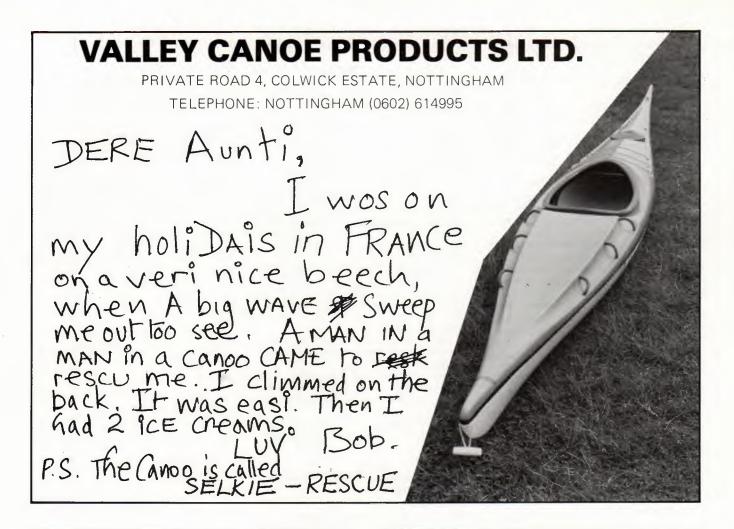
SEA SCOUTS SURVIVE STORM

Hawkhirst Adventure Centre on Kielder Water, was the venue for the Sea Scouts National Regatta at the end of July.

Over 500 Scouts and Leaders, living under canvass, braved the torrential rain and wind at the beginning and end of the week, to participate in a full programme of kayak and canoe races. Also featured were pulling and sculling championships, together with a variety of 'come and try it' sessions on offer.

Our pictures show finalists battling with the windy conditions, which gave those inexperienced in canoe paddling much food for thought!







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Telephone: 0703 583350

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Why not look for suitable courses at Nottingham University or Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham.

You will be able to continue your Canoe training with the Nottinghamshire County Council Canoe Squad, under Head Coach George Oliver.

For further details on the squad please contact George Oliver, Coachs Office, Sycamore Sports Centre, Hungerhill Road, Nottingham (tel: Nottm. 624040).



Nottinghamshire County Council Leisure Services/Sport

Trade News

FJORD FROM P&H

Launched at Crystal Palace the new Fjord sea kayak from P&H Febreglass has been an instant success. The Fjord with its retractable skeg gives the sea paddler the best of both worlds; with the skeg lowered for straight running on the open sea, and with the skeg raised to achieve a high standard of manoeuvrability for close inshore work.

The photographs were taken whilst the designer, Derek Hutchinson, along with the manufacturer, David Patrick, and his wife, were on the sea at South Shields, only half a mile from where Derek lives. With the sea so close it's easy to understand Derek's love of sea kayaking. To brighten things up whilst filming they came across two delightful young ladies who were only too pleased to join in the fun of promoting the Fjord, thus providing a matching pair to complement the trident-carrying lady of the sea which adorns the





An auction of surplus equipment is to be held at the West Hallam works of P&H on Saturday 2nd November. Included will be a variety of sea kayaks, single seat touring kayaks, and some slow moving items of canoeing accessories. It is also hoped to have goods from other manufacturers included. A catalogue of listed items will be available one week in advance on receipt of a sae.

P&H Fibreglass Limited, Station Road, West Hallam, Derbyshire 0602.320155.

TIME TRAVEL MADE EASY

To help travellers avoid being caught out by time zone changes from country to country, Timex have produced an ingenious dual time facility watch as part of its Marathon range.

The elegant black "combo" watch features both a traditional analogue dial and a digital display. One part of this essential travel duo can be pre-set to the time of the country you

are travelling to, while the other tells the time of the place you are in. Ideal for sportsmen, the watch is made from tough black resin, is water resistant to 25 metres, and has a 60 minute working range, chronograph, lap timer and hourly chime.

All Timex clocks and watches are available from leading jewellers and Timex stockists throughout the country.

HOTSURF MOVES

HOTSURF the mail order supply company, have now moved to a new factory unit on the A1/M in Hatfield, just to the North of London.

The company have changed direction and no longer supply the public direct but through a network of reliable dealers throughout the Midlands and South East.

The HOTSURF range includes two styles of longjohn, together with four matching bolero jackets. Also in the range are a variety of one piece suits, wind jackets, socks etc. The entire new 'HOFSURF' range will be on show at Crystal Palace in February.

HOTSURF, Unit 26, Fiddlebridge Industrial Centre, Lemsford Road, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 0DE.

VCP SELKIE

The Selkie sea kayak from VCP launched at Crystal Palace in February has proved to be a very successful boat indeed.

