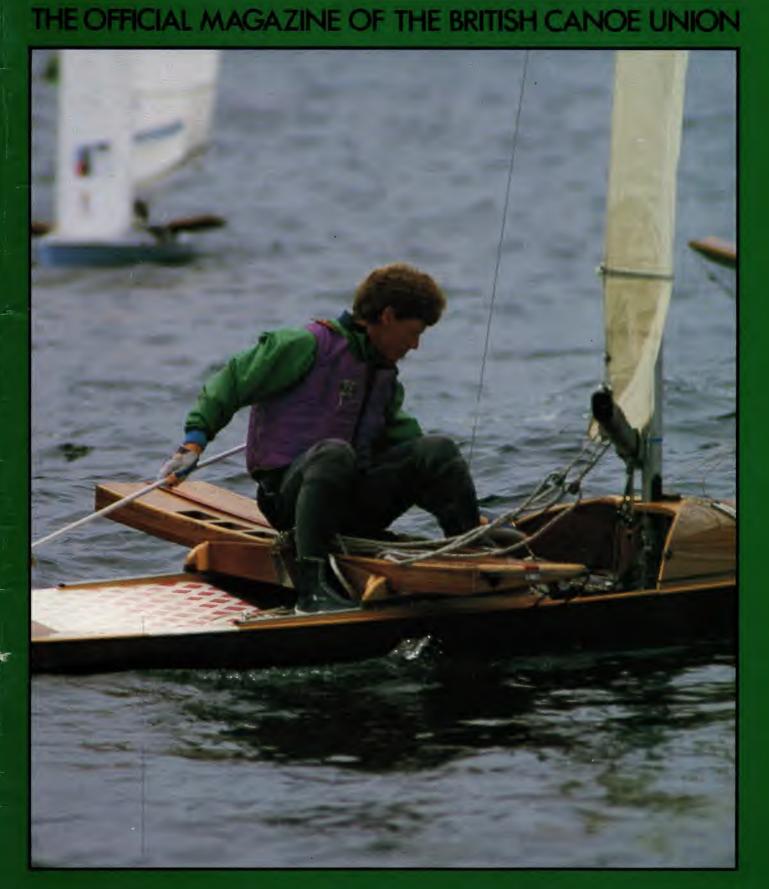
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Next Issue

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Front Cover

Robin Woods, World Canoe Sailing Champion, in action at Plymouth. (Photograph by Tony Tickle)

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WORLD CANOE SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Robin Wood adds an IC to his two Moths

Robin Wood of Newport, Gwent in South Wales became the first British Canoe Sailor to win a World Championship since Alan Emus in 1969, when he performed with consistency over six races in Plymouth Sound this summer. Robin had previously been a World Champion in dinghy sailing. In 1983 he had won the Moth title at the class Championship in Great Britain and then successfully defended the title a year later in Japan

The tenth World Championship for International Canoes was held under the auspices of the International Canoe Federation during the period 15th to 21st August. The City of Plymouth extended their hospitality and the Mayflower Sailing Club agreed to provide the sailing staff. Following the Fastnet race, the Canoe Sailing Committee took over temporary offices and facilities at Queen Anne's Battery. A convivial atmosphere purveyed reasonable weather but a distinct lack of wind! After several postponements the first race started in a light southerly breeze. Simon Allen (GB) was first to round the windward mark, closely followed by David Marrs (GB) and Robin Wood. These three British boats continued to jostle for the lead, Robin Woods eventually taking the gun ahead of David Marrs. Patrick Marshall (GB) finished in third place — a very good start for the British contingent.

After a recall and a postponement, the second race was able to take advantage of a westerly breeze. Ronnie Carlsson (Sweden) led throughout the race, but on the final tack to the finishing line, he was outmanoeuvred by his fellow Swede, Olle Bergvist, the European Champion, who took the winning gun by two seconds. With the lack of suitable wind, the programme started to get behind, but on the spare day, the Mayflower Sailing Club took advantage of the morning's fresh westerly breeze to start the third race. Robin Wood was first to put his nose in front at the windward mark and he maintained that position and built up a considerable lead to finish well ahead of Steve Clark (USA), the reigning World Champion, who only finished a half a boat's length ahead of Kjell Pettersson (Sweden).

The Competition was hotting up. Later in the day, the fourth race took place. Steve Clark took an early lead fending off the strong challenge from the Swedish opposition until midway in the race. He was eventually outsailed by Max Tollqvist (Sweden) and Jens Osterlund (Sweden) with Robin Wood slipping into third place. Light winds and three false starts heralded the fifth race, which saw the Swedes go into an early lead. As the race progressed the eighteen year old American, Lars Guck sailed steadily up the field to lead. Robin Wood also improved his position, moving up to fourth place, and thus maintaining his overall lead in the Championships.

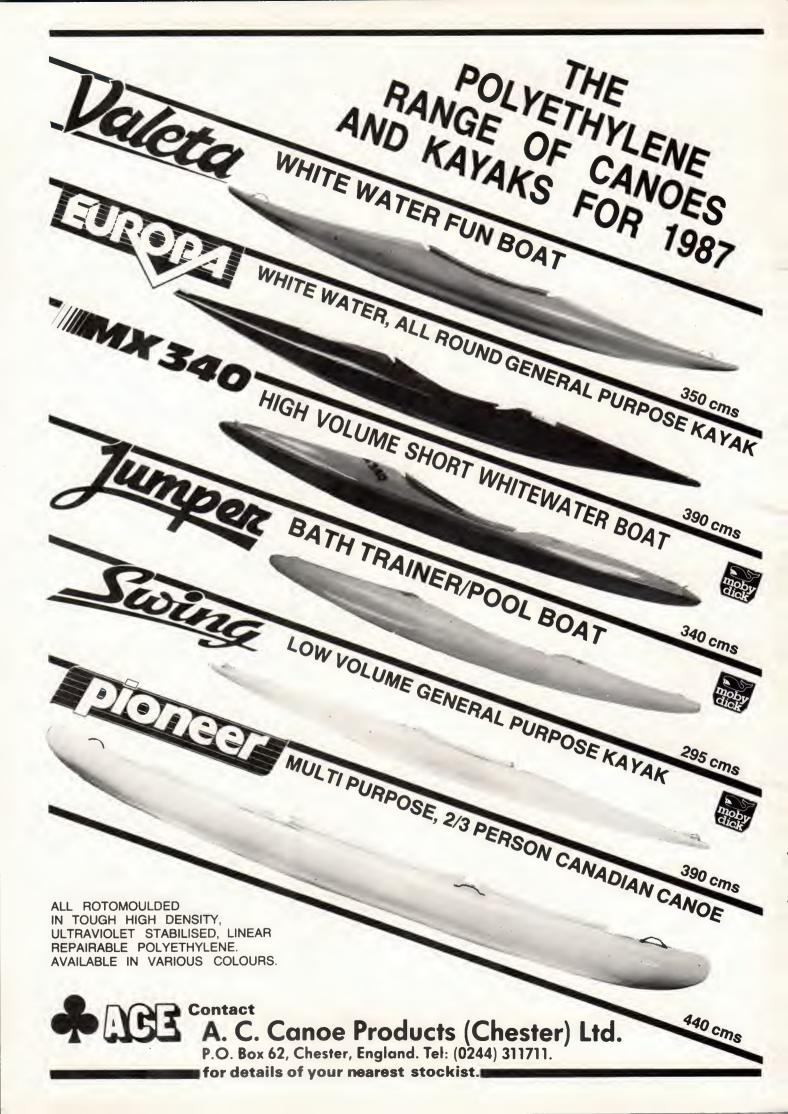
The sixth race saw a good start in fine weather, but shifting winds necessitated a cancellation and return. Failing light winds continued until the third circuit when the wind picked up, and three of the British contingent were able to take advantage. First home was Patrick Marshall, ahead of Lars Guck (USA) who led Colin Brown and Robin Wood. Robin's fourth place assured him of the title although at this stage there was one race to go. Out of a series of seven races, the best six results count.

The seventh race would sort out the remaining medals, as at this stage the door was wide open for a number of sailors. Out to the course, which for the first time had been set within the breakwater. However the fleet was becalmed, and after watching a nuclear submarine leave, the race was abandoned. The best five results out of six would count, and not only had Robin won the gold, but Patrick Marshall of the Hayling Island Sailing Club had picked up the Bronze Medal ahead of the fancied Swedes. Lars Guck of the USA had taken the Silver Medal, a good result for such a young competitor.

Other commendable performances were recorded by Colin Brown (8th), Simon Allen (11th), David Marrs (13th) and Roger Nelson (14th). The success of the two 'Brits' was infectious and rubbed off on the British contingent. Well done Robin and Patrick.









Andrew Rance and Bill Horsman Competing in the Canadian Doubles event Photograph by David Smith of Bristol.

In October 1986, the Princess Royal opened the new artificial slalom course at the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre, and a dream came true. Whitewater enthusiasts have completed a year of good water fun. There has been everything — rafting, plastic boats, splashing fun and serious canoeing. Even in the depths of winter when the regatta course was an ice rink, paddlers were on the rough stuff! So, almost a year after the opening, the first International Slalom Competition was staged.

It must have been one of the best weekends for weather that we have had this year — the sun shone and a record crowd lined the banks — more than had been recorded for the World Rowing Championships the previous year! The weekend's programme included two separate individual events, with a team event on the Saturday and culminating in a Slalom Sprint on the Sunday.

There was a good overseas entry with competitors coming from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Our nearby neighbours in Europe were also well represented. A noticeable visitor was Jon Lugbill of the United States, four times World C1 Champion, who planned to paddle but had to withdraw due to a family bereavement. The courses were set with the water on maximum flow, both were of a most demanding standard. Indeed only one or two of the world's top paddlers achieved a clear run.

In the Ladies Event, the Maid Marion Rosebowl, donated by Slalom Sports (UK) was won by Myriam Jerusalmi of France. She beat our World Champion, Elizabeth Sharman, on points. The Robin Hood Trophy, donated by the Slalom Committee, for Mens K1 was won by Richard Fox, who paddled perfectly on both days. Having recently forfeited his world title, he had laid down a challenge to all that he is not going to surrender his European crown next year!

In the Canadian events, there were no overall prizes. In the Singles Andreas Kubler of West Germany and Martyn Hedges shared the honours. It could have been a clean sweep if Martyn had been able to get there for practice runs. In the Doubles, the West Germans dominated, with Becker and Frohlke winning on Saturday and Binttner and Nerlich on Sunday.

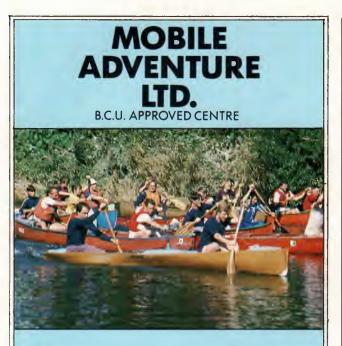
A great deal of encouragement in the staging of the event was given by

Nottinghamshire County Council, to whom the Union is very grateful. The Chairman, Councillor Miss F. Price and members of the County Council entertained visiting team managements to an excellent reception the evening before the event, thus setting the scene. During the event, many of the Councillors, Officers and two local Members of Parliament visited the course and took a keen interest in the action.

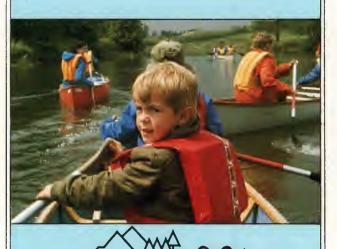
The Slalom Course at Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre is now on the International Watersports map. It is known that there is still much to do on the site to develop and improve the facilities. However, as many have discovered there is a great deal to do in Robin Hood land, both in the City and the Shire. It is an ideal base for a family holiday or weekend break.

All bodes well for next year when Britain hosts the final leg of the EUROPA CUP Competition. This is to be over the weekend of 13/14 August 1988. Book the date in your diary now — and perhaps plan your holiday around it, accommodation reservations are being accepted now. With the support of Nottinghamshire County Council and the Sports Council, we are looking forward to an equally exciting event.

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The Committee of the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race is pleased and proud to announce that His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, has graciously consented to become the Patron of the Race.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Eastern Region

The Annual General Meeting of the BCU Eastern Region will take place on Tuesday 8 December 87 at the Apton Road Day Centre, BISHOPS STORTFORD, Herts, commencing at 8pm. Items for consideration should be forwarded to the Regional Secretary, Mr. G. Davis, 12, Park Road, RAMSEY, Cambridgeshire PE17 1BA by 1 December.

London and South East Region

The Annual General Meeting of the London and South East Region will be held on Wednesday, 10 February 1988, at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Room G55 at 8.00 pm. Yorkshire and Humberside Region

The Annual General Meeting of the BCU Yorkshire and Humberside Region will be held on Thursday, 17 December 1987 at the Conference Suite, Regional Sports Council, Coronet House, Queens Street, LEEDS 1, commencing at 7.30pm.

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE

A certain amount of inconvenience has been experienced by members, due to recent changes that have taken place (without the Union being forewarned). Please note that the correct address is

BRITISH CANOE UNION FLEXEL HOUSE 45 HIGH STREET, ADDLESTONE SURREY KT15 1TU

The telephone number is now Weybridge (0932) 841341.

BCU NOTTINGHAM OFFICE

Many of you will know that the BCU Finance Officer has, for the past 18 months been working from an office at the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre. This office will shortly be moving to larger premises and will include the BCU Supplies Department. Would members therefore please address all written and telephone enquiries regarding finance and BCU Supplies, to the following address, from the 1st December 1987.

British Canoe Union The Elms Holme Pierrepont National Watersports Centre HOLME PIERREPONT, Adbolton Lane Nottingham NG12 2LU Telephone 0602-817412

DINNER IN TRIBUTE TO RON EMES MBE BA (Hons)

There is to be a canoeists reunion dinner on Saturday evening 30 January 1988, at the Moat House Hotel, WEST BROMWICH, West Midlands, in honour of Ron Emes who retired as Director of the British Canoe Union at the end of June this year. The occasion will include some after dinner speeches, followed by an evening of canoeing reminiscences that should not be missed. The event will be organised in conjunction with the British Canoe Union by the Worcester Canoe Club.

Cost for the evening will be £12.50 per person, tickets can be obtained from Worcester Canoe Club, Grandstand Road, WORCESTER WR1 3EJ (cheques payable to Worcester Canoe Club please). A concessionary bed and breakfast rate at the hotel is available for those wishing to stay the night at £17.50 per person (individuals to make their own bookings direct with the Moat House Tele 021-553-6111).

RESIGNATIONS

The resignation of the Finance Officer (Miss Annmarie Cassidy) and the Information and Press Officer (Mr Peter Ingram) have been received and will take effect from the 31 October 1987.



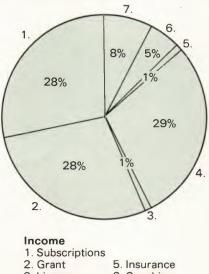
by Trevor J. Bailey, Director of the British Canoe Union

THANK YOU

I ended my last article by saying that I would be often seen at various events and invite members to come and have a moan, a chat or even give some praise. Many thanks to all those who responded to the invite, and it is gratifying that moans and praise have both been forthcoming.

