

CANOE FOCUS

No. 53 Feb 1988 – Price £1.00

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION



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ISSN 0953-010X

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Next Issue

Publication date: 8 April 1988

Last date for copy: 26 February 1988

Front Cover

Miss Jane Ayling on her way to a Division
'A' Wild Water Race on the River Dee.
(Photograph by Dave Green)

Designed and printed by DDMA Limited
17 Parmiter Industrial Centre,
Parmiter Street, London E2 9NG

Canoe Focus is the official magazine of
the British Canoe Union.

Subscription Rates: U.K. inland £12.50,
overseas £14.50 for ten issues.

Advertising rates and data are available
on application from BCU Headquarters.

Canoe Focus encourages contributions of any
nature but reserves the right to edit and
condense to fill the space available and unless
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Finnish Safari photograph by George Spencerley



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POOL PROGRAMME

Saturday

Main Pool

- 10.00 Canoe Polo
- 11.00 Placid Water Demonstration
- 11.30 Pool Slalom
- 12.20 Canoe Polo
- 1.20 Pool Slalom
- 2.20 Slalom Presentations
- 2.20 Club Fun Event
- 2.50 Surf Life Saving Association
- 3.05 Pool Slalom
- 3.50 'Canoeist' Men's Superstars
- 4.20 Canoe Polo & Presentations
- 5.50 Pool Programme ends

Sunday

- 9.30 Canoe Polo
- 10.50 Pool Slalom
- 11.50 Corps of Canoe Lifeguards
- 12.20 Club Fun Event
- 12.50 Canoe Polo
- 1.50 Pool Slalom & Presentations
- 2.50 Surf Life