The result is the Selkie-Rescue — consisting of a Selkie with a modified rear deck which is a variation on the normal 'get a man on board' deck. There are six 12mm rope handles set into wide grooves down the rear gunwales that allow the swimmer to easily locate them, even if the rescue boat hasn't fully stopped alongside. This kayak should, of course, be particularly interesting to the Corps of Canoe Lifeguards, and others where surf rescues need to be catered for.

Details from Valley Canoe Products Ltd, Private Rd, 4 Colwick Estate, Nottingham.

CANOE CUMBRIA

A new company supply canoes and equipment, has been set up in Cumbria by Paul Hughes. Known as Canoe Cumbria (Cat Crag Enterprises) it is operating from Cat Crag House, Graythwaite, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 8BA (0448 31384).

Available for hire to qualified instructors are a fleet of 8 kayaks, or 5 canoes, complete with trailer.

A mobile sales van will visit centrs, schools and clubs in the region, and even individuals upon request, carrying a good range of products.

The availability of demonstration boats, and qualified canoeing instruction complete the package for this new company — the only specialists in Cumbria.





PRICE LIST - JULY 1985

All prices include VAT at 15% where applicable. Prices are subject to change without prior notice.

POSTAGE AND PACKING – Add 10% for orders under £20.00 (50p min). Add 5% for orders over £20.00. All paddles £5.00. All canoes and kayaks £12.50. For large orders we will calculate prices individually.

DISCOUNTS – We will be pleased to quote competitive prices for official orders from clubs, education and Armed Forces. Please send details of your needs for a quotation.

	r			
KAYAKS.	£	PADDLES.	£	WETSUITS.
Junior		Canadian Kit		We stock a huge range of wetsuits from
Comanche Budget		Flat Kit	11.95	Gul and other leading makers. For
Snipe		Curved Kit	13.50	example: £,
Rapido or Streaker		Flat ABS paddle	16.25	Economy Long John
400 Super or Telstar		New Wave Hydro		Economy Long John/Bolero
Ardeche Double		Freeblades Slalom	43.50	Gul canoe Long John 53.95
Tyne Open Double	. 199.00	Azzali Slalom	41.95	Wetsuit socks £7.95
Extras available:		Gees Elite	49.50	Hardsole boots
Diolen Hull		Nimbus (Kevlar/Wood)	54.95	Gul Surflite Long John
Double reinforcing	15.00	Freeblades Racing		with matching cag
Glitter Finish		Lendal Powermaster	40.95	Gul spec savers
Deck flash	5.00	ABS Canadian	11.95	(keeps spectacles on)
POLYETHYLENE KAYAKS.		New Wave Turbo Canadian		Neoprene Surf Cap 6.00
Roto Bat	. 128.00	Nimbus Canadian (Kevlar/Wood)		Neoprene open palm mitts 10.95
Roto Bat Whitewater Spec	. 168,00	ACCESSORIES.		CANOE SCHOOL
Moby Dick Swing		Ace crash helmets	9.50	Our canoe school at Shepperton covers
Rob Roy Standard		Romer R38 helmets	11.95	basic to advanced courses. We can
Mirage/Europa Basic A		Romer R39 helmets	19.95	arrange special courses for groups. We
Mirage/Europa Basic B	. 166.75	Romer R41 helmets	29.95	also operate a canoe hire service. Ask
Perception Dancer		GUL Cag		for our canoe school brochure.
Europa Whitewater		4ozs canoe cags		WINDSURFING.
Mirage Whitewater		2ozs canoe cags	14.95	We carry one of the most
Rob Roy Whitewater		Pogies paddle mitts	5.95	comprehensive ranges of windsurfers and
Freestyle Centre Spec		Lendal footpump	14.95	accessories, and have our own club lake
Freestyle Whitewater Spec	. 237,00	Failsafe footrest clip	0.90	with school at Staines. We will be
POLYETHYLENE CANOES.		J & R footrest	9.95	pleased to take your canoe in part
Coleman 15'	. 359.00	White toggles (pair)	0.70	exchange for a windsurfer or vice versa.
Coleman 17'		Repair tape 40 mm × 50 metres	3.95	
Note: Coleman boats come semi	. 507.00	$50 \mathrm{mm} \times 4.5 \mathrm{metres} \dots$	1.45	WATERSKIING.
assembled - if assembly is required		Buoyancy bags - each		New for 1985. We are extending our range of
add £20.00 per canoe.		set of 4		skis and accessories giving the customer a
		Aquasacs		better selection and service.
BUOYANCY AIDS.	10.05	BDH bottles – large		OUTBOARDS.
Shorti (s, m, l) Fro	m 19.95	medium		We carry the popular Minn Kota range of
Harishok Gold Labels (s)		small		outboards in all sizes. These are completely
(m)		Green Slime's throwbag MK1		silent and efficient in use.
(l)		Green Slime's throwbag MK2		IMPORTANT NOTICE.
Wildwater Centre Cojak		Economy roofrack	15.95	
Expedition vest	37.50	Thule roofrack		This list is only a very small part of our extensive
Life Jacket (BSI)	36.93	Thule highfoot roofrack		stocks – if you cannot see what you want phone or
SPRAYDECKS (Please state boat).		Roofrack straps (pair)		write and ask for our full price list. Better still pay
Nylon Standard		Vertical posts (pair).	15.95	us a visit and see what a real canoe shop looks like.
Nylon deluxe		Casio W400 watch	17.95	We stock most leading makes of canoes and
Neoprene singlehned		Safety flarepack	14.95	accessories, including Gaybo, P&H,
Neoprene doublelined	. 22.50	Survival knife	5.95	Palm, Pyranha, Raider, Nomad, Arrowcraft
Neoprene deluxe	. 24.50			and North Shore.
				the state of the s