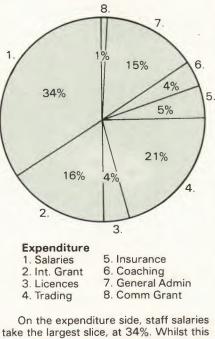
Some members have also responded by writing to me. One such member, Margaret Robinson from Brikenhead, did just that and then met me at the Ironbridge Slalom. It was nice that despite her complaints, Margaret and I were able to have a constructive chat and I was delighted that at the end of the weekend I was asked to present the prizes and Margaret was one of the winners. Margaret and many other members have complained about the increase in subscription, up by £3 to £19.50 for full members. A common thread going through the letters and comments was why is such an increase necessary and where does all the money go!

Whilst a detailed explanation will not reduce the level of subscriptions I take the point that members should be better informed of the reasons behind such an increase. Next year's budget, incorporating the increased subscription level, has now been approved by Council and the two charts show from where the BCU receives its money and how it spends it.



3. Licences	6. Coaching
4. Trading	7. Recharges
0	0

On the income side it is interesting that only 28% of our income derives from subscriptions, and this is matched by Sports Council grant aid. Council is aware that the Sports Council contribution will diminish over the next few years in line with our own ten year development plan. Your Council is also aware that if subscriptions are set too high many members will drop out or new members will simply be put off joining in the first place. We need, therefore, to increase our income from other sources and we have recently formulated a very detailed three year Marketing Plan which will have just that effect. Unfortunately the implementation of the plan, and the receipt of the increased income, is bound to take some time. Council therefore felt that, with the current cash flow situation and the need to pay £100,000 for the Slalom Course at Holme Pierrepont, that subscriptions must be increased this year. A point not mentioned in the last Focus when the new subscriptions were announced was that these would stay at their increased level for two years, i.e. there will be no increase next year.

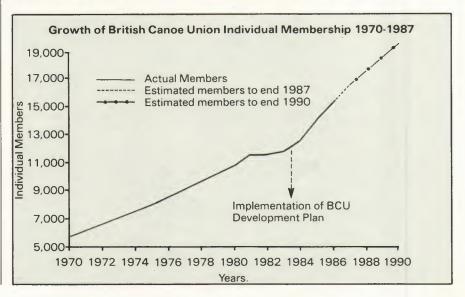


take the largest slice, at 34%. Whilst this budget heading has not escaped intact in the pruning exercise necessary to produce this year's budget, it still remains the highest category of expenditure. The BCU operates with a comparatively small number of full time staff, who cover Coaching, Access, Regional Development, Management and Control of the National White Water Centre at Bala. Publicity including the production of this magazine and the many information leaflets produced for members. Additionally there is Marketing which includes the management of our supplies operation, and of course General Administration which covers a whole range of duties including the BWB Licence scheme, the Insurance scheme, servicing of committees and members, helping to organise the annual Canoe Exhibition at Crystal Palace, and the maintenance of links with such organisations as the Central Council of Physical Recreation, Sports Council, International Canoe Federation and a whole range of bodies with varying degrees of involvement in our sport. It should be pointed out that against the Salary Budget should be set the income from Trading at 22% of the total and the recharge for Headquarters services at 4% of the total.

If I may be permitted to sing the praises of the staff, I think it is highly relevant that our growth in the number of members since 1970 is dramatic, as illustrated in the graph. The staff are constantly seeking ways to improve the level of service available to members and I believe the increase in membership can be taken to indicate that large numbers are appreciative of such improvement.

Well — that was a fairly lengthy comment on finance which clearly only begins to explain some of the reasons behind the decision to increase the subscriptions. I hope members who felt that such an increase was not justified will possibly now acknowledge that the BCU is still good value for money, run by a small group of staff constantly pursuing ways of improving the level of service to members.

Finally I must respond to a comment made to me regarding CRACK - asking why the BCU will not recognise that organisation. A tremendous amount of work, both by staff and voluntary officers is currently directed to an improvement in the access position. The BCU recently held a most useful meeting with anglers under the chairmanship of the Sports Council. Progress will be slow. Many members may feel frustrated and feel inclined to support more direct action. Your Council firmly believes that constructive negotiation is the only way forward, and that the activities of CRACK, rather than furthering our cause simply drives the anglers away from the negotiating table. Years of patient work is thus at risk, and that is why Council has condemned the actions of CRACK and made it clear that the BCU is in no way associated with that organisation.





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AROUND THE CLUBS

Wrangholm Outdoor Club by Scott J. Quinn

Wrangholm Outdoor Club is a club which has formed out of a Regional Council Urban Aided Project and now offers a wide range of activities to the community and community groups, eg. Canoeing, Hill walking, Skiing, Windsurfing etc. As the government funding finished on the 30 August 87, the club decided they needed a publicity stunt to advertise the availability of such a club to the wider range of the community.

And so on the 19 July this year the club decided to walk the West Highland Way "CARRYING CANOES"! This they felt was such a ridiculous thing to do that they could not help but be noticed. So off they set and completed the journey surprisingly in only six days.

The main carriers were John Lewis and Scott Quinn, supported by a back-up team of John Mclaughlin, Dougie Hill, Tom Furrie, Alan McFadden, Mungo Ross and Pauline Crawford. Pauline unfortunately had a mishap along the way and broke her ankle. The Club believe this to be the first and possibly a record, but would like to learn of any previous attempts. Photo by Mungo Ross



Beauchamp Lodge Youth Club

by James Schutte.

How would you like to go canoeing down a ladder on a Sunday afternoon? As improbable as it sounds that is exactly what members of the Beauchamp Lodge Youth Club do when they meet for a regular Sunday stint at their Headquarters on Little Venice, a triangular patch of water on the Grand Union Canal in London's Paddington district.

The ladder was the idea of the club's assistant leader Mike Smith. First used when it was suspended from a bridge over the canal for the annual "Canal Cavalcade" it involved a drop of some twelve feet to the water below. Unfortunately the bridge has had to be re-painted and can no longer be used. Not to be stopped however the members now regularly suspend the ladder from the bank outside their Headquarters, which goes some way to make up for the lack of a resident "Wier", and greatly increases the fun to be had on calm canal waters.

The club which is a voluntary organisation supported by Westminster City Council and funded by the Inner London Education Authority, occupies a large part of a rambling waterside building erected in 1854. It houses the club's 35 canoes and 4 sailing boats. The members also have their own cafe, a games room and all the usual youth club facilities on site.

Members starting as young as nine years old can learn basic canoe handling at a local swimming pool and progress to weekend trips to Thames Wiers and other nearby rivers, leading on to longer canoeing trips all over the British Isles. Last Easter they visited Cornwall for sea canoeing and Wales for their summer holiday. The club does not limit its activities to canoeing but also involves its members in most other outdoor pursuits including caving and mountaineering.

The club is always ready to welcome new members. Further details can be obtained from the Club Leader, Martin Singer at Beauchamp Lodge Youth Club, 2 Warwick Crescent, London W2 6NE. (Tel: 01-289 3388).



Photograph by James Schutte

St. John's Ambulance Brigade's Centenary Year

By Richard Scaife

A sponsored canoe race and tour has raised a total of £475 for St. John's Ambulance in their centenary year.

The race was organised by St. Albans Canoe Club, with help from Milton Keynes Canoe Club, on the River Ouse between Olney and Sharnbrook; Bedford and Olney. St. John's Ambulance provided safety cover and hot refreshments at Sharnbrook. These were very welcome, especially as heavy rain set in shortly after the start of the event. Sharbrook Motors kindly donated the prizes and commemorative certificates for all the paddlers.

The senior racers paddled the full 13 mile course, the winners being the double kayak of Worsley and Wakeham of Viking Canoe Club, Bedford, in one hour 45 minutes. They were closely followed by Mick Shaw, also of Viking, in a single kayak. The Ladies and Junior classes paddled a shorter eight mile course. The winners, all from Melton Mowbray, were Sarah Pike, Tim Brew (under 16) and Scott Brenchley (under 14).

The touring paddlers chose either to paddle the full distance from Olney, or started at Turvey Bridge for a trip through the very attractive unspoilt Upper Ouse Valley at Sharbrook. The paddlers ages spanned at least 50 years, the youngest being eight years old, Hazel Scaife of St. Albans Canoe Club, with several paddlers approaching senior citizen status.



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My Dear Hank,

Really old boy, your letter last month was just not on. Your choice of phrase, "Get up off your xxx" was most unfortunate. You could have said "hurry" just as easily, and then mother would not have had one of her attacks.

As it transpired, I did telephone CURRENT TRENDS on 0602-818844 and VALLEY CANOE on 0602-614995 and they both said that those AEROQUATIC WHITE-WATER KAYAKS had not arrived anyway! It is just not cricket to tell me that these blow-moulded craft are produced at a rate of one every three minutes if your chappy over there forgets to switch the machine on.

I understand that they should have arrived in good old Blighty now, and as soon as mother is better I shall amble up to Nottingham and test a demonstration craft.

I'm sorry to have to speak sharply to you Hank, and I hope you won't let this little matter affect our friendship.

Mother says not to forget your woolly when you go to shoot Niagara Falls - the water is none too warm at this time of the year.

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Competition Polo

INTERNATIONAL CANOE POLO TOURNAMENT – Bourg St. Maurice

by Michael Vessey

The St. Albans A team having won the National Championships in February, travelled to Bourg St. Maurice on 11 June to represent Great Britain in the first tournament to be held to the new international rules. The International coincided with the World Slalom and Wild Water Championships and was staged for the governing body of canoeing, the International Canoe Federation.

Five nations — France, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Great Britain were represented. The British were drawn to play Pont D'Ouilly (France) and Italy in the first round leagues. The heat and high altitude clearly affected the team's performance in their first match against the French. Our coach blamed a low work rate as the cause of the 3-1 defeat. The team were clearly shaken, but after a cool off in the pool and a strong pep talk, defeated the Italians 8-1. Pont D'Ouilly beat the Italians 7-1, putting Britain second in their league.

Our team then met the West Germans who had won their league. In the other

semi-final the French team met the Dutch team Rijnland who had beaten the other French team (Lochrist). The German team consisted of five very well built players, who looked as if they would beat the British youngsters. The match was a closely fought affair and at full time the score stood at 3-3. The game then went into extra time. Michael made up for an earlier miss by putting the British team ahead in the second half of extra time making the final result 4-3. The British were into the final where they were to meet Pont D'Ouilly for the second time. The French had earlier beaten the Dutch 8-0.

The British took to the water after a cooling swim in the other pool and were determined to reverse their earlier result. The commentator introduced both teams at considerable length. The very large crowd were cheering on the home side, with only the Italian, German teams and a few British supporters urging on the British. The French took the lead, and Ian equalized. The French took the lead again and Ian brought the score back to 2 all. The final score was 3-3 after Alan scored a superb goal from near the half way line and the British team had to slog out another tiring period of extra time.

The French went ahead in the second period to the delight of the spectators. A





fault with the timing meant that ten seconds were added on after the referee had blown full time. A long ball put Alan within scoring range but two French defenders pounced and prevented him doing so as the crowd counted the final seconds away.

Everyone agreed that the young British team (average age 19) had put up a very credible performance and afterwards were praised by the German team manager and the Pont D'Ouilly team. The squad consisted of Stephen Marlow, lan Plummer, Clive Rackham, Ewen Smale, Richard Spicer, Alan Vessey and Michael Vessey all of whom live and train in Potters Bar.

THE 1987 CANOE POLO EUROPA CUP by Andrew Leafe

With Crystal Palace unavailable the choice of Luton as venue for the Europa Cup seemed at first somewhat unglamorous. However it proved to be an excellent decision, with a lot of local publicity, a good crowd and plenty of excitement.

The Europa Cup is increasing in prestige each year and this year it was enhanced by two factors. Firstly the introduction of new international rules which meant that everyone was playing the same game, and therefore the teams were closer on ability than previously. Secondly, the formation of a national Great Britain squad resulted in four GB teams competing, with squad members from different clubs playing together.

It was gratifying to see so many foreign teams entered, and not surprisingly it was the Australians who attracted most attention. Their unique boats, bright gear and boundless enthusiasm contributing greatly to the atmosphere of the weekend. The other foreign teams were not however to be overlooked. The Finnish team were quite impressive, but they were handicapped by their social activities and by having to use plastic boats. The Germans took delivery of their brand new British boats and proceeded quietly into the semi-finals and eventually fourth place. Many teams underestimated them particularly their disciplined defence.

The French team were unfortunately not the best that their country has to offer, and their main contribution was to lose to GB 'C' only 4-0 thereby helping the Germans onto the semi finals on goal difference. The Irish team may not have been the most talented at Polo, but socially they were outstanding, and will be remembered by many as the friendliest team.

The four way ladies competition involved the top two British teams with Ireland and Australia. While there was nothing between the two British teams neither were a match for the Australians who were quite awesome. The Irish were sadly out of their class in all of their matches. The closest that anyone came to the Aussies was when GB 'B' Team lost only 2-0 to them.

The semi-finals of the mens competition were between GB 'A' and GB 'B', and Australia versus Germany. The Australians made light work of the Germans, and all British eyes were on the Great Britain A versus B clash. All the players came from the sixteen strong senior squad. There was intense rivalry between the two sides, each trying to prove who was best. The naming of the A and B sides was arbitrary and was forced on the Selection Committee due to the pre-Europa Cup build up, so it was anyones guess who would win.

The outcome of a very hard match was settled by a second half penalty after the A team had made a defensive error. So the GB 'B' team went onto the final. The GB squad may have its critics, but there is certainly no shortage of team spirit, and it was good to see the A team behind their goal in the final, roaring them on to a famous 2-1 victory over Australia. The Aussies could count themselves a little unlucky, as several refereeing decisions didn't help their cause, but it was a British victory that was welcomed by the partisan crowd.

Collete Janes did a superb job of organising the whole event, (including breakfasts for players and the Saturday night party). Albert Murkon handled the publicity and did an excellent job at short notice, with all local newspapers running stories and Radio Bedfordshire broadcasting interviews and results during the weekend and even into the following week! I think most players would also like to thank the Luton pool staff for being friendly, helpful and enthusiastic throughout.

Finally I think most of the GB players would agree that the squad is working,

and while we are good now, we can be excellent in the future. We have the skill, motivation and coaching, that will make Canoe Polo another area of canoeing of which Great Britain can be proud.

DUISBURG — CANOE POLO TOURNAMENT by Valerie Vessey

The Canoe Polo tournament at Duisburg in Germany on 22 August was organised to give the International Canoe Federation officials gathered there for the World Racing Championships an opportunity to see matches played to the proposed new international rules. These had been the subject of much debate by the ad hoc polo sub-committee in the preceding few days. Teams from Great Britain, France, Australia, Holland and Germany had entered and there were also Ladies teams from Australia and Germany.

On Friday evening the pitch was set out on the Regatta course and it was obvious that refereeing would be a little difficult. The referee on the stand side would be at least five metres away from the side rope and the referee on the other side would be confined to a motor boat. Any quiet consultation over disputed decisions were going to be quite out of the question.

To avoid any clashes with the sprint programme a 7.30am start was necessary. Crawling out of bed at 6.30am seemed no joke, but in view of the extreme temperature and lack of shade that weekend the early start was perhaps a blessing in disguise. It was noticeable that ICF interest started at a more civilised hour. The six teams were in two leagues of three. In the first were Germany 'A', Great Britain and Holland; and in the second were Germany 'B', Australia and France.

A breakdown in Dutch transport left them with only two players and they had to borrow from the other teams. The German team beat them but the GB team could only draw 1-1 in an uninspiring match. The GB/Germany game was a much more exciting affair with end to end play. It was a much better performance from the British players, who were playing in their first tournament since the national Polo Squad had been set up. GB constantly opened up the lead only to see the Germans equalise. Leading 4-3 in the dying moments, a German goal, hotly disputed for a foul on the goalkeeper was allowed by the referees, making the final score 4-4.

In the other league Germany 'B' and Australia beat a disappointing French team but the Australians then lost to the Germans. The whole tournament had to be finished by 10.30am and lack of time prevented the usual crossover semi-finals. The GB team did get the chance to play the Australians for third place in another exciting, close fought match which the British won 2-1. In the final Germany 'A' beat Germany 'B' 5-2. The Ladies game was arranged to show the ICF that polo is not an all male sport. The Australian ladies proved faster and more skilful than their German opponents and won the game convincingly.

Five minutes after the final whistle the pitch had disappeared and the brief intrusion into the sprint programme was over. The teams were presented to the ICF President and it seemed that a favourable impression had been made. Members of the GB team were Dave Brown, Andrew Leafe, Peter Osborne, Ian Plummer, Clive Rackham, Gregor Smale and Alan Vessev.

ICF CANOE POLO RULES

While the World Racing Championships were being contested, the International Canoe Federation Ad. Hoc. Canoe Polo Committee were meeting in Duisburg. The meeting was arranged to finalise the proposals for ICF Canoe Polo Rules, which will be put to the ICF Congress in 1988.

Brian Porter represented the BCU at this meeting, where West Germany, France and Australia also had representatives. The rules will not change the British game a great deal, but referees and players will need to be aware of some changes, particularly regarding referees signals.



Book Review

DKV CALENDARS

Available from BCU Supplies at £5.90 members, £6.90 non-members, including p&p and VAT

There are two versions available for 1988 of the beautifully produced calendars from the German Canoe Federation.

Each contains twelve high gloss pictures approximately 42 x 30 centimetres $(16\frac{1}{2}''x 11\frac{1}{2}'')$. 'Kanuextrem' concentrates on white water shots, while 'Kanu 88' covers a wide spectrum of the sport.

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HYPOTHERMIA, FROSTBITE AND OTHER COLD INJURIES

By Wilkerson, Bangs and Hayward

ISBN 0-89886-024-5

Published by The Mountaineers, Seattle. Available from BCU Supplies at £7.80 members, £8.80 non-members, including p&p and VAT

Review by Ray Rowe

If you are confused with all the controversy and varied opinions surrounding Hypothermia and Cold related injuries you will appreciate this book. Here, at last, we have a comprehensive and authoritative manual which makes no attempt to over-simplify the condition of Hypothermia, but at the same time leaves us in no doubt about the body's responses, more importantly, about the actual treatment of Hypothermic casualties as well.

It is an American publication with a necessarily technical flavour requiring proper reading, rather than picking out the juicy bits from a quick flick through. The interested reader will find the information is to the point, concise and presented with the outdoorsman in mind. Half of the book is given over to the mechanics of cooling and the avoidance of Hypothermia, and there is some excellent practical information on clothing and nutrition.

The chapter on Immersion Hypothermia, which might be of most interest to canoeists was written by Dr. John Hayward of Victoria University, British Columbia, one of the worlds undisputed experts on the subject. His breakdown of Short Term and Long Term immersion relates well to the differing problems of the White Water paddler and the Sea Canoeist. The photographs of frost bitten feet show an uncanny resemblance to that prolific paddling condition — Hyperwetsuit bootemia!

THE THROW LINE AND ITS USE IN WHITE WATER CANOEING

By Ray Rowe

Available from BCU Supplies at £1 members, £1.50 non-members, including p&p and VAT

Reviewed by Dave Horrocks

Ray Rowe is one of the more prolific paddlers of extreme white water, with a particular interest in white water rescue and safety. Anyone who has paddled extensively in Europe, knows that the Germans and Austrians are well ahead in developing safety and rescue systems in white water. This, coupled with the extension of technical difficulty being attempted in short plastic boats, has highlighted the need for more attention being given to safety and rescue procedures in Britain. Ray has been involved in national white water safety seminars, has extensive experience of teaching and leading on advanced white water and has studied rescue methods on the continent through a Churchill Scholarship. The result of Ray's work is an authoritative guide to the use of what is now a piece of every white water paddler's equipment.

Ray's precept is that the throw line is a basic tool, and an extremely versatile one. He has produced a comprehensive, no-nonsense guide to its range of applications, from a washing line to a sophisticated rescue tool.

This economically produced (and priced) booklet gives clear guidance on what constitutes a good throw bag and how to make one. A step by step guide on how to deploy it, how to receive it — as a swimmer being rescued — and simple belay techniques for the rescuer.

The second part deals with other applications such as lowering canoes or people down steep banks or gorges, setting up improvised pullies for salvage of trapped boats, a handline to support someone wading in a fast current and as a "dragnet" to safeguard he who misses that last and all important break-out that we all have nightmares about!

Some of the techniques however, involve fairly sophisticated ropework, which may come easily to someone with mountaineering background — which Ray clearly has — but would be quite unfamiliar to those who do not. In a short booklet, there is no room for detailed technical information on sophisticated improvised rescue, which should be left to the more comprehensive and specialised volumes available on the subject. I felt therefore that Ray could have been a little more selective on the techniques he has described.

In general though the booklet is an excellent contribution to the information available on white water safety. The throw line should be viewed as a basic tool of the

trade, and like any tool, once you learn the mechanics of how to use it, you only become proficient in its use through plenty of PRACTISE.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPEDITION GUIDE

By Wally Keay

ISBN No. 905425014 Available from BCU Supplies at £8.30 members, £9.30 non-members, including p&p and VAT

Reviewed by Stuart Briggs



As with its predecessor, the book contains chapters on all the different aspects of expeditioning from equipment to navigation, and first aid to the weather! Statements are purposeful and concise. Numerous tables and lists add to the overall clarity and intended objectives of the book. The seventeen chapters and five appendices are in logical order and this is indicative of the care and thought which has gone into the publication.

Understandably, for the D of E Award Scheme, the book is aimed primarily at the back-packer. There is, however, worthy comment and basic information about other types of venture. 'Ventures on Water' devotes itself to canoeing, sailing and rowing. There are just three pages in the canoeing section. Drawing the distinction between kayak and canoe it comments that the open canoe and the sea kayak have much to commend themselves for expeditioning compared with the more popular, perhaps, 'slalom' kayak. The reader's attention is drawn to the fact that there is a very wide choice of water from river to canal and sea to lake. Some of the earlier chapters are as relevant to canoeing expeditions as they are to back-packing. Most of the information contained within the appendices will be as helpful to the canoeist on multi-day journeys as to the walker.

For anyone with an interest in outdoor pursuits this book is paramount; it contains a lot of good advice and information. Many canoeists will find it interesting, entertaining and a useful companion to their canoeing literature. For anyone concerned directly with the 'D of E' scheme it is essential reading.

Access

WHY THEY WON'T TALK

By Graham Smith, Chairman of the Yorkshire Derwent Trust. Reproduced with acknowledgement to Waterways the national magazine of the Inland Waterways Association.

A VERY revealing editorial in a recent issue of *Waterways World* describes a common experience in the waterway movement: the seemingly universal reluctance of "conservationists", including the fashionable Bellamy, to respond to offers of discussion and co-operation.

As it has been elsewhere, so it is on the Yorkshire Derwent. In spite of his former close links with us, Sir Peter Scott has responded neither to the Trust nor to the IWA. Bellamy does not even acknowledge our letters; even the "official" Nature Conservancy Council has said that discussion is "premature" pending the outcome of the High Court action to determine if a right of navigation exists.

In the case of the Derwent, at least the reason for this reluctance is perhaps not hard to find. The Derwent Appeal, which supports the landowners who are claiming that the river is private, raises money in the guise of an "Appeal" to save the Derwent and its Wildlife". It would never do if discussions with us revealed that with sensible co-operation navigation and conservation might not conflict!

This is how the work of the Yorkshire Derwent Trust is described by Mr Castairs of the Derwent Appeal (for the landowners) in "Natural World":

"a commercial marina proposal in the midst of the Derwent Ings which is of international wildlife value ... fuelled anxieties ... and caused wildlife farming and angling groups to question the wisdom of the boater's aspirations. Appeals to them to modify their proposals ... fell on deaf ears. In 1980 the gauntlet was thrown down. The Yorkshire Derwent Trust proposed to run a trip boat..."

A public right of navigation, the readers are told is:

"a paramount right over everything else including wildlife interests — all would be subject to the requirements of boats".

The most serious misapprehension encouraged by the landowners' appeal in pieces of this sort is that the internationally important Wheldrake Ings Nature Reserve would be adversely affected by

the successful demonstration of a right of navigation on the part of the Derwent in dispute. The quoted piece clearly implies that boats on the river would pass right among birds nesting on the nature reserve. There seems little doubt that it is this fear which has prompted support for the landowners from the World Wildlife Fund — a particularly serious circumstance since this fund is supported by Royalty.

If any responsible conservation organisation were to discuss the facts with us, two vitally important points would rapidly emerge:

Firstly: the Wheldrake Ings Nature Reserve is alongside a part of the river where there is an undoubted right of navigation, at least 12 miles from the scene of the dispute.

Secondly: the navigation is completely cut off from the reserve by a high and wide flood embankment below which the river runs, blocking both sight and sound. It is quite impossible to see into the reserve from a passing boat, and conversely the birds cannot be aware of activity on the navigation.

Similarly, the allegations in the appeal that we intend to "dredge and scour", "take over" the river or saturate it with boats would quickly receive their quietus. Little wonder we are kept at a distance!

This is not the end of the verbal trickery in the piece. By juxtaposition and the use of the all-embracing terms "boaters" and "them", the appeal distorts the (quite proper) resubmission of a planning application by a "commercial" developer unconnected with the Trust into a mendacious implication that the Trust refuses to discuss its own proposals. Elsewhere the same deliberate confusion allows the establishment of a navigation authority to be described as "boaters taking over the Derwent".

Funds are still urgently needed to pursue the action in the face of this sort of propaganda. Please send any contributions to Roger Womersley at 21, Cloverly Drive, Timperley, ALTRINCHAM, Cheshire.

UPDATE

Upper Wye

A formal response has been sent by the BCU solicitor to the riparian's solicitor. At the time of going to press the position had not been clarified for the close fishing season. For up-to-date information contact the Local Access Officer, Chris Charters and *stick to his recommendations.* To do otherwise will undermine his work and it is sad to report that there have been instances of this. Contact him at Worlds End Lodge, STAUNTON-ON-WYE, Hereford HR4 7NF. (SAE please).

Itchen

Counsel's opinion is imminent. Until the case comes to court or is otherwise resolved, it is *essential* that anyone proposing to cance the Itchen should *first* contact the Local Access Officer, Dave Evans, Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, CALSHOT, Hants SO4 1BR (sae please).

Wiltshire Avon

Counsel's opinion has been received about the portage route at Avoncliffe Weir below Bradford on Avon. The local canoe club is seeking further evidence of usage of this weir and of paddling the river between Bradford-on-Avon and Bath. Anyone who can help please contact Stephen Missen, 6A Pipett Buildings, Market Street, BRADFORD-ON-AVON, Wilts BA15 4JS.

NATIONAL TALKS WITH ANGLERS

The meeting forecast in FOCUS 51 took place under the Chairmanship of the Sports Council on 18 September. The Union was represented by Mike Twiggs -Access Chairman, Trevor Bailey - Director and Carel Quaife - National Development Officer. It was an exceptionally good meeting in a positive and co-operative atmosphere - in fact the best such meeting anyone can remember! There will be a follow-up meeting in early November to work out ways of regular meetings at National and local level between angling, canoeing and other interests to achieve improvement in both sports and to iron out problems quickly before confrontations occur. The door is open again so we must keep it this way. Members will need to be patient as progress will be slow, but hopefully steady. The anglers may find it more difficult than we do to get the support of their grass roots. If, initially the local scene does not tie in with this report, please give it time.

CHESTER WEIR

The Welsh Water Authority has complained that canoeists are not fully observing the agreement on canoeing at Chester Weir. Canoeing can take place except in the fish channel and under the gratings. A further restriction between 1 March and 31 August each year means no canoeing between sunset and 7am or on Sundays to Fridays inclusive between one hour before and three hours after high water. Full details from Local Access Officer Stephen Chorley, 13 Dee Banks, CHESTER (Sae please).

BRIEFS

• The first Access Symposium will have taken place when you receive this issue of FOCUS. A report will be published in the next issue.

• The Union has put a lot of time and effort into drafting comprehensive responses to

- a) The Department of the Environment on the Privatisation of the Water Industry green paper.
- b) The Sports Council on their document "Which Ways Forward?" relating to their half time review of the "1983-1993 Sport in the Community" strategy.

 The Union's pressure on the Countryside Commission has been rewarded by a clear recognition of water as a means for enjoying the countryside. This is contained in their document "Policies for Enjoying the Countryside" (ref CCP234 dated September 1987).

• The BCU has been offered an access agreement by South West Water on the

river East Lyn. The local access officer is pursuing this opportunity.

• As reported in FOCUS 49 the BCU has contributed £500 to the Derwent fund. Legal points will be tested which will be important to canoeists. The Trust needs a lot more financial support. (See Article in this edition). The Access Committee continues to give what help it can.

PARLIA MENTARY LOBBY

In August the Access Committee produced a quality leaflet stating the case for supporting the recreational canoeist. The intention was that a canoeist in each constituency would personally contact his MP and leave the paper as a summary of the discussion. The exercise was organised through the National Access Officers in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and through the Regional Access Officers in England. At the time of going to press we can report supportive comment from several MPs, one of whom had contacted the Minister for Sport. Will all those involved please report results to their National or Regional Access Officer so that we can capitalise on the response and also give more information in a later issue of the magazine.

ACCESS OFFICER ROLE

Your local Access Officer tries to get to know all interests concerned with his or her piece of water, negotiates agreements and sorts out problems at local level. The detailed situation is constantly changing so it is the local Access Officer who is the authority on access information and must be consulted when planning a trip. Without this co-operation from members the work of the Access Officers will become difficult if not impossible. Everyone would suffer from this. Your Regional Access Officer (see BCU Yearbook) or BCU HQ (please phone or send SAE) will tell you who is the Local Access Officer.