The LAW and Your Load

Another paddler has recently been "done" for having too great an overhang on the car when carrying kayaks on a roof-rack.

Needless to say, the law relating to carrying loads on the roof of a vehicle is complicated!

Normally, the permitted overhangs without the necessity to carry flags or special markers are:

- 1. Up to .035 metres on either side of the vehicle, with a maximum load width of 2.9 metres.
- 2. Up to 1.83 metres forward
- 3. Up to 1.07 metres rearward

Note that overhangs are permitted at the front, contrary to popular belief.

In the following cases, special requirements exist:

1. Forward projection more than 1.83 metres, but less than 3.05 metres — one person in

addition to the driver must attend the vehicle and load; projection markers complying with detailed statutory requirements shall be carried at specified points on the load.

2. Rearward projection more than 1.07 metres, but less than 1.83 metres — distinctive flags to be displayed at the extreme points of the load.

3. Rearward projection more than 1.83 metres, but less than 3.03 metres — projection markers complying with detailed statutory requirements must be carried at specified points on the load.

The complications set in when we consider the special provision for "racing boats propelled solely by oars". It is presumed that the intent of the law would permit kayaks and canoes to be considered within this exclusion, but to the best of our knowledge this principle has not been tested in law.

In the case of "racing boats propelled solely by oars" the unmarked permitted overhangs are only 1.07 metres, but a "distinctive flag" only is required for overhangs between 1.07 metres and 3.05 metres as opposed to specified projection marks which are required for other loads between 1.83 metres and 3.05 metres forwards, and between 1.07 metres and 3.05 metres rearwards.

The added complication concerns the turning circle of the vehicle. The Act states "the end projection surface... shall be situated so that ... it lies, as near as practicable, in a vertical plane at right angles to the longitudanal axis of the vehicle and passing through a point not more than 0.6 metres from the extreme end of the projection". Over to you!

Very occasionally a member has been fined under the regulations, but 99.9% of us have been carrying boats on roof-racks for years without challenge. Whilst this state of affairs exists the advice is not to appeal, in case a precedent is set which would seriously affect our ability to transport our equipment.

Meanwhile, please remember that there is a statutory obligation on the driver to always ensure that any load is secure. It is also worth checking with your insurance company that you are covered for transporting luggage on a roof rack.

A Totally New Sponsorship

The British Association of National Coaches and their sponsor Dextrosol Glucose Tablets announce the launch of the BANC Dextrosol Coach of the Year Award 1985-6.

The Award recognises the essential part played by coaches in attaining the high quality of British sportsmen in every area of sport.

Frank Dick, Chairman of the British Association of National Coaches comments, "The role of coaching has been significant in establishing Britain's international sporting tradition. It is right that such roles are recognised and rewarded and we are delighted that Dextrosol has given such generous support for this venture."

The BANC Dextrosol Award has seven categories covering male and female coaches of individual performers; male and female coaches of teams; the coaching of sports for the disabled; coaching of junior performers and a special award for an individual coach who has made an outstanding contribution to the coaching profession.

D of E Award



Expeditioning PGL Sponsor Opportunity

In an effort to encourage candidates who wish to undertake their Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition by canoe, the following arrangements have been made.

Two-day training courses in the use of the open canoe are to be run by Stuart Briggs, a BCU Coach.

The available dates are 2-3 November 1985, and 12-13 April 1986, in the West Midlands. The two-day course is designed to give candidates sufficient training in the loading, paddling and control of an open canoe, to permit them safely to undertake a suitable

journey on a river such as the Wye or Severn.

Candidates will need to be self-contained camping-wise, thus keeping costs to a minimum. Canoes and equipment will be provided.

Canoes available

PGL Holidays have agreed to make open canoes available from their Ross on Wye base, to candidates for the actual Duke of Edinburgh Award journey. These will be free of charge, but subject to availability. Recovery of the canoes at the end of the journey will normally be included.

The Severn-Wye DofE Award Expedition Panel have produced a comprehensive guide to journeys on the Wye and Severn, and can offer specific advice, besides being available to undertake the assessment of the journey.