DATES	NAME	TITLE	DATES		NAME	TITLE
October 31 November 7	Martin Farr Andt Pollitt	Cave Diving Rock Attrocities	Novembe	er 21	John Beatty	"Spitzbergen The Arctic Winter"
November 14	Bill Taylor	Sea Kayak around Britain/Ireland	January January	23 30	Mick Fowler Martin Atkinson	"British Ice" "New Wave" (Rock Climbing



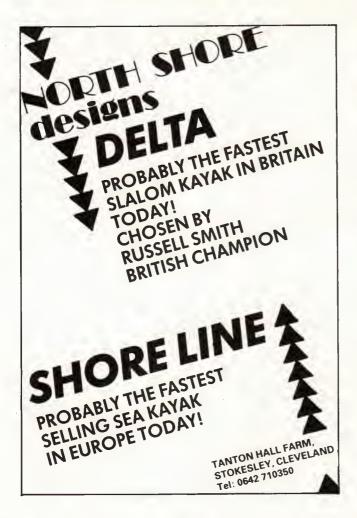
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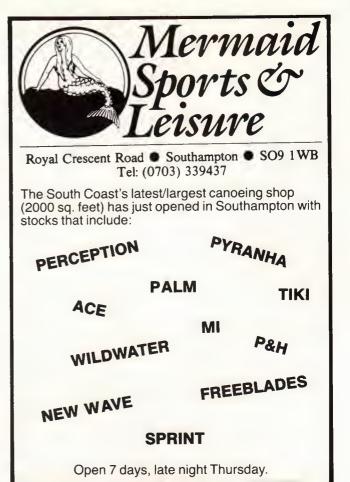
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7

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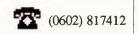
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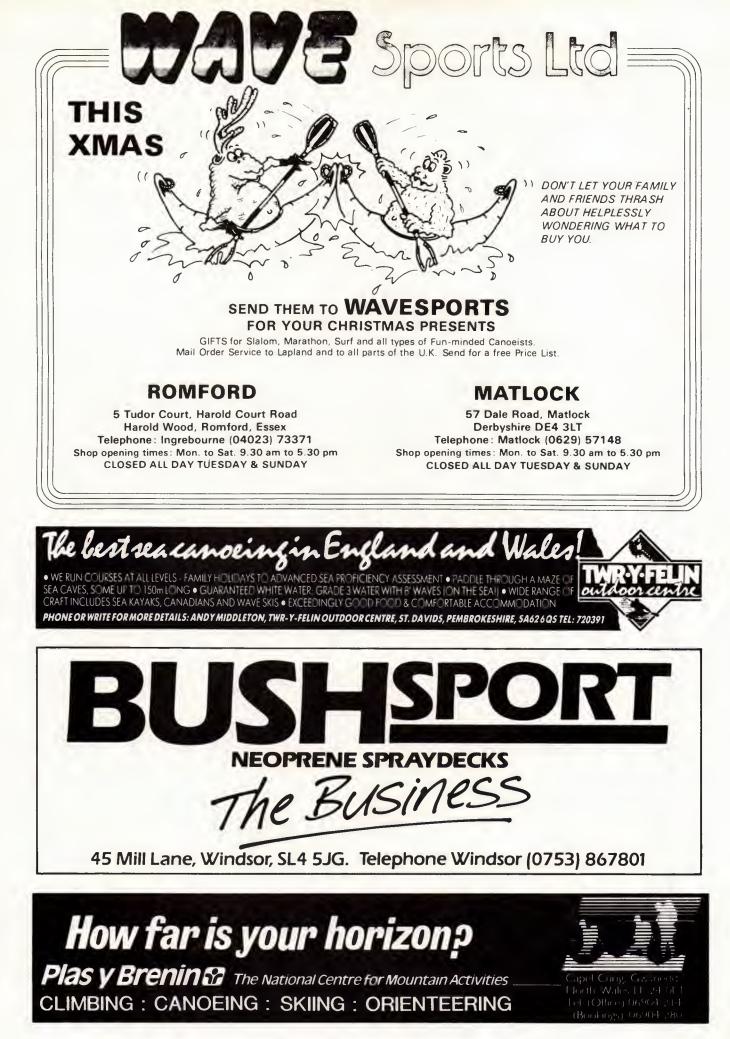
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20 July-1 August 1987 by Andy Freeman, Hereford Kayak Club.

Seven nations were represented in this year's race, the fifth successful year for the organizers who ran the race with the help of sponsorship from Coca-Cola and Finnish Oko-Bank. From the snow-capped peaks of Kilpisjarvi in the north to the forests and fields at Tornio, the 537 km of the race offers exciting and challenging rapids, demanding the best in wild water skills, plus the marathon paddler's ability to take the long open lake sections in their stride. The unique nature of the river presents a tough challenge, especially with the low water level this year for the first two stages before the day's rest stop at Muonio.

The event began with kit checking on the afternoon of Saturday 25 July, ready for the 3.00 am Sunday start on the lake below the Saana mountain. This far north the daylight is continuous, with sunshine

TIC CANOE RA

from 5.00 am to 11.00 pm! The first day of the race is excep-125 km - and tionally long takes the paddlers down to the rolling hills and pine forests of Karesuando through several exciting grade III and IV rapids, with long successions of tumbling grade II's and smaller falls. A 30 minute

lunch stop at Pattikakoski is well situated to enable paddlers to inspect the most technical of the rapids on the race rocky grade IV carrying a 20 minute penalty for those who choose the portage.

Successive days include deeper, straighter rapids, mostly graded II-III but none as committing as those in the early stages of the race. Heavy water on the big rapids at Matkakoski and Kukkolankoski on the sixth and final race day presented competitors and spectators with some spectacular canoeing, especially the latter rapid, where white water continues for two kilometers through haystacks and boulder fields. An informal reception and prizegiving await all competitors after each day's racing, with a lottery for additional prizes after the first, second and third prizes for each class have been presented.

The most competitive class this year was in K2, with World Championship Gold medal winners Burnay and Renglet from Belgium taking first place, Frenchmen Thomas and Jacquot second, and Finns Vakiparta/Vakiparta third showing great determination after problems on the first day with a damaged boat. In K1, Leroux of France established an early lead but was forced to retire, leaving Jussi Rihinen to take first place, with the popular Wolfgang Grothaus from Berlin in second place and Locatelli of Italy third. Daily changes in the WWR placings due to hand and wrist injuries left Bechtold of W. Germany in first position, Janeriat of France second, and in third place Karkkainen of Finland.

At the final prizegiving in Haparanda, miniature paddle replicas made from gold, silver and bronze were presented to the first three placings in the K1, K2, WWR and C2 classes, plus trophies to the winners of the ladies and mixed K2 classes and veteran events. The 'Classic' series presentations for the best overall result in the Devizes-Westminster and Arctic races went to Jussi Rihinen who received a silver K1 for his efforts, and to Sue and Andy Freeman of Hereford Kayak Club for their result in K2.

Two-thirds of the ACR takes place inside the Arctic circle, and the weather follows the same pattern as the British climate during the summer - usually wet and warm but with a thriving mosquito population! The coverage, with local people taking a lively and friendly interest along the river banks and at each night's rest stop. There are no access problems, the river is wide and free, and once the aches and pains have subsided the impact of the scenery and friendliness of the Finns will remain through the winter months. For details of next year's race, contact the ACR Office, at Lukiokatu 10, Tornio 95400, Finland.

PORTSMOUTH POLYTECHNICS 1986 KASHMIR EXPEDITION

Extracts from the Report by Alan Williams.

After many months of strenuous training, much planning and numerous inocculations we left for India arriving in New Delhi after a 16 hour flight. After collecting our luggage and equipment we set off in two taxis into the centre of the city to arrange transport to Kashmir in the Himalayas - 800 miles to the North. The quickest way turned out to be by bus along narrow roads and through spectacular scenery. After 28 hours we reached our destination, Srinigar, in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Srinigar, altitude 8,000 feet is a beautiful city surrounded by large, shallow lakes on which thousands of houseboats are moored and it was on one of these houseboats that the expedition decided to stay. It provided good food, a bed to sleep on and somewhere to relax after a strenuous days paddling.

The next few days were spent looking for suitable rivers. Then fours days were spent paddling the 70 kilometres of the River Sindh, a fast flowing Grade II and III. To complete the upper sections, a ten day trek into the Himalayas was arranged complete with ponies, ponymen and coolies to carry the canoes. A cook turned out to be a very expensive luxury so we decided to be self catering, this meant a trip to the local market where 50 kilogrammes of food, 20 kilogrammes of fuel and four live chickens were purchased. These were named 'Sunday', 'Tuesday', 'Thursday' and 'Saturday' for obvious reasons

After taking a bus to the town of Sonomarg 100 kilometres upstream we loaded the ponies and set off into the Himalayas. The next day we continued on up past the tree line and over their first snowbridge at Baltal altitude 11,000 feet. That evening we cooked 'Sunday'-stew had never tasted so good.

Having reached the source of the Sindh the expedition's next objective was to cross two mountain ranges at 15,000 feet and 16,000 feet and enter the Warwain Valley to check the rivers suitability for our 1987 expedition. After six hours we reached Shez Nag, a beautiful blue lake surrounded by snow covered mountains. We could see that the 16,000 feet pass was completely blocked by snow and the river Warwain would remain unknown until our 1987 expedition returns in the August

when the mountain passes will be clear.

After a day spent at Shez Nag paddling on the lake and in ice caves beneath the glaciers the next four days were spent returning to Sonomarg via Panche Tarne Baltal. This included paddling under one large snow bridge and many kilometres of exhilerating canoeing down the swiftly descending river. Back to the houseboat to complete the

remaining 30 kilometres of Grade III to V below Sonomarg, which took five days.

Back by bus to New Delhi, and on checking in for our flight we were told that they were not booked and we would have to wait until the following week. After several anxious hours we managed to get put on the flight list only to be told that the canoes were too large to fit on a jumbo jet! After another hour of argument we were told that nothing longer than six feet would be accepted. Much to the officials astonishment we then proceeded to fold our dancers in half, a bribe finally got the paddles accepted and with minutes to spare we boarded the plane and returned to England.

Note: Our 1987 Expedition was chosen as one of the finalists for the BBC's Mick Burke film competion.



EASTERN

The notice of the Regional AGM is included elsewhere in this issue and the meeting is open to all members in the region, so come and present your views on how the region should be run. A new canoeists Association for Cambridgeshire is being formed and the inaugural AGM will be held early in 1988. If you live in the county and haven't received notification by one route or another by the end of '87 contact the Regional Secretary — Greg Davis (0487 813266).

Broads Weekend Report by Rosemary Preece

October, and the Broads are beautiful. I had never been there but discovered that the only way one can possibly appreciate the atmosphere is from the water, and the ideal boat is a cance. What more graceful sight is there than a Norfolk barge, under full sail, scything its way through the silver mirror of a lake; or what better salve to the soul than sitting silently in a backwater watching a family of Moorhens dabbling through the reeds, or waiting for a diving Grebe to resurface? Add to that, congenial company with a common interest, bright sunny weather, and a wide range of canoes, and you have the Eastern Region's first organised weekend tour.

Where were you all? Didn't you know about it? (Prod your club secretary). Did you think that it might not be your thing or perhaps you didn't have anyone to come with? Did you think that you had to be a BCU member, or think you were not good enough, or might make a fool of yourself? Let me tell you about the couple of dozen that did attend. They represented several clubs, some came alone, some came in groups. The age range stretched from eleven year olds to those well into middle age. (I speak for myself!). We had slalomists, marathonists and the plain "out for a paddleists" of both sexes. Boats ranged from a white water racer to a sea canoe, and a lot of time was spent trying out each other's. Surprisingly there were no doubles. Some fell in but the laughter was compassionate and the help genuine. The serious paddlers soon formed a group out front, while the less serious spent a lot of time wash hanging and pottering about in creeks. No-one was left alone, and we all made new friends. Some paddlers came for the day while some stayed the weekend.

We all camped together at Ludham Bridge on the River Ant. The site boasted a toilet and shower block, and was convenient to a local hostelry which had a family room complete with bar billiards. Some of us cooked in camp, menus varying from cheese rolls to four course dinners. Others found local pubs or restaurants in which to dine. Tents ranged from one man bivis to trailer tents for the less agile (me again).

On Saturday, having obtained licences, (they tried to sell us Angling licences!) we paddled from Sutton to Neatishead for lunch. We then re-crossed Barton Broad and continued down the River Ant to the camp site, where the younger members of the party continued to play on and around the river. On Sunday we started from Wroxham and canoed via Wroxham Broad and Hoveton Great Broad to Horning for lunch. We then continued along the River Bure to its junction with the River Ant and then back to Ludham Bridge. Some stalwarts paddled on to investigate the remains of St. Benet's Abbey and its fish traps.

What more can a harrassed club secretary want? A complete package deal — camp site found and booked, route planned, senior instructors and instructors provided, access arranged and licences organised. All one has to do is to give one's members a map reference and despatch them with their equipment, not to the other end of the country but right here in the Eastern Region. (Not that other regions are not welcome to join us). Incidentally we all paddled another 26



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miles towards our Strand Touring awards. On behalf of all the participants of this highly successful weekend, I should like to thank Colin Kempson of Milton Keynes Canoe Club for so ably organising this event. Since he is the Regional Access Officer I really don't know where he finds the time. Thank you Colin and please may we have a lot more events of this kind.

NORTHERN

North Tyne Wild Water Race

Please note that the Organiser for the above race, to be held on Saturday 21 November is now Mrs Mary Armstrong, 7 Dryburn Park, Durham Moor, DURHAM DH1 5AD. Late entries are charged at 50p extra.

SOUTH WEST

River works at Tiverton on the River Exe

Construction work on a bridge for the new North Devon Link Road is affecting the River Exe just below Salmon Ponds Weir at Tiverton. All canoeists on the popular Bolham to Bickleigh run should take great care! The weir beneath the bridge at Bickleigh is starting to break up and some very dangerous looking metal spikes have appeared. Please avoid the second arch from the left.

Exeter opens new clubhouse

On the 4 September, after a considerable period of planning and building works, the new Watersports Premises in Haven Road, Exeter were officially opened by the Mayor of Exeter. The Watersports Association provides boathouse accommodation for the Exeter Canoe Club, the Exeter Rowing Club and the Exeter Branch of the British Sub Aqua Club and is fully equipped with changing rooms, showers and a committee room.

The most recently completed development is a spacious clubhouse and bar which had greatly improved the facility of each club. Visiting canoeists are welcome to drop in for a drink, the bar being open from Tuesdays to Fridays from 7 until 11.00pm and on Sundays from 12 noon until 2.00pm and 7 until 10.30pm.

Team Sprint at Exeter

During the summer months the Sprint Committee was asking clubs and regions to hold competitions on their home waters. Team sprint was wholly inspired by the power sprint rowing shown on Channel 4 TV and seemed to provide an interesting and challenging format. Being run on a time trial basis it meant that no one could take it too easy and there was a chance to use our club K4s. On the day we had the use of four K4s and competitors from Marlow, Bradford on Avon, Fowey River, Wey, Taunton School, Royal, Havelock, the Royal Navy and Exeter formed a total of thirteen teams. Racing took place on the River Exe between the Port Royal and the Ferry Wire, a distance of around 350-400 metres. Each team was allowed four K1 runs, two K2 runs and one K4 run and the team with the best aggregate time was the winner.

The overall winners were an Exeter/ RN team of Peter and Andy Maycock, Ian Livesey and Dave Lang, whose total time was 9.44. Second was a Fowey/Bradford on Avon team of Sean Morely, Ian Timbrell, Keith Owen and Simon Darke, with 10.05. The best junior team was an all Exeter effort with Tina and Robert Lodge, Linda Dawe and Jon Rogers, in 11.43. The fastest K1 run of the day was recorded by Mark Adams, 1.26, the fastest K2 by Andy Maycock and Ian Livesey, 1.19 and the fastest K4 by the winning team in 1.09.

To round off the day we held a K4 event twice around a circuit between the Port Royal and Exe Bridge. Four K4 crews took part producing an event which was closely contested to the final turn where the Fowey/Bradford on Avon crew produced a quicker final turn to beat the Exeter/RN crew to the line in 16.00 mins. On the previous Saturday two K4 crews from Exeter had taken part in the Exeter Rowing Club Head on the Exeter Canoe with the same crew of Peter and Andy Maycock, Dave Lang and Ian Livesey, producing the fastest time of the day with 14 mins 27 secs.

WEST MIDLANDS

AGM

The West Midlands AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20 January 1988. The venue and agenda will be circulated to club secretaries before the meeting.

West Midlands River Guide

The first edition of the West Midlands River guide has sold out. A new larger second edition is now available. With ten extra pages, including more rivers, the guide is available from Mike Nicholls, 25 Dunbar Grove, Great Barr, BIRMINGHAM B43 7PT. The cost is £2.50 plus 25p postage and packing.

Regional Handbook 1988

A reminder that the copy deadline for the 1988 West Midlands Handbook is 31 December 1987. Clubs or individuals wishing to have information included should send copy to Brian Porter, 15 Russel Croft, Aston Fields, BROMS-GROVE, Worcs B60 3EF, preferably before the deadline. Club details, which may have changed recently may also be sent, so that the club directory is up to date. Advertising rates for the Handbook are available from Brian Porter.

Holme Pierrepont Weekend 1988

The Regional weekend at Holme Pierrepont Slalom and White Water Course is booked for 16/17 April 1988. Again the intention is to organise canoeing events that will be published as soon as they are available and sent to clubs. Individuals may receive details by sending an sae to Brian Porter.

Paddlers' Day

Despite the high winds and threat of rain, Paddlers' Day on 18 October proved to be very successful. Well supported by the trade, guest speakers and coaching; several hundred people enjoyed a very full and varied programme. The new venue of Sneyd School enabled an expansion of the programme which gave everyone the opportunity to paddle, look and listen. The Regional Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make the day a success.





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For those wishing to improve or learn new skills with a view to a career in Outdoor Education. One month's intensive training in Canoeing, Sailing, Windsurfing, Skiing, Climbing will be followed by a five-month period as an instructor at the Centre.

For further details and application forms apply to D. K. Evans, Deputy Director, Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, Fawley, Southampton, SO4 1BR enclosing a S.A.E. Tel: Fawley (0703) 892077.

RIVER DART

Canoe Courses - Winter 87/88

4 - 6 Dec. Canoeing + other activities 22 - 24 Jan......White Water Rescue

29 - 31 Jan End of Season 'party'

All courses include full board accommodation for only $\pounds 40$ For details of these courses, and others, for accommodation or instruction contact:

Mountain Stream Activities, Wydemeet, Hexworthy, Yelverton, DEVON PL20 6SF Tel. 03643 - 215

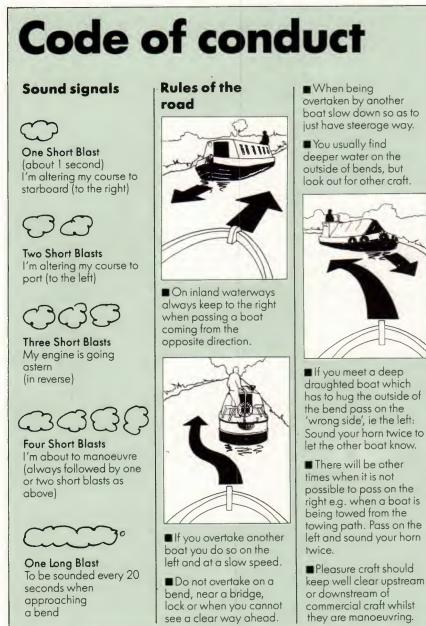


THE RULE OF THE ROAD

Following an 'incident' during a Marathon race involving racing kayaks and a commercial vessel towing a barge, concern has been expressed that paddlers may not be aware of the meaning of

'sound signals' used by powered crafts on inland waterways.

The system for avoiding collisions on canals and rivers, is reprinted from 'Boating on the Waterways' by kind permission of the British Waterways Board.



VICHY SLALOM COURSE (FRANCE)

The Sports Centre in Vichy, who run the Artificial Slalom Course have recently tightened up on the use of the course. It is now necessary for paddlers to prove their ability before using the course. Proof of coaching qualification is required from group leaders. BCU membership cards have been accepted this year although it is wondered if the centre knew what they are. We have been advised that in future members should write to the Centre in advance of an intended visit. The gate to the course and the water control is now locked, however, for a 200FF deposit keys are available for both. The address of the centre is: Centre Omnisports, BP 161, 03206 Vichy Cedex. (Tele: 32 04 68).

CANOLFAN TRYWERYN

Winter access to full length of the Tryweryn will be available from 16 October 1987 until 28 February 1988, subject to releases from Llyn Celyn. The arrangements are as follows:

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS and FRI-DAYS. Fish Pass to the road bridge halfway to Bala (Tynddol Camp site). Exit on right bank above bridge.

TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS. Full length of river from Fish Pass to Bala town. Exit at car park just below main road bridge. Please inspect Bala Mill Falls from true right bank only and do not take your vehicle to Bala Mill.

For WEEKEND arrangements contact National White Water Centre. Before paddling you must call at Canolfan Tryweryn, The National White Water Centre to obtain an access vest.

CALENDAR AMENDMENTS WILD WATER RACING

There are two errors in the Calendar Section of the 1987-88 Wild Water Racing Yearbook. and the shared of

3 October —	Bewdley-Arley Race should
	read 'Division C and Open'
13 March -	Event should read 'Trent'
	(not Tyne).

DANGEROUS STAKES **REMOVED FROM THE RIVER DEE**



Midwood oto by Peter

Local demolition experts, J.B. Jones of Llangollen, have recently removed over fifty metal stakes from the weir below the bridge at Llangollen. The work of removing these potential hazards from the river has been funded by the Mike Jones Rally as a service to canoeists, fishermen, swimmers and all other river users. Similar work has also been undertaken a mile upstream in conjunction with Nomad Canoes where over sixty metal stakes and two concrete pillars were removed.

The Mike Jones Rally is a charitable canoeing event held each year at Llangollen in memory of Dr. Mike Jones who lost his life while canoeing the Braldu river in Pakistan. Mike is probably best remembered for leading the "Canoeing Down Everest" expedition in 1976. The tenth Mike Jones Rally will be held at Llangollen on 5/6 December this year.



TOURS

In the last edition of the magazine, the dates of the 1988 Tryweryn Tours were announced (Page 28). Please note that the September date quoted was incorrect and should have read "September 3/4".

THE THAMES PATH A **STEP NEARER**

Detailed proposals for a 180-mile Thames Path, between the river's source in Gloucestershire and the Thames Barrier in London, were published in August by the Countryside Commission. This marked the start of three-months' public consultation on the proposed route, which will be the 14th official long distance route in England and Wales and the first to follow the course of a river. If it receives the go-ahead from the Secretary of State for the Environment, the route through Surrey, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire to Kemble in Gloucestershire is expected to open in 1992. It is likely to cost some £700,000 (including the cost of new bridges at Shepperton, Bourne End, Shifford and Temple).

The Thames Path will be one of our biggest projects in the next three or four years", says a spokesman for the Commission. "It will undoubtedly be popular for short walks as well as longer weekend

and holiday rambles, and will give better access to the countryside for millions of people living in the Thames Valley, especially those without a car". The original intention was to end the route in London at Westminster, but with the encouragement of local authorities to the east, it will now be extended to the Thames Barrier. Despite access difficulties in some parts of London, it is hoped that a route along both banks of the river from the Barrier to Kingston Bridge can be achieved within 20 years

A report, 'The Thames Path, proposed long distance route from the Thames Barrier to the Source, Kemble', and maps of the route are avialable for public consultation at the principal offices of county, borough and district councils, and public libraries in the areas near the path and at the headquarters of the Countryside Commission in Cheltenham and Thames Water Authority in Reading. A leaflet summarising the proposals is available free of charge from the Countryside Commission Publication Despatch Department, 19/23 Albert Road, MANCHESTER M19 2EQ.

WEDDING BELLS (OR PENALTY POINTS)



Alan Kennedy, until recently the Slalom representative for the North West Region, has made a hit with the gate judges! We wish him and his charming wife a happy future in their new home in the Midlands.

COASTAL ADVISORY SERVICE FOR SEA **KAYAKERS**

The Sea Touring Committee wish to operate a Coastal Advisory Service for the general use of sea paddlers. They therefore require volunteers to act as Coastal Advisors. The duties are unlikely to be at all onerous, consisting of sending out specific information to enquirers who must send along a stamped and addressed envelope quoting BCU membership number.

Each Coastal Advisor will nominate the particular stretch of coastline he/she feels familiar with for which he/she will act as advisor. Once the Sea Touring Committee is in possession of this information together with the name and address of each advisor they will be in a position to compile the list for publication and circulation. Volunteers are requested to send this information to the Chairman of the Sea Touring Committee: John J. Ramwell, 7, Miller Close, Parkhurst, NEWPORT, Isle of Wight, PO30 5PS.

AN UN-LEVENED CAKE?

The Sea-Touring Committee held its AGM at Nigel Denis's School of Sea Canoeing, Anglesey, North Wales, on Saturday evening, 3 October, and formed part of a weekend sea kayaking meet. The weekend started on Friday, and went through to Sunday tea time (and what a superb tea it was too!). On Saturday those attending met at Holyhead and paddled round to Trearddur Bay and on the Sunday they met at Caemas Bay and included the Skerries in a trip right back to Trearddur Bay. All in all it was a great weekend, being supported by a large number of kayakers, some 'old hands' and some new ones.



tography by John Ramwell

One of the highlights of the weekend, if not THE highlight, was the birthday of Eric Totty on the Saturday. He was 80. A cake was made for him and Nigel Denis's little daughter presented him with a tankard from those present. Eric took part in the tours and the photograph shows him in action on his birthday.

CALLING ALL SHARP SHOOTERS!

If you have any particularly good canoeing shots that we might be able to use in Canoe Focus or our International Canoe Exhibition Programme then we would like to hear from you.

35mm Colour transparencies and black and white prints are best but colour prints are sometimes good enough to use. We will be able to credit the photographer in each case and may even be able to offer a small fee as well.

Send your material for consideration to: Ruth Parnell,

Marketing Manager, British Canoe Union, Flexel House, 45 High Street, ADDLESTONE, Surrey, KT15 1TU All submissions accompanied by an SAE will be returned within two weeks of receipt.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION

The AGM of the British Canoe Union will be held on Saturday 5 March 1988 at a venue in London yet to be confirmed.

Members are reminded that Article 18(b) of the Union's Articles of Association requires that any motion for discussion at the Annual General Meeting not originating from the Council of Management, shall be signed by two full members entitled to vote and be lodged with the Secretary (Director) before the 1 January 1988.

Article 13(c) requires that the nomination of candidates for election as elected members of the Council of Management are to be put forward in the form of such a motion. Nominations should be accompanied by a pen portrait of the candidate. As a consequence of elected members of the Council of Management completing their two year electoral term, there will be five vacancies for membership of the Council.



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WORLDS FIRST CORACLE REGATTA

As reported in the May issue of CANOE FOCUS, the world's first Coracle Regatta was held at Bewdley on August Bank Holiday Monday. Over twenty entries took part, of differing designs and construction. The overall winner, we are delighted to learn, was Graham Lyon, the Chairman of the Coaching Committee (and the Access, Coaching and Recreational Management Committee). The fact that Carel Quaife the National Development Officer was Chief Judge did not influence the decision — we are assured that Graham is a leading light in this new discipline!

BRICKIES ON TOP

The brickies plastered all-comers in a lunchtime series of canoe races between teams from the tradesmen working on the new building at Pimlico's Westminster Boating Base. In the three men Kayak sprint final the bricklayers defeated a team of roofers — who managed only two finishers.

The races were organised by Instructors at the Base where extensions are due to be completed shortly. The winners — Alan Keen, Gary Pearson and Sean O'Connell from brickwork contractors Fawcett and Walker — received a bottle of champagne and complimentary tee shirts.

Robin Turner from the Base reported that none of the tradesmen had been in

canoes since their schooldays, and this stretch of the Thames can be very fast flowing, but they all had a great time even those that went in. "We were all very impressed with Gary Pearson, who was never beaten in the racing. He is such a strong man that if he ever took up canoeing he could compete at the highest level".



Photo: left to right: ALAN KEEN, GARY PEARSON and SEAN O'CONNELL

CARTOONS

The cartoons in this edition are reproduced by kind permission of Senor Jesus R. Irclan, the Editor of AGUAS VIVAS, the official journal of the Spanish Canoe Federation.

Canoeing in the early days of the BCU.

HOLME PIERREPONT SLALOM COURSE CHRISTMAS OPENING

The Slalom Course at Holme Pierrepont will be available at the following times over the Christmas/New Year holiday period:

Christmas Eve 9am-2pm (last issue of bibs 12 noon)

Christmas Day Closed Saturday 26th 9am-3pm (last issue of bibs 2pm)

Remainder of holiday — as Saturday 26th The water flow will be on half flow (Grade III-IV). Paddlers are requested to check on weather conditions before setting out by telephoning 0602-821212.







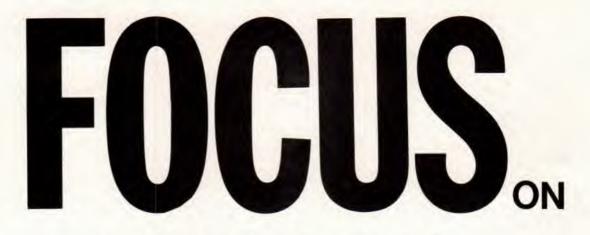
Owing to a lack of funds the BCU were only able to send a token team to the pre-Olympic Regatta in Seoul, Korea. A two man team was sent consisting of Jeremy West and Grayson Bourne accom-

panied by Brian Greenaway acting as Team Manager. First impressions of Seoul were favourable. The Regatta Course which has been specially constructed for the Olympic Games is technically excellent and compares favourably to Nottingham. There were a few snags with the running of the Regatta, but this was to be expected as the organisers had no previous experience of running this kind of International event. The one major problem with the course is that in the morning a strong cross wind is prevelant. This dies down by lunch time to give perfect conditions for the rest of the day. At the moment the Olympic Programme is scheduled so that all the events are to take place in the morning. It would seem sensible for the organising committee to move the events to the afternoon.

28 countries competed at the Regatta and the only world medal winners not present were the New Zealand team. There were no heats at this pre-Olympic Regatta. All competitors were drawn straight into semi-finals without any seeding. This made for some very uneven races. Jeremy West showed that his training is now back on course for the Olympic Games, when he won the first event of the Regatta — the mens K1 500 metre. Stahle of East Germany (Silver Medal — World Championships) was 2nd and Szabo from Czechoslovakia (Bronze Medal — World Championships) was 3rd. It was gratifying that the first national anthem to be played at the Olympic Regatta course was our own.

In the K2 500 metre, Jeremy partnered by Grayson Bourne missed out on another medal by being placed 4th, missing out on the Bronze by only five hundredth of a second. Finally in the K1 1,000 metres Grayson was placed 6th, his best result in this event to date. In general the results at Seoul mirrored those of the World Championships in Duisburg. It was interesting to note that the only medal winners in Mens Kayak at Duisburg who had not used wing paddles, i.e. Russians, Hungarians and Czechs had now converted to them.

The other major happening to note was the detention of the Team Manager by the Korean Customs when he tried to leave the country. The team had taken two single kayaks with them and were leaving them for use later in next year's Olympics. Despite making arrangements with both the Organising Committee and Customs on entry that the boats would be taken home after the Olympic Games, the Korean Customs insisted that the Team Manager would not be allowed to leave without taking the kayaks back with him. Eventually after missing his flight, and only with the intervention of the British Embassy was he eventually allowed to leave. It is to be hoped that the Korean authorities sort out its officialdom by next year's Olympic Games.



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For more details and our 1988 brochure contact: CHALLENGER 10, 4 Willow Court, Station Approach, Ash Vale, Aldershot GU12 5LR or RING 0252 25186.

GB REGAIN MARATHON NATIONS CUP

The first event in the Grand Prix Series took place in Holland with ten countries taking part. The best individual results for Great Britain were as follows. In the Men's K1, Robin Belcher was 1st but only by one second from Erik Onnekes of Holland. In the Mens K2 Michaei Wells and John Day were beaten by the Polish crew of Switalski/Lewandowicz with team mates Dyson Pendle and Steve Rance in 3rd place. Marius Gohar was 1st in the C1 and Robin Williams 3rd. In the C2 George Oliver and Kenneth Young were 3rd and finally Gillian Gibson and Daryllee Clarke were placed 2nd in Ladies K2. Great Britain were 1st in the team event ahead of West Germany by only one point.