For full details of the courses and information referred to, apply to: S. Briggs Esq., 127 Church Road, Stretton, Burton upon Trent, Staffs DE13 0HF.

BCU/BWB Licencing Scheme Official Launch

On a bright sunny August day in London's Little Venice, the British Canoe Union and the British Waterways Board launched their Joint Licencing Scheme, which now provides a licence for all individual and affiliate members of the BCU to navigate the 2,000 miles of rivers and canals within the Board's jurisdiction. In his opening address, Ron Emes, BCU Director referred to the new Scheme as the first and most important of the agreements which the Union would be seeking to negotiate with navigation authorities throughout Britain. Their ultimate objective was to provide a universal navigation licence that would permit their members to paddle their canoes wherever navigation fees need to be paid.

Judging from the enthusiastic response so far received from both existing and prospective members of the Union, the sooner the better!



Sir Leslie Young, Chairman of British Waterways Board drops the flag at the start of Mike Haslam's 2,000 mile paddle on British Waterways Board navigations to raise funds for the

Jubilee Appeal Fund. Mike is pictured (centre) with young canoeists from Beauchamp Lodge.



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Now It's The Jubilee Appeal Target £500,0

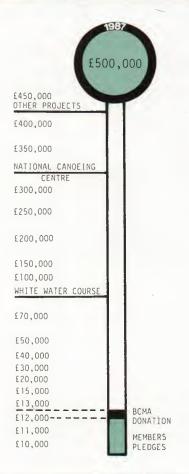
The BCU Executive have approved the broadening of the National Canoeing Centre Appeal into the JUBILEE APPEAL, with a goal of providing finance for the long term development of canoeing in general, and not just the short term goals of raising money for the National Canoeing Centre and its White Water Course. Appeal Organiser Mike Haslam, is delighted with this fundamental change in his role and said 'with the Unions' Golden Jubilee year fast approaching it makes sound sense for the BCU to take the opportunity of establishing an on going Jubilee Appeal Fund which will not only be used for specific projects, like the Nottingham White Water Course but also for the development of canoeing across all its disciplines and interest groups'.

Money for the Jubilee Appeal Fund will not be used for the day to day running of the Union but in a variety of other areas where hard cash is needed but Grant Aid is not readily available. From international competition to campsites for tourists, from riparian ownership to assistance for the disabled, from youth support to capital projects - with cash of our own, all these things can be funded without reliance upon membership fees or Sports Council grants.

Just a pipe dream? Or an opportunity for canoeing to really go places. With your help and enthusiasm it can all become a reality, for what ever your particular canoeing interest is, it makes sense to support the whole sport of "canoeing" to the hilt. For the next two years the prime projects will be the National Canoeing Centre and White Water Course but other projects can be started or projects already in existence supported, as the Jubilee Appeal Fund grows towards its target.

That target has now been set at £500,000 and the fund raising has already started with the first donation of £500 towards the White Water Course being received from the British Canoe Manufacturers Association. This fine, first donation, has firmly started the Jubilee Appeal rolling, you can keep it rolling by participating as an individual or club member in the many schemes and activities that both Mike Haslam the Appeal Organiser and the Golden Jubilee Committee will be promoting during the forthcoming months.

The first of these activities - the Fun and Adventure Weekend on the 25/27 October, was publicised with the last edition of Focus - have you booked your chalet yet, for the net proceeds from this family and club weekend will go to the Jubilee Appeal. Details of further fund raising schemes which may be of interest to you are included with this Focus. On the other hand if you would like a bit of a gamble then take a bet on the 2000 miles paddle and the London Marathon run, you could win yourself £2,000. Details of these



schemes too are included with this edition of Canoe Focus in the Jubilee Appeals own APPEAL NEWS which will tell you how to help yourself to raise money for your sport. The fund raising starts here, join in; have fun; win a prize or two, and remember 'Canoeing's a clean sport, its water washed! more gems next time.

BCMA — FIRST ON THE COURSE

The first donation towards the National Canoeing Centre's, White Water Course has been received from the British Canoe Manufacturers Association. Chairman, Christ Hawkesworth expressed the BCMA's delight in being associated with such an exciting project when he handed a cheque for £500 to Mike Haslam, the Jubilee Appeal Organiser. In thanking the BCMA, Ron Emes the Director of the BCU, said it was very gratifying for the governing body to receive such positive support from a representative body of the canoeing trade and that such support proved the value of maintaining the close links that exist between the two organisations.

THE DAY WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

On Monday 23rd September the first sod was cut marking the start of the construction of the new Artificial Slalom Course at the National Canoeing Centre, Holme Pierrepont.

The ceremony was performed by Mr. Norman Sarsfield OBE, MC Chairman of the Holme Pierrepont National Sports Centre joint Management Committee together with Nottinghamshire County Councillor Mrs. M.E. Gray JP and John Dudderidge OBE, President of Honour of the British Canoe

The occasion also provided the opportunity for the handing over of the first major donation to the Jubilee Appeal Fund. Chris Hawkesworth on behalf of the British Canoe Manufacturers Association handed a cheque for £500 to Mike Haslam the Appeal Fund Organiser.

SLALOM INFORMATION

Administrator, Sue Wharton's address is: 1 Barnacre View, High Street, Garstang, Preston, PR3 1EB.

All competitors must be paid up members at the date of any event entered. Paddlers in Premier, First, Second and Third Divisions must wear Slalom Committee numbered bibs in individual events in ranking competition. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in the loss of ranking status and/or events not being counted towards your end of season position.

Ranking List Compiler for Premier/Div.1 K1

Terry White has moved to 7 Pitstone Close, Stafford, ST16 1TT. Tele: (0785) 820111.

1986 TIDE TABLES

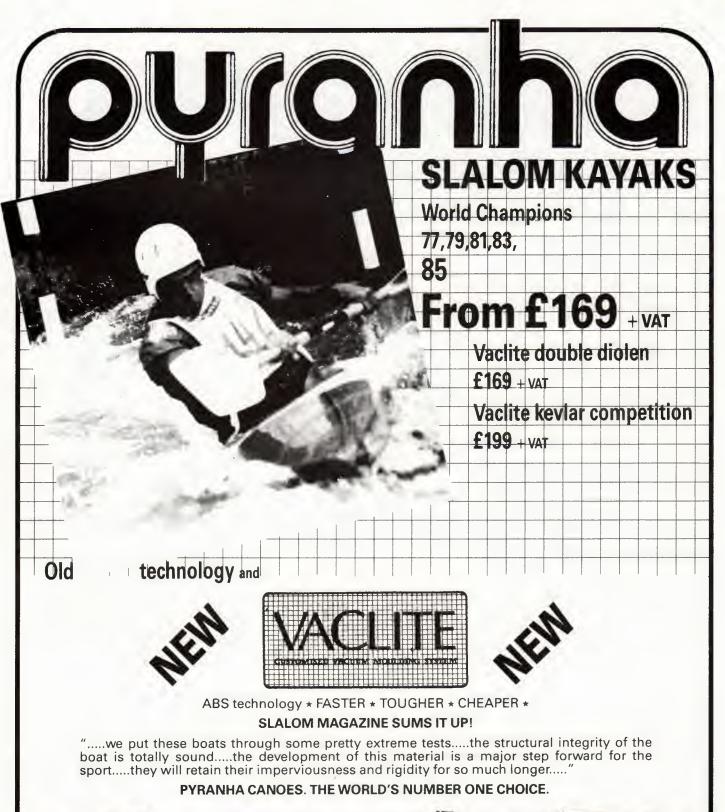
The schedule of tide times at Dover for 1986 has been circulated to Club Secretaries. A copy is available from BCU headquarters on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, for members wishing to organise their affairs for

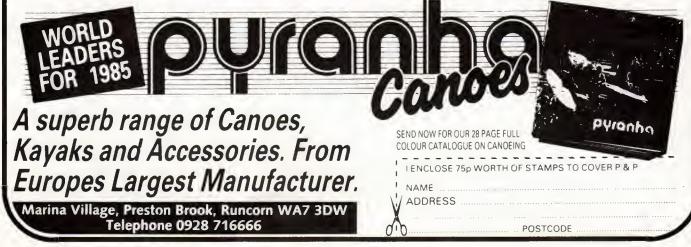
The tables need to be used in conjunction with the tidal constants on pp 60-62 of the members yearbook circulated in February.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your address sheet for this issue of CANOE FOCUS was on a GREEN form your membership is due for renewal before the next issue.

Please renew using the green form BEFORE the expiry of your current membership so as to maintain insurance and BWB licence cover.





NATIONS & REGIONS ROUND~UP

THE ARMY IN SCOTLAND

Major John Cooper led a team of seven competitors to the Arctic Canoe Race. The first home was J Flemming who was 37th in a time of 53 hours 10 minutes 18 seconds. Tony Roberts another competitor in the race, reports that the Scottish lads came in to the end of the final stage in line abreast and paddling in time to the bagpipes. With the sun shining on them, they made a brave sight indeed.

SCOTTISH AWARDS

Scottish paddlers Graham Robertson, Robert Christie, Cynthia Berry, John Moffat, Andrew Imrie and David Bean are six of 149 Scottish sportsmen and women to receive Maxwell House "Give it a Go" awards.