The next and most important event was the World Cup race in Shannon with 14 nations competing. In the Men's kayak event it was a repeat of last years results with John Jacoby from Australia retaining his K1 title. Duncan Blyth was 4th and Alan Williams was 5th. The Danish pair of Thor Nielsen and Lars Koch successfully defended their K2 title with Ivan Lawler and Graham Burns a creditable 2nd and the other British crew of Robin Belcher and Guy Dresser taking 4th place. In the Ladies event Anne Plant retained her Ladies K1 title with a lot of help from Jackie Eastwood who was 2nd. The Ladies K2 saw victory go to Helle Stuart/Lene Larson of Denmark with the British crews of Christine Belcher/Sandra Troop 4th and Gillian Gibson/Jenny Dee 5th. Finally in the canoe events the C1 title went to Stig Jenson of Denmark with Britains Marcus Gohar 2nd and Robin Williams 3rd, The Danes Anders Sorensen/ Niels Anderson won the C2 event with George Oliver/Kenneth Young 4th. Denmark convincingly won the team event from Australia with Great Britain in third place.

The last event was at Halmstad in Sweden with only eight countries competing. Britain dominated nearly every class and won the team trophy easily. When the points for all three events were added up Great Britain had regained the Nations Cup with a total of 236 points. West Germany were second with 207 points and Denmark, last years winners were in third position with 193 points.

XXI WORLD RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS – DUISBURG

This year saw a record entry of 40 Nations for the World Sprint Championships held in Duisburg, West Germany. The facilities for competition and training at Duisburg certainly put Nottingham in the shade, with the German canoe team having their own fully equipped training centre. The facilities are complete with boat sheds, boats, accommodation, gymnasium, changing rooms, restaurant, meeting/lecture rooms, paddling tank and medical centre. All this and the full time personnel to operate the centre. In Britain we still operate in the dark ages as far as canoe sport goes.

The standard of competition was higher than ever and despite recording personal best performances most of the British entries were eliminated in the semi-finals. The exceptions were Jeremy West/Grayson Bourne who reached the finals of the K2 500 and K2 1000 metre events. Unluckiest of all was the Mens K4 crew of Jan Raciborski/Adrian Collier/ Reuben Burgess/Gary Hall who were eliminated in the semi-final by only one tenth of a second. Other near misses for the finals were Susie Perrett/Angela Dawson who came 4th in their K2 500m race, the Train brothers again 4th in the C2 500m and 1000m events and Eric Jamieson similarly in the C1 1000m.

The first final of the Championships saw an impressive performance by the American Greg Barton. He won the K1 1000m event by the huge margin of 3.5 seconds from Ferenc Csipes of Hungary and a young newcomer from Norway Morten lvarsen in 3rd place. In the C1 1000m Olaf Heukodt of East Germany won from the Bulgarian and Russian. Notable by their absence were the Rumanian canoe team who although entered never arrived at the regatta, causing many wild rumours to account for their non appearance. The Ladies events were again dominated by the East Germans. After their temporary lapse last year in Montreal, here in Duisburg they won all three ladies events, with Birgit Schmidt winning a Gold in each one.

The Mens K2 1000 race saw Ferguson/ McDonald of New Zealand just holding off Boccara/Boucherit of France. Representing Great Britain in this final were Jeremy West and Grayson Bourne who were placed 6th. This in itself was a landmark in British canoeing as it was the first time a British crew had made the K2 1000 final. Also this had been the only kayak event in which Britain had never qualified and in recording a time of 3 minutes 21 seconds in the semi-final they also set a British best time. The Mens C2 1000m saw another clean sweep by the Eastern Bloc with Yuri Gurin/Valeri Veshko of Russia in 1st place with Libik/Dopierala of Poland 2nd, and Papke/ Spelly of East Germany 3rd. In the final event of the first days finals, Hungary took the Mens K4 1000m event from Sweden with the Russians 3rd.

The last days racing and the first event of the day saw McDonald of New Zealand having a convincing win over Andreas Staehle of East Germany and Attila Szabo of Czechoslovakia in the Mens K1 500m In the C1 500, Olaf Heukrodt of East Germany beat Petr Prochazka of Czechoslovakia and Attila Szabo of Hungary. The Mens K2 500 had one of the closest finishes with Ferenc Csipes/Lasllo Fidel of Hungary beating the New Zealanders lan Ferguson/Paul McDonald by only eight hundredth's of a second with Sweden in 3rd place, Jeremy West/Grayson Bourne came 7th which was a disappointment as they had been expected to win a medal. The last 500m event, the Mens K4, saw the Russians get their only kayak gold when they finished in front of the Poles and West Germans.

The first 10,000m event saw Boccara/ Boucherit of France win the Mens K2 from Nielson/Koch of Denmark. Csipes/ Hodosi were 3rd only three tenths of a second in front of Grayson Bourne and Paul Wells who had paddled well and were most unfortunate not to have a medal for their efforts. The K1 10,000 saw the American Barton paddle away from the field to win by nearly a minute. Jeremy West making a tactical error on the last 1000m was relegated to 4th place. In the K4 10,000 the new inexperienced GB crew of Hall/Lawler/ Collier/Burgess made a creditable 7th place. Eric Jamieson made a good 8th place in the C1 10,000, while the Train Brothers of Steven and Andrew got GB's only medal coming 3rd in the C2 10,000. Had they not been turned in the last 1000m by the Hungarian crew it may well have been Gold. On the final points table Britain was placed 14th out of the 40 nations taking part. The thing that will be remembered most about Duisburg is that at last in the Mens kayak events at least, the domination of the Eastern Bloc had been broken. Finally more medals were won by paddlers using the new wing paddle than those using orthodox blades - 14 medals with wings in Mens kayak, compared to only 2 in Montreal.

LLANGOLLEN RIVER MASTERS

Sunday 29 November 87

Nomad Canoes are introducing a brand new event on the River Dee at Llangollen. Following the trend of biathlons, quadrathons etc, the River Masters is a combination of the Marathon, Racing, Slalom and Wild Water disciplines. Further details can be obtained from Maggie Dalton, at Nomad Canoes, Mile End Mill, LLANGOLLEN, Clwyd LL20 8AD (Tele 0978-861444).

FIRST MARATHON RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The British Canoe Union has been involved with International marathons for many years. Britain and Denmark in fact made the first moves to seek approval of the discipline from the International Canoe Federation in 1975 and at the congress meeting in 1984 it was agreed that a World Championships should be held. In Montreal in 1986 Britain was awarded these first World Championships.

The competition will take place on 24 July 1988 based on the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre. This venue will be familiar to many and our event will start on the regatta course making use of the computer based timing and entry facilities. From there the route will move onto the River Trent and will include five portages before returning to Holme Pierrepont, a journey of 42km. As laid down by the ICF rules there will be classes for Mens K1, K2, Ladies K1, K2, and Mens C1 & C2.

A sub committee to administer the event has been set up by the Marathon Racing Committee who have already received the full support of the Sports Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. Naturally a competition of this nature demands the highest standard of organisation and all interested canoeists and friends are very welcome to attend what will be a significant development for the sport. Many clubs and individuals will be needed as officials and helpers. The Marathon Racing Committee would welcome all offers of help and assistance, which should be addressed to Mr. Alan Laws c/o Weller & Co, 17, Main Ridge West, BOSTON, Lincs, PE21 6SS.

When is a Buoyancy Aid not a Buoyancy Aid

I was not entirely happy with the look of the buoyancy aids at the centre where I work. Some were faded, zips had been replaced more than once, and they had been in constant use for three or four years. Did that mean they were no longer effective? I had no idea! What is the life of a buoyancy aid? I didn't know!

New buoyancy aids would be very nice, but it seemed pointless buying more if the ones we had were alright. I made a few enquiries and soon realised there were no real guidelines as to how long a buoyancy aid remained effective, and so the only way to find out was to test each one separately.

In February this year I tested 18 buoyancy aids, in turn, with a $6\frac{1}{2}$ kg weight tied to them. They were all three and four years old, apart from one expedition buoyancy aid which was 18 months old.

The results were self explanatory but very worrying. I was horrified by the fact that buoyancy aids I thought were safe failed miserably and one I thought I'd be throwing away, floated!

The results were as follows:

First Test

4 sank immediately

8 sank within 30 seconds

6 floating after one minute — re-test The re-test buoyancy aids were left wet between tests.

Second Test

2 sank within one minute

4 floating after one minute

The expedition buoyancy aid floated best, but at only 18 months old was at an advantage. It did give an indication of how much buoyancy was lacking in the others though, and there was a difference in the other three which also floated. As the final surviving three are as old as all the failed buoyancy aids I am also replacing them. I am not confident they will remain effective if used, and wet, all day — when tested they had been wet for an hour at the most.

Whilst testing the Centre's buoyancy aids it was an ideal opportunity to test my own personal devices. One which was over six years old sank within a couple of minutes, and has now been destroyed. I opened it up and it was plain to see how the cells had broken down and soaked up water. My other buoyancy aid, at two years old was fine — but for how long? Obviously I take a great deal of care of my own gear and hope it will last a long time. Even so I shall now test my buoyancy aid each year along with the ones from the centre.



Comment from Geoff Good, the BCU's Director of Coaching, on behalf of the BCU/BCMA buoyancy aid standard testing panel.

Gillian does not say what metal was used for the weight which she hung from the buoyancy aids to measure the up-thrust. Vita-Salford, makers of PVC closed-cell foam, have kindly supplied the following information:

Metal/Alloy	D	ensity kg/M ³	'x'
Copper		8,933	8.9
Iron		7,873	7.9
Lead		11,343	11.3
Gold		19,281	19.3
Brass	_	8,520	8.5
Steel		7,860	7.9
S/Steel		7,970	8.0
Cast Iron	_	7,300	7.3

The formula to determine the weight of lead required is $5 \times 11.3 \div 10.3$ (density of lead minus density of water: 1). Thus a lead weight of 5.48 kilogrammes is necessary to measure 5 kilogrammes of water.

The fact that some buoyancy aids in the test floated at first, and then sank, is probably accounted for by air entrapment. It is, in fact, so difficult to exclude all trapped air when testing, that the foam is now removed and checked separately by the BCU/BCMA testing panel. There is, however, an ongoing deterioration in the buoyancy content of PVC foam. The following clause has been inserted in the BCU/BCMA Standard and should now be included on the information leaflet supplied with an approved buoyancy aid:

"In general terms, buoyancy foams as used in most buoyancy aids can lose their buoyancy at rates of up to as much as 6% per annum in normal use. The BCU/BCMA Standard requires a minimum of 6.118 kilogrammes (60 Newtons) at the time of manufacture. From statistics gained from a nationwide survey it is known that buoyancy aids in constant use, such as those issued at activity centres, last on average from three to five years.

It is a fact that no one has ever drowned from a canoe, on simple water, whilst wearing a buoyancy aid. Nor has lack of buoyancy in a buoyancy aid ever been a significant factor in any drowning in the United Kingdom.

The recommendation of the BCU and the BCMA is therefore, that buoyancy aids to Standard BCU/BCMA BA 83 should be checked annually after they are three years old, particularly where they have been subjected to hard use, or stored in less than the recommended conditions. If the inherent buoyancy is less than 5 kilogrammes the buoyancy aid should be replaced".

The progressive loss of buoyancy is usually quite small, but can vary considerably depending upon use and storage. To give an assured minimum of 6 Kilogrammes after three years, the Standard would have to be amended to require 7.7 kilogrammes of buoyancy at the point of manufacture. This is more than the average paddler — particulary the competitor — wants to wear.

For those who do want increased buoyancy, aids are available.

British Vita have added an improved biocide into their foam, after research indicated that attack by bacteria was significant. Deterioration from this cause should now be obviated.

Compression of the foam is the other most likely cause of damage leading to loss of buoyancy. The effect of compression is very serious, as this breaks up the cells. *Never* sit on your BA is the golden rule. Storing in high temperatures should be avoided also.



YAK "SPUD" - 220 cm PLAYBOAT

The Yak Spud is the shortest white water playboat ever!

Manufactured by Prijon and marketed by YAK under licence from Avoncraft, the 'Spud' represents 'state of the art' blow-moulding technology. Construction is from high molecular polyethylene, rigid enough to do away with pillars in the cockpit area. Its extraordinary rigidity gives the 'Spud' the handling characteristics of a fibreglass kayak, with the strength of polyethylene. A shockabsorbing bulkhead footrest, and keyhole cockpit, add to the specification. The 'Spud' is recommended for the competent whitewater playboater who is looking for a kayak to surf the steepest waves, and out-perform longer boats in holes and stoppers, or for anyone who doesn't own a roof rack!

RRP £299 inclusive VAT. For stockists and further information: Nick Mallabar, YAK, 35 Harcourt Road, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 ODT. (0628 31583)

TRAILER DISCOUNT

Trailermaid offer a range of custom built trailers for cances for 6, 8, 9 and 14 boat capacity, at prices ranging from $\pounds 325$ to $\pounds 750$. A 10% discount is offered to BCU Members. Unit 37, Cwmdu Industrial Estate, Swansea (0792 561119).

JUNIOR EXTRA FROM NOMAD

Following the success of the Extra design, Nomad have introduced a Junior, a scaled down version designed for paddlers of 55 kilogramme or less. First seen on the water at Nomad Inter Club Champs, the proud new owners did nothing but pivots all weekend! Like other manufactures, Nomad have been guilty of designing just around the top paddlers, but Mike Dalton now feels that with the Junior Extra they have a model which is specifically suited to lighter people.

Nomad Canoes Limited, Mile End Mill, Llangollen, CLWYD, North Wales LL20 8AD (0978 861444).

HEART RATE INDICATOR

The 'Sport Tester' was developed in Finland. It consists of a heart rate transmitter which is worn round the chest, and a receiver which can be worn on the wrist or placed in a small waterproof casing.

The Sport Tester gives immediate feedback on how hard a paddler is training, in terms of heart rate, and on his rate of recovery. A memory capacity of up to 16 hours means that training and competition performances can be replayed and recorded. When linked to a computer interface and personal computer with a printer, a graphic record of the heart rate can be produced. This information can be stored so that comparisons can be made between performances at different stages or preparation. Manual recall enables the athlete and coach to plot their own heart rate graphs by hand.

The Sport Tester can also be used to control exercise intensities during training. Upper and lower alarm limits can be programmed and an audio signal sounds when the paddler's heart rate falls too low or rises too high. This facility is particularly valuable for monitoring anaerobic threshold training, or steady aerobic efforts.

A project to monitor heart rate performances in training and competition is being set up in Nottingham by Richard Fox with Sport Testers supplied from Finland. It is hoped that the data obtained will provide a useful bank of information which will be beneficial to coaches and paddlers in all disciplines of canoeing.

Details from: Richard Fox, 16 Melford Hall, Drive, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7SP. (0602 842096).

THE BIG CANOE

Oulton Broad Canadian Canoe Club are building a large open expedition style canoe, similar to the voyageur canoes of Canada. Che-che-maun is 24 feet by 4 feet 6 inches holding 10 to 14 paddlers. Constructed in GRP, outfitted in wood, the canoe has high freeboard suitable for use on large rivers, lakes, locks and sheltered coastal water. The canoe is constructed in two halves twelve feet long, each half being portageable by half the crew.

Enquiries to: OBCCC, 33 Conrad Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffok, NR33, 7QD. (0502 69787).