WALES

On 4th September the Wales Tourist Board published a report on the "development opportunities for tourism, recreation and sport on Wales inland water". This has been produced jointly with the Welsh Water Authority, the Sports Council for Wales and Mid Wales Development. The report is intended to stimulate discussion on the best use of inland water resources.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Canoe Focus is looking for a (voluntary!) Northern Ireland correspondent who will send news to us about canoeing in Northern Ireland. We know there is plenty happening and your activities will interest BCU members in other parts of Britain.

EAST MIDLANDS

The Regional Development Plan will have been issued by the time you read this, and will be distributed to all canoe clubs, local authorities, leisure departments and similar bodies involved in canoeing. Regional Development Officer, Ann Gillespie has been working with Rutland Canoe Club to expand canoeing use of Rutland Water. The project will include canoe sailing, with intermediate sailing canoes being available, Ann has also been involved with establishing a new club at Boston, Lincolnshire, based on the River Witham with some sea canoeing available.

WEST MIDLANDS

A week long Canoe Cavalcade was held in West Midlands Metroplitan Country, with

canoeing activities organised on the canals, and a womens seminar at Small Heath Baths. Central Paddlers organised a final day of a flat water slalom and "paddles up" type competition in which a number of local youngsters took part, and local MP's watched. Unfortunately the normal English weather this summer ensured that everyone was soaked, and numbers attending were consequently reduced. Ann Gillespie, the Regional Development Officer is currently engaged in starting up a canoe club at Bewdley, and has promoted the first Regional Wild Water Championships held recently, and the Regional series for a club trophy.

WELCOME RESOURCES FOR LONDON & SOUTH EAST

Westminster Boating Base, 136 Grosvenor Road, SW1 Telephone 01.821.7389 provides facilities and tuition for young people between the age of 10 and 23 years old to learn to sail and canoe. The base which has about 500 members, has received a grant of up to £250,000 from the Duke of Westminster through the Quartercentary Sponsorship Scheme, to improve facilities and access to the river. The new Quartercentenary Grosvenor Pier was opened on 18 July by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The London and SE Development Officer, Guy Baker, was introduced to the Duke, who showed much interest in canoeing on the Thames. BCU members are welcome to use the pier as an access point for the Thames, subject to the approval of the Base.

Canoeing for the disabled should prove much easier in the L & SE region with the purchase of a dozen Rob Roy canoes especially for the disabled. Half of these are based at the Royal Victoria Docks, the other half at Shadwell Basin — currently undergoing structural improvements with the disabled very much in mind. A course for instructors interested in work with the disabled is being run at Bewl Bridge on 5th/6th October.

SOUTH

Ann Whiting reports that the newly formed Lymington Canoe Club already has fifty members and a waiting list. The club's leader Nick Stone organises twice weekly bath sessions, local sea trips and visits to competitions

WORK IN LEISURE

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and rough rivers further afield. Canoe Focus welcomes another enthusiastic club to our ranks

NORTH

The Northern Region's loss may be Scotland's gain. Jim Mooney, who has been very active in the development of canoeing both regionally and nationally, is being moved by his firm to Aberdeen. Canoe Focus wishes Jim and his family an enjoyable life north of the border.

NORTH WEST

Eight NW paddlers attended the International Canoe Rally on the River Loue in France in June and not only enjoyed first class canoeing but also were awarded a superb trophy for coming the greatest distance.

CANOLFAN TRYWERYN

The Welsh Water Authority have agreed to continue the week-end release schedule from Llyn Celyn until 27th October 1985, subject to the normal flooding restrictions, to enable canoeists to make use of the training site at the National Wild Water Centre on the River Tryweryn. It is expected that there will be releases daily throughout most of the winter, but you should check before travelling by telephoning the answering service on Bala (0678) 520826. If you need any further information you may contact George Davis on this number or by leaving a message on the answering machine.

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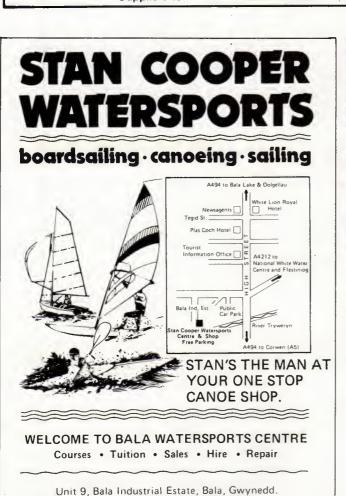
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THE OTHER SELLA

by V. Rack

For twenty years or more now if British Marathon Paddlers wanted a taste of international competition away from the albeit varied style of home racing they invariably choose to go to the Sella in Spain. Marathon paddlers were, and still are to a great degree brought on the Iberian Peninsular, North of Oporto in Portugal, a village very much like Ribadasella has created a race in May on the River Vouga, a tributary of the much larger Duero which runs first through Spain and then Portugal before reaching the coast in the form of an



up on a diet of deep water and portages. These are either canal and lock or river and weir. There is limited availability of rough water now that the Severn Trent River authority have made Diglis Weir at Worcester "safe" with a barrier. The National Championship Course now relying entirely on Bevere for its rough water action. Only the Exe Descent offers any great opportunity of showing off real watermanship in racing kayaks. The Sella Descent in Northern Spain seemed to have it all. Travel is now made easier by autoroutes through much of France or by taking the ferry from Plymouth to Santander leaving only one hundred miles or so of road travel. The enormous crowds show real enthusiasm for all competitors from as far away as South America. They are more numerous than a major football event and although just as inebriated, far better behaved and only too willing to lend a helping hand. The water combines all sorts, shallow and bumpy, deep and wide, and mild rapids. These are all the essential qualities for a really good marathon canoeist's holiday.

Now there would seem to be something of a challenge to the position even though still enormous estuary. The race is on water which is not only demanding of paddling ability and watermanship but also requiring the competitor to be able to portage. Halfway down the shortish course a dam wall offers its additional challenge. Challenge is the real word as it requires the kayak to be balanced vertically against the reverse edge of the dam wall whilst the paddlers skirt the edge. The drop being twenty feet or so at an angle of only 15-20 degrees from the vertical. The final rapid requires a twist in the middle, not only to avoid a large rock but also to avoid being hung by the enthusiastic rescuer sitting on the side with his rod and loop "lifesaver". After the race comes the normal prizegiving with enormous trophies seemingly for all competitors. Then there is the enjoyment of the Fiesta fortunately with the quiet of Sunday morning to follow.

From a purely canoeing point of view, very much a race to enjoy. It does not end there however, for those interested in other holiday aspects the local area offers much more. A government sponsored company Beira Vouga are in the process of creating what amounts to a sporting holiday centre. The list of sports encompasses tennis, squash, riding, and golf as well as canoeing and many more. All the facilities are new and first class. The accommodation also covers the whole spectrum from camping through self catering appartments to a four star hotel. Certainly this would seem to add up to a place and event well worth adding to the canoeing holiday list for those going early in the year.

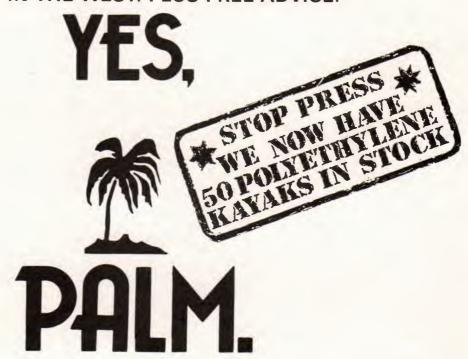


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Dear Focus...

WHERE ARE THE CADET MEMBERS

Dear Focus.

Once I had discovered BCU membership was a competition prerequisite, I joined the BCU as a Cadet, primarily to qualify for Slalom events. However, having met the cost of membership and entry fees, the problem of travel and accommodation arose.

Most slalom events are great distances away and as there is at present no form of supervision or block accommodation for single cadet members, participating proved impossible. This complication is particularly relevant for young female members wishing to compete in weekend events as organising a group is often impossible and the travel problem still exists, while going alone is not practicable.

The same is true for Youth members. The interest and enthusiasm is definitely there, but the basic difficulties of travelling to events and safety there with no adult supervision prevails.

For many cadet and youth members the BCU is seen as the way to gain entry to events and thus valuable competition/touring experience at an early age. However, for many young members living away from competition areas this is not feasible. Few parents relish the prospect of a wet weekend in a field and so young members are being forced to drift away from the competitive side of the sport, and are therefore not needing to renew membership.

I can see that providing some form of supervision at events for cadets would be an administrative nightmare and would entail further costs and would definitely not be attainable at some sites.

However, bearing in mind the 44% drop in Cadet membership over the last three years, if this problem proves to be one of the main causes of the drop, perhaps it could be looked into by those who remember the days when they had no cars or minibuses to take them away to canoeing events.

Clare Scott, Kingston upon Thames

THE FISHERMEN CO-OPERATE

Dear Focus

Earlier this year the Swaledale Outdoor Club was aked to put on a number of events by the Richmondshire Festival Committee for the biannual Festival in May/June. Amongst other events such as the Swaledale Marathon (a run/walk), a triathlon and family walks, we decided to put on a two-day marathon paddle (not a race) a total of about 70 miles, the length of the Swale.

Entrants were provided with sponsor forms to enable money to be raised for the local Multiple Sclerosis Society funds (Two members of our club suffer from MS).

We obtained permission from many landowners and the Army and full co-operation from the local angling club, Richmond and District Angling Society. A meeting was arranged by the Angling clubs who fish the Swale, many are not local, eg clubs such as Leeds Amalgamated, Bradford Number 1, York, etc. There were 22 clubs represented

and some individual fishermen who own or lease stretches of the bank. We outlined our plans — out of the season for course fish, good supervision, a maximum of 200 paddlers in parties of ten each under a responsible leader, launching and landing/resting points, etc. The SOC is a responsible multiactivity club of twenty years standing.