CTRACK WATERSPORTS

Situated on the North East coast of England, CTrack Watersports stock, or can supply, a large range of canoes, including plastics from Perception, Pyranha and ACE, GRP from North Shore and Norkay, and paddles, cags, buoyancy aids, plus accessories like wetsuits, roofracks and thermal wear. Qualified instruction and testing is available up to and including proficiency. Canoeists and potential canoeists in the area are welcome to call in any time even if its just to 'talk shop'.

116 Front Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland 0670 852574 (day) 0670 815182 (evenings).

THE DD10 CANOE --LATEST DESIGN FROM DENNIS DAVIS

The DD10 is built from two sheets of marine grade plywood 4 millimetres thick by the well proven 'stitch and glue' method. No previous experience is necessary since full building instructions are given. Only the usual hand tools are required. A couple of week-ends and some evenings will normally see a DD10 or one of the other craft completed.

Plans price: £8.00 from Dennis Davis, Tomain-van-Eun, Isle of Coll, Argyll PA78 6TB.

BEARSPORTS

Cheviot Centre, Windy Gyle Outdoor Centre and Northumbrian Sea Sports are now linked through the marketing image 'British Educational Adventure and Recreation Sports', Bearsports Group, 30 West Street, Belford, Northumberland (06683 289).

THE CALVERT TRUST

The Calvert Trust operates an adventure centre for disabled people at Little Crosthwaite, Underskiddaw, Keswick, Cumbria. Apart from offering multiactivity holidays bunkhouse accommodation for up to 12 people is available for self catering groups generating their own programme and activities. £3 per person per night includes bed linen and heating.

WILD WATER LAUNCH PROPULSION PADDLES

At the Sports Exhibition in Munich, Wild-Water announced their intention to raise their profile in the UK paddle market in conjunction with the Propulsion Company of France, sponsors of Richard Fox (GB), Davey Hearn (USA), Myriam Jerusalmi (France) and the World Champion Calori brothers (France). The first Wild-Water paddle to be given the Propulsion label will be the new AG SPORT, an all round paddle aimed at the lower price range market.

lower price range market. Managing Director, Chris Hawkesworth states: 'Obviously we are pleased to be associated with Propulsion. Their competition paddles have proved themselves to be the best in the world and we intend to use the competition range as a promotional springboard to market our medium and low priced paddles. We have invested considerable amounts of time and money in the Propulsion project and we now feel that the AG SPORT kayak and AG SPORT C1 and other new designs will live up to the Propulsion name — that means Performance and Reliability'.

At the Camping and Outdoor Leisure Exhibition in Harrogate Wild-Water presented the first of the Propulsion/Wild-Water range to UK dealers, together with their new range of 'Bank wear': Pro-Lite with breathable Cyclone Tactel panels. These are specially designed for standing around spectating, sitting or standing in the rain. Ample pockets. Jacket or smock top with high waisted or standard trousers.

A new 'Paddler' buoyancy aid, aimed at the cheaper end of the market, new Poncho, new Day Sacks and an uprated Explorer Buoyancy Aid with harness and 10kg buoyancy completed the clothing range. Also launched at COLA were new Air Bags to fit alongside block buoyancy in kayaks in sets of four, complete with a fixing kit and repair kit; plus new personal Throw Bag and Throw Pouch.

Wild-Water, The Mill, Glasshouses, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Tele 0423 711624.

BIG NEWS FROM perception kayaks UK Dancer.xt paro!

The new PERCEPTION DANCER XT has been designed with plenty of room to ensure comfort whilst sitting in the boat, ample space for carrying extra gear and increased volume for big water conditions.

The cockpit is enlarged for ease of exit and entry, easy access to your gear and of course comfort.

The XT is equipped with Perception's new seat and thigh brace system for a comfortable fit without additional padding.

The Dancer XT is a hot performance playboat for the larger paddler. It responds like the Dancer but is comfortable for larger paddlers, roomier for equipment stowage yet can handle big water, even with a load.

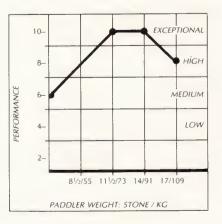
Length: Width: Cockpit Length (inside): Cockpit Width (inside): Weight: Volume: Colours:

355cm (11'9) 62cm (24⁵/8'') 75cm (29¹/2'') 39cm (15¹/2'') 16.7kg (37lb) 295 ltr (78 gall) Red, yellow, blue

perception kayaks UK



Bellbrook Industrial Estate, Bell Lane, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1QL, England. Tel: 0825 5892 Telex: 87323 FSI G Gaybo Ltd A division of **GAYBO**: Limited



"Come Canoeing" With Richard Fox

A BCU/CHRISFILM & VIDEO CO-PRODUCTION



Please reserve me a copy of the new basic skills video "Come Canoeing with Richard Fox" and send just as soon as it is available.

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and require a VHS 🗆 Beta 🗆 copy Card Expiry Date.

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Filmed at Holme Pierrepont this brand new 25 minute video features three times World Champion Richard Fox demonstrating all the strokes of basic kayak control incorporating state of the art computer graphics and freeze frame technology.

- Getting on and off the water
- Forward and reverse paddling
- Stopping quickly
- Introduction to the main disciplines
- Use of stern rudder
- Common errors highlighted
- Sweep strokes
- Drawstroke
- High and low brace turn

The separate strokes are demonstrated on flat water from both eye level and overhead angles and then Richard moves to the new whitewater course to show them linked together.

£24.15 inc. VAT plus 85p postage and packing.

A limited number will be available mid-late February. To ensure you don't miss out reserve your copy now from either:

British Canoe Union, Flexel House, 45/47 High Street, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1TU (0932) 841341 or

The Wild Water Centre, Glasshouses Mill, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate, N. Yorks HG3 5QH (0423) 711624

Please print clearly, in the box below, as this will be used to return your goods.

Name______Address______Postcode_____

Dear Focus...

HOLME PIERREPONT SLALOM COURSE

Dear Focus,

May I be permitted through your excellent publication to take up T.J. Bailey's offer in the August edition of Canoe Focus and have a moan, as it is unlikely that as a non-participating enthusiastic I will have the opportunity of personally meeting the gentleman. Cumbria is many miles north from Headquarters.

As a father of an enthusiastic teenage son I kept a promise, and during the summer holidays travelled over two hundred miles to Holme Pierrepont, so that he could paddle 'the magnificent artificial slalom course' whose construction has been excellently reported in your publication. Unfortunately your magazine failed to report the lack of facilities.

Our arrival culminated in the biggest disappointment of our lives. If those facilities and course are considered international standard I pity the 'grass root membership'. May I inform canoeists who haven't made the journey to Holme Pierrepont yet, the facilities consist of two portacabins for changing, no toilets, no hot water, no showers, no souvenir shop, pot-holed car parks, one cold drink vending machine. A control facility consisting of a portacabin sited on top of a hill. Check the rainfall before you travel because during the week 24-29 August the course was washed out, due to the intake sluice gate being unable to control the water flow sufficiently, and the River Trent 'backing up' at the bottom of the course.

These complaints are not just complaints of father and son, but a number of canoeists who were taking advantage of the last week of the school holidays to visit Holme Pierrepont. Many returned to their homes disappointed. Two from London didn't even unload their canoes.

Continuing T.J. Bailey states 'canoeing has a lot to offer to the casual paddler ... to the best in the world'. Words I do not disagree with, but with the type of facilities being offered by the BCU at the moment, I suggest that T.J. Bailey and Headquarters staff have already 'lost touch with grass roots membership'. Because it is generally agreed up North that the money would have been better spent at Tryweryn. As a lay person I must express my disappointment at Holme Pierrepont. It was as if the slalom course had been laid down, and the BCU officials being disappointed at the result had walked away.

No excuse can be made for the lack of facilities being provided for travelling canoeists of which there must be many hundreds. During the planning stages it must have been discussed and funds provided and I really felt for my son, and other canoeists having to cope with primitive facilities. If no urgency is given to providing up to date facilities at both Holme Pierrepont and Tryweryn, one must question the dedication and foresight of Headquarters staff and subcommittees.

W.H. Walker, Whitehaven, Cumbria.

Albert J. Woods, Chairman of the BCU Holme Pierrepont Users Committee comments:

I sympathise with certain of Mr. Walker's comments on the facilities alongside the slalom course and this of course is a matter of ongoing discussion between the Sports Council and the Nottinghamshire County Council, who are the main constituent bodies of the National Watersports Centre Management Committee.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to dispel the commonly held but incorrect belief that the BCU owns the Slalom Course at Holme Pierrepont. The Slalom Course at Holme Pierrepont is part of the National Watersports Centre and is jointly owned by The Sports Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The course was funded as follows:

£1.6 million —	Sports Council
£0.5 million -	Nottinghamshire
	County Council
00 A 1111	

£0.1 million — BCU (the balance of which is still to be paid)

Facilities will be provided in the future when more funds become available. In the short term, however, there are changing and shower facilities that may be used in the main centre building on the other side of the Regatta Course.

I do hope, having read my comments, that Mr. Walker, now informed of the present position, will perhaps be embarrassed by his thoughtless attack on our extremely conscientious Headquarters staff and the voluntary officers who spend a great deal of their own personal time and money helping to bring great facilities such as the slalom course at Holme Pierrepont into fruition for use by the BCU and its members.

RIVER AWE

Dear Focus,

The 'new' Scottish White Water guide by Ian Lochhead and Dr. Philip Todd is a long overdue and welcome attempt to produce a comprehensive guide. For the most part the guide is helpful and reasonably accurate. However, some of the information contained within it is slightly out-of-date, considering its recent publication date and I would like to draw the attention of readers south of the border to a discrepancy in the entry for that very popular river, the Awe. A more accurate description in terms of safety considerations appears in the 1987 Scottish Canoe Association's Yearbook.

The Awe can always be paddled from the A85 road bridge. The level of the river and the top section above this bridge can be inspected at the Pass of Brander barrage where the outflow from Loch Awe is controlled. The 'graveyard' rapid mentioned in the guide can also be seen from this spot. Care is advised when tackling the river with more than one of the barrages open, although for competent paddlers this makes the river more challenging. All the Awe rapids are straightforward in normal flows and easy to inspect. The most notable rapid comes on the left hand bend after the railway bridge, known as the "Magnetic Boulder" where the current sets towards a prominent boulder before sweeping left through a series of good standing waves.

An iron footbridge indicates that you are approaching the weirs and a low cable with a sign on it forbids passage. It seems entirely sensible in view of the history and construction of these weirs to get out here and carry your boats across the field on the right to a prominent gate which leads to the minor road on the north side of the Awe beside the power station. Please shut the gate on your way out of the field. This small road leaves the A85 right beside the main road bridge. The River Adviser is Mike McDonald, Benmore Centre, By Dunoon, Argyll. **Chris Dickinson,**

Local Coaching Organiser, Argyll.



ARE CANOEISTS THEIR OWN WORST ENEMIES

Dear Focus,

Canoeing on the River Wye has always been fraught with problems usually from the fishing interests but in this case it is the canoeists that are putting access in danger at the Symonds Yat beauty spot. As we know access from various sites at this location has been given on production of the small sum of fifty pence, a small price to pay for a day's enjoyment. However, it seems that a small number of people who obviously do not concern themselves with the majority have taken it upon themselves to reveal a part of their anatomy that should not be seen in public. It has followed that the hotel just up from the Saracens Head Public House has put up a sign saying NO CANOEISTS and who can blame them.

The last chance for access on this bank has come from the newly situated Wye Dean Canoeing Centre who have opened a business at the camp site, formerly owned by the Saracens Head. It is requested that all canoeists park on the site and all launching is made from this launching point. The manager charges fifty pence for this facility which helps towards providing better facilities for all canoeists. Please do not abuse this service it will put our sport in jeopardy and will result in conflict and loss of use. Remember this service is provided for canoeists by a canoeist.

P.C. Pendlebury,

Regional Coaching Organiser, Wessex.

A TOUCH OF CLASS

Dear Focus,

The North West Region held its first canceing weekend at Holme Pierrepont on 1/2 August. This 'happening' included 'Come and Try It' sessions: Proficiency and moving water training; Regional Slalom Competition and a River Run to encourage all to have a go.

The point of this communication is to bring to your attention the fact that this all happened under the watchful eye of the Corps of Canoe Lifeguards. I contacted Alan Rees (COCLG Training Officer) a week before the event and in spite of the short notice he was able to supply 12 members from the Berkshire Unit. The lifeguards were very cheerful, helpful and extremely efficient. In the North West we have been advocating the use of COCLG teams at Slalom events for some time.

The expertise demonstrated by the unit both on and off the water, is such that I would recommend all Regions and slalom organisers to seriously consider using the COCLG on a regular basis. The COCLG unit displayed a 'touch of class', which is more than I can say for some other safety groups! The COCLG are canoeists and therefore understand the fears and needs of canoeists in moving water situations.

Alan Rees, as National Training Officer, is trying to raise funds for the research and manufacture of a new lifesaving canoe. May I suggest that organisers consider the possibility of utilising the COCLG, making a donation for their services and thus assist in their fund raising.

Roy Hitchings, RCO, North West Region

YOUR VOICE ON COUNCIL

Dear Focus,

As the 1987 canoeing season quickly progresses on, now is the time to consider your representation on the BCU Council.

If you are involved in the competitive disciplines such as slalom or racing, or in coaching, you are likely to be well represented on Council through their Chairman and additional members elected onto Council.

If you are however, not closely aligned to any particular discipline, you may feel your interests need more attention. The Council has ten places for elected members, each member serving for two years, and that is where your contribution could be made. Voting in the 1987 elections in March showed votes cast for successful nominees of less than 200, so with only moderate support from fellow paddlers, *you* could be elected for 1988/89.

The Council is not, contrary to some claims, run by an out of touch bureaucracy and Councillors are, without exception, devoted enthusiastic canoeists but new blood is always needed to keep the Union Moving forwards and in the right direction. If you want to help working towards the objectives of the Union and can contribute to the debates at Council meetings, look out for the notice of the AGM and find nominees to put your name forward as an elected member. The Union is its members and the more of us that serve on the Council, or work through its committees, the better our Union can serve us. The current Councillors are listed herewith.

OFFICERS

President of Honour -

President — Honorary Treasu	J.W. Dudderidge OBE D. Wain OBE rer — E. J. Owen	
ELECTED MEM	BERS	
R. Fox	P. Midwood	
M.J. Haslem	R. Rymer	
J. Kuyser	G. Sanders (Chairman)	
A.L. Laws	R. Vessey	
D. Maycock	A.J. Woods	
	(Vice Chairman)	
NOMINEES OF SPECIALIST COMMITTEES		

Access M. Twiggs Corps of Canoe Lifeguards - J. Wheatley Coaching -G. Lyon Sea Touring -J. Ramwell M. Wood Touring -Canoe Polo -A. Rackham Marathon Racing -B. Ward Racing -A. Williams Sailing -P.E. Wells Sialom -R I Annan Surf -M. Butland Wild Water Racing -C. Henson

NOMINEES FROM THE REGIONS

East —	R. Hodgson
East Midlands —	K. Hampton
London & South East —	B. Hughes
North —	B. Howell
North West —	L. Halton
South —	R. Lawrence
South West	J. Cornwell
West Midlands —	B. Porter
Yorkshire & Humberside	D. Gent

NOMINEES FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Canoe Association of Northern Ireland — D. McKendry Scottish Canoe Association — A. J. Cook —J. Mooney — P. F. Nelson

Welsh Canoeing Association — A. L. F. Buttle

Will your name feature amongst those serving the Union next year?

John Kuyser, Elected Councillor representing the elected Councillors on the Executive Committee.

LACK OF CONVENIENCE

Dear Focus,

I have entered five slalom competitions this season, starting at Novice level and presently at Division 4. At all of these events the toilet facilities have been totally⁷ inadequate and disgusting to say the least. The average is two toilets for the use of 150-200 people for a two day event. As you can probably imagine these toilets become totally unusable by the second day.

At one particular slalom competition the chemical toilets never even arrived and we had to use the public conveniences half a mile away. This was very inconvenient especially if you were camping on the slalom site. I hope something will be done to resolve this problem for the next season, especially if these competitions are hoped to attract more people and more lady competitors.

Sue Fox, Warrington, Cheshire.

HELP!

Dear Focus

Will all BCU members please start treating their BCU membership cards as part of the equipment they need to enter any BCU event in the same way as their paddle! Otherwise they must accept with grace that they will have to purchase an event ticket. Organising an event for their benefit takes time and energy and we can well do without having additional stress caused by members who do not take their membership cards with them and then object (loudly and lengthy in some cases) to having to purchase a Day Ticket.

I didn't realise that it would be like stepping into a bees nest by insisting that members without their cards would not be allowed to race unless they purchased a day ticket. Any advice from other organisers on how they tackle this problem would be appreciated.

Paula Fisher, Organiser, York and Wolfreton Marathon Race

CANOE CAMPING CLUB — MIDLANDS

Dear Focus,

I am writing to find out whether any readers of your columns would be interested in forming a Canoe Camping Club (Midlands Region) as it seems a pity that we do not have one to explore the local rivers and canals, but, rather, have to travel quite long distances to join with other groups in their camps. If anyone would like to consider the formation of such a group, could they write to me at 13 Regency Drive, KENILWORTH, Warks and maybe we would get one underway for next year.

John Verney, KENILWORTH, Warwickshire.

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The World's toughest and highest performance White Water and all round Superboat. From the complete beginner right through to	
World Slalom Champions. Available in centre and White Water constructions with optional skeg in yellow or white. (used extensively with the Armed Forces) Specifications Length – 355 cms; Width – 62 cms; Volume – Medium (CXL 9000 super tough, cross link, polyethylene) Send now for our free colour catalogue to the address below	
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SPECIFICATION:	LENGTH:	16 FOOT
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	DEPTH:	14 INCHES
	WEIGHT:	50 LBS

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STAN COOPER WATERSPORTS, UNIT 9, BALA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BALA, GWYNEDD. 0678 521059.

MAGGIE DALTON, NOMAD CANOES LTD, MILES END MILL, LLANGOLLEN, CLWYD. 0978 861444. FRANK GOODMAN, VALLEY CANOE PRODUCTS LTD, PRIVATE ROAD 4, COLWICK, NOTTINGHAM 0602 614995.

DAVE GREEN, KIRTON KAYAKS, 5, MARSH LANE, CREDITON, DEVON. 03632 3295.

TIM HOUGHTON, WEST MIDLANDS CANOE CENTRE, 112 NEWHALL STREET, WILLENHALL. 0902 634567. ALAN JONES, WHITEWATER, SHEPPERTON MARINA, FELIX LANE, SHEPPERTON, MIDDLESEX. 0932 247978/225988.

ANDY KNIGHT, PALM, HARBOUR ROAD, PORTISHELD, BRISTOL. 0272 842740.

PAUL RALPH, MARSPORT, 215 LONDON ROAD, READING, BERKS. 0734 665912. JOHN TAYLOR, WAVESPORTS, 5 TUDOR COURT, HAROLD COURT ROAD, HAROLD WOOD, ROMFORD, ESSEX. 04023 73371.

JENNY TRAIN, FLADBURY CANOEING LTD, CRAYCOMBE FARM, FLADBURY, Nr PERSHORE, WORCS. WR10 2QH. 0386 860663.

MARION WILSON, LENDAL, 30 HUNTER STREET, PRESTWICK, AYRSHIRE KA9 1LG. 0292 78558.



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WILDCAT K1 U/S Excellent condition £175. Commanche. /ery strong diolen. Good condition £80. Nomad Rapide WWR. K/C Hull. Adjustable footrest and seat. vgc. £140. Tele Ipswich (0473) 310923.

WAVE SKI-PALM WAVE RIDER. Polythene roto-moulded ski. Up to 13 stone capacity. Tele 0654-710065 (N. Wales).

SIX, OULTON BROAD SIXTEEN GRP CANADIAN CANOES, built early 1986, 1/2/3 seaters, suitable beginners and upwards, club replacing fleet, £100-£150 each depending on condition. Tele Dave Hart, Lowestoft 69787 or write OBCC, 33 Conrad Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft 5, Liftelk DB22 700 Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7QQ.

MIRAGE MK3 K2, excellent condition, foot pump, new rudder and cables, ideal D/W boat. £150 ono. Tele St. Albans (0727) 23469.

CANON AS-6 Waterproof camera 1 year old, gives very good results, uses 35mm film, cost £110 accept £95 ono. Tele Newbury (0635) 37526.

GRANTA TOURING FOLDING CANOE in good condition (1936) with rudder and kit-bag. Please tele 0778 344484. Any reasonable offer considered.

FREESTYLE, white plastic Pyranha Freestyle. Whitewater spec includes attachable plastic skeg. Good condition. Will deliver £150 ono. Tele 0272 635741.

PRO AM C2. Fully fitted, very good condition, kevlar competition construction £200 ono. Tele Southampton (0703) 586122 extn 203 (work), 0703-583558 (home). WW ROTO BAT. Very good condition, colour white. £195 ono. Tele Northwich 782745

PUMA K2. 21 hrs in D/W '87. £150 ono. Also Surf Shoe £50 ono. Ilminster 57901 (day) Chard 61204 (evenings). GAYBO ATLANTIC SEA KAYAK, Lettmann rudder, Deck lines. Paddles and compass elastics. Water tight bulkhead with hatch. Spare paddles. Spraydeck. Excellent condition £245. Tele 01-302 7084.

STILETTO K2, under/over stern rudder, handles, spraydecks, very good condition £250. Tele Tim Franklin Epping (0378) 72458.

"THULE" Gutterless load carrier, roof rack fits Austin Maestro, good condition. £20. Tele (0923) 775629.

"LADDERACK" Roof rack, old but in working order £5.00. Tele (0923) 775629.

POINTER WOODEN K1, good condition, £75 ono. Tele Mike Foley, evenings 0892 852141.

CHALLENGER K2. Ideal Exe Descent boat. Seats incl. £85. Tele 0474 352952. ALL BLACK DEVESTATOR C1 diolen construction, 6 months old, good condition £150 ono. Tele Alex, 0606

75660

LONG DISTANCE BACING CANOE (DART) AND PADDLE. 15ft. VGC £100 ono. Brentwood (Essex) 0277-220874.

WANTED

Cheap Anus Acuta. Tele Ipswich (0473) 84487.

2 man Open Canadian type cance. Suitable for some whitewater use and 'pleasure' trips. Will part exchange my Blenheim K1 marathon and Commanche slalom paddles or straight cash purchase either way. Tele 0274 666427

LOST AND FOUND

Try Tryweryn Tour - Lost 1 Freeblade paddle (marked R. Treeblade padde (marked A. Cranston), 1 split paddle; and stolen from the car park 1 yellow white water shortie buoyancy aid with distinctive "snoopy" "canoeist" attached and splashsport spray deck. Tele Jo — 01-640 9091.

Stolen (Bolton) 3 Dancers. One 'Blue Thunder' dancer imported from USA. Very rare in UK. One yellow dancer, white letters, black stripes, red tape webbing rear deckline, airbags, serial no. 3033. One yellow Dancer Serial No. N5510G. Tele 0204 61918. Reward.

Stolen from a canoe trailer in a compound at Sandhurst School, Camberley Surrey, 1 Yellow Pyrana Master and 2 Lynx GRP Slalom cances + 3 paddles (one distinctive freeblades with LJP logo and two cheap Ace paddles). Sometime in the school summer holidays between the end of July and the start of September. Any information to Les Porter please either at work on Crowthorne 775678 or home on Tadley 3758.

Found at Bala. On the September, Tryweryn weekend a spraycover, b/aid and throw bag were found lying around. Would the owners please contact Mike Wood, at 5 Mill Hill Drive, SANDBACH, Cheshire CW11 OPW, giving details of the items

TRADE

MILTON SPORTING PROMOTIONS (5, MILTON SQUARE, MARGATE, KENT): New catalogue available for canoeing and outdoor equipment, discounts available!"

FIBRE PILE CLOTHING: Salopettes from £18.95, jackets £17.95, jumpers £14.95. For details of our complete range of fully-guaranteed, top-quality garments send SAE to Ice Warrier (F) 12 Oxford Street, WORKINGTON, Cumbria, Tele 0900-64847.

MARATHON RACING DECK NUMBERING PLATES Compulsory for racing Kayaks with effect from 1 October 1987. Singles @ £1.50 plus 40p. P&P. Ten Pack @ £12.00 plus £1.00 P&P. Bulk quantity prices for clubs and race organisers on request. AREL PLASTIC COMPONENTS, HAYNES LANE, UPPER NORWOOD, LONDON SE 19 3AN. Tele 01-771 9298.

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LAKELAND Canoes — Makers of fine kayaks and canoes. Slaloms, tourers, sea kayaks, Canadians. Stockists of rotomoulded craft by Argoe, Perception and ACE. Large range canoeing equipment. GRP materials. Hirers of kayaks, Canadians, trailers and equipment. Access-Visa welcome. Hollins Lane, Burneside, Kendal. Tele 0539 27051. Members B.C.M.A.

ISOKINETIC Training - Fast speed, high intensity exercise. Simple and safe way to develop specific strength for canoeing. Used by 7 National teams. Write/phone for details: Richard Fox, Isosport (CF) 59 Trent Boulevard, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5BB (0602) 813222. KENT WATER SPORTS OUTDOOR CENTRE for all canoes and accessories Slalom/GP Boats top brand names for all canoe equipment. Club discounts available Mail Order Service. Phone, write or call our showrooms at Unit 7, Deacon Trading Centre, Ki Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent. Tele 0634 724403. Knights

THINK PLASTIC - THINK CANOE CUMBRIA. Large stocks of leading brands and accessories. Demo./hire boats by Ace, Perception, Pyranha, Coleman. Stockists of Cloudbase waterproof bags. Mail order and LEA/group discount a speciality. BCU approved centre for canoe tuition at all levels. Accommodation available. Contact: Howbarrow Farm, Cartmel, Grange over Sands, Cumbria LA11 7SS. Tele 044 854 330.

HOLIDAYS

AMERICAN PIONEERS RIVER RAFTING. Action packed white water expeditions on the Colorado and Green Rivers, *plus* Stateside Camping Safaris and flydrive. Tele 0793 828688.

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Canoeing on the River Great Ouse near Huntingdon. We have first class modern self-contained residential accommodation. 300 yards from access point. Up to 30 people in six bedrooms. Self catering or catered. Tele 0480 69376.

DARTMOOR EXPEDITION CENTRE. Accommodation/ base near the River Dart. BCU approved. Instruction for groups if required. John Earle, Rowden, WIDECOMBE, Devon. Tele 03642 249.

thon, excellent self-catering apartments. £4.00 per person nightly. Comfortable, clean and warm. Many facilities, games room, bar, good parking, drying facilities. All meals available. Groups 6 to 40. Brochure: Brynafon Country House, Rhayader. Tele 0597 810735. WORLD'S END LODGE. Situated 10 miles West of Hereford in the Wye Valley, this is the ideal centre for individual or group holidays. Activities include Canoeing, Climbing, Cycling, Walking, Orienteering and Pony-Trekking with transport and equipment provided. Comfortable rooms, great atmosphere and good food. Residents own bar. Also full or half board accommodation only and free places for group leaders. For free brochure phone or write to World's End Lodge, Staunton on Wye, Hereford HR4 7NF. Tele (09817) 308.

UPPER WYE. CH accommodation for groups. October-March. B&B/Packed Lunch/EM from £8.50. Drying Room, Licensed Bar. Cefnfaes Hall Centre, Rhayader, Powys. (0597) 810711.

NEWQUAY, Cornwall, opposite Fistral Beach, 12 shower en-suite bedrooms, licensed bar, ideal for sea canoeing, surfing etc. Instruction available, open all year, reductions for parties, B&B £7.00. Penruddock Hotel, Tower Road, Newquay, Cornwall. Tele 0637 876677.

BREDWARDINE LODGE CENTRE is situated in the Wye Valley seven miles east of Hay-on-Wye and is an ideal location for canoeing on the River Wye. We cater for large or small groups with comfortable heated bedrooms of varying size, a large dining/lounge with log fire, showers and drying facilities. A BCU Senior Instructor is resident to offer advice, canoes and instruction if required. Glasburyon-Wye self-catering traditional country cottage ideally situated for the Upper Wye. Sleeps 8-10 people. For further details please contact: Angela and Tony Whitlock, Bredwardine Lodge Centre, Bredwardine, Herefordshire HR3 6BT. Tele (09817) 510.

THE MANAGEMENT and Staff of the White Lion Royal Hotel, High Street, Bala, Gwynedd, welcome all Canoeists and Visitors. Bar meals available 12-2pm and 6-9pm. Weekend rates for supporters.

DARTMOOR. A newly opened Centre in the heart of Dartmoor, close to the River Dart, offers B&B and full board accommodation in a warm comfortable farmhouse. Canoeing courses, Climbing, Walking and Pony Trekking also available. For further information contact: Mountain Stream Activities, Wydemeet, Hexworthy, Yelverton, DEVON PL20 6SF. Tele (03643) 215.

COURSES/INSTRUCTION

BIRMINGHAM School of Canoeing - beginners to advanced courses (daytime/evening) in all aspects of cancerng including rolling, clinics, river rescue training, surfing weekends, wild-water holidays etc. Tele or write (SAE): Greg Parkes, 96 Barrs Road, Cradley Heath, Warley, West Midlands B64 7HH. Tele Cradley Heath 67896. canoeing including rolling, clinics, river rescue training,

SITUATIONS VACANT

Canoeing instructor required, preferably with sailing and/or climbing skills, from March-September, 1988, at The Ranch (Christian Centre for youth and handicapped groups), Llanbedr, Gwynedd, N. Wales. Tele 034 123 358. Rafting staff wanted for 1988 Summer Season in Austria. Raft Guides, German speaking Office Staff, Cook, Driver and Bar Staff required to join the Feelfree Rafting Team. Apply NOW with full CV and White Water Experience to: Feelfree Rafting, 6 Hawthorn Bank, Harwood, BOLTON BL2 3JB.

INSTRUCTORS CORNWALL, Adventure Days, Bude are looking to appoint instructors for the 1988 season. Start March/April. Application forms from: Paddy Frost, The Waterfront Centre, Bude, Cornwall. Tele (0288) 55551/2.

INSURANCE

CANOE INSURANCE — send sae for full details to: Joan Baker, JB Insurances, Field Cottage, High Street, MADINGLEY, Cambridge, ALSO SAILBOARD INSURANCE. CANOE Insurance — Special low rates for BCU members. Contact Weller & Co., 17 Main Ridge West, Boston, Lincs. PE21 6SS. Tele (0205) 65505.

PROPERTY

Post Office/Canoe Centre with frontage to main road and River Wye. Also includes shop and off-licence. Offers based on £120,000. David Watkins, 5, King Street, HEREFORD. Tele 0432 272280.

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