RESULT. To a man with the exception of the Army and Richmond and District Angling Society they supported a champion angler who said "NO, NOT ANYWAY, NEVER AT ANY TIME WOULD THEY **PERMIT** CANOE-ING ON THE SWALE".

Our event went ahead as a 1 day, 10 mile event on the Upper Swale (which was open for trout fishing). We enjoyed ourselves, we saw 13 fishermen — some of whom we thought to be poaching. We doubt if we caused any problems. The assistant chairman of the local Multiple Sclerosis Society — who has no use in the lower part of his body — enjoyed his trip in an open Canadian, and the many MS sufferers who watched from prearranged vantage points on the bank also enjoyed the day. We all joined together for our lunch break. £540 was raised.

The SOC hopes to put on the event again and, again for charity. Please support us, in large numbers, on our beautiful and sometimes exciting River Swale.

Thank you Landowners, Richmond and District Angling Society and the Army. Colin Stegeman, Richmond, N. Yorks.

RUNNING REPAIRS

Dear Focus,

I was very interested to read your feature by Andy Hall on Running Repairs. Having suffered the problems of removing Sylglas from fingers with more difficulty than the water has removing it from the boat I turned to using Flashband, with great success. My repairs have been tested in BAT Polo situations and on sections of good Grade 3 rapids such as Grantully on the Tay and on the Findhorn, all with equal success.

My method is to cut my Flashband, (I use 4" width — also available in 2", 3", 6" and 9") raise the edges to form a lip, pour a small amount of meths on to the bitumen side and light it. This softens the bitumen (make sure all of the bitumen is softened) and can be applied direct to the area to be repaired — no drying off as for the tape, sylglas, etc., then pressed firmly into place especially around the edges. I have never had to roughen the surface as the softened bitumen sticks like the proverbial... to a shovel. The foil surface enables the repair to withstand considerable punishment providing a strong, flexible and waterproof repair.

Dave McGarry, Maghul, Merseyside

Dear Focus

With reference to Andy Hall's article on running repairs, a few comments:

 Running repairs should take account of more permanent repairs when back at base if the boat is not to slowly disintegrate and becomes dangerous. Some temporary repair materials can make permanent GRP repair difficult or impossible.

- 2. Sylglas unbacked is too messy by far. Sylglas with an aluminium backing is extremely good if used with some heat such as a Gaz 200 stove. If you clean the 'mess' off with petrol, use lighter fuel as ordinary petrol leaves an oily residue which will tend to prevent good bonding of fibreglass later if it is wicked into the basic structure. The backed Sylglas will mend large (12"+) holes if applied carefully, however care should be taken that it is not scraped off on the next rock.
- 3. Some instructors have a pack of 'hole repairers'. These often consist of different sized aluminium discs for different hole sizes a pair held together by a bolt(s) and sealed with soft foam rubber.
- 4. My own repair kit tested sorely over the years consists of a) A large piece of stiff plastic eg from a gallon squash container. b) A roll of good 2" sticky tape. c) A Gaz 200 stove. d) A foolproof lighter.
- 5. The above can also act as basic 1st aid gear. The tape can deal with most injuries for which 1st aid is applicable. A tub of cotton wool soaked in meths acts as an excellent antiseptic. All these, and other items can be held in a large coffee tin which, should the need arise can be used to heat water. If more personal running repairs are needed, then perhaps more professional help is needed in hospital or, for the true canoeist the building workshop!
- Those lucky enough to own a canvas canoe can rejuvenate their ailing skins with a flexible chlor-rubber paint marketed for swimming pools which is available in a wide variety of colours.

Bob Hinton, Frome

PADDLE DESIGN HISTORY

Dear Focus,

In am undertaking a study of wooden paddles found on archaeological sites, some of which are as much as 9,000 years old. I wish to do some background work on the design and manufacture of wooden paddles, both in the past and today. I wonder if any of your readers or contributors could put me in touch with any craftsmen who still produce wooden paddles, or have done so until recently? I would also be very interested in references to works on the design and manufacture of paddles in relation to their performance in use.

Miss S V E Heal, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, SE10 9NF.

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

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PUBLICATIONS

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.

CANOE LIFEGUARDS MANUAL. Setting up a unit, safety matters £7.90 Corps members inc. P&P £8.90 non-members inc. P&P. Conference Report April 83-90p. Orders/Enquires SAE. Garth Cottage, 65 Harwoods Lane, Rossett, Clwyd, LL12 OFD.

COSMIC KAYAK TOURS — a Cartoon Adventure by Foxy £1.75 inc. pp. from A. Fox, 375 Milkwood Road, Herne Hill, London SE24.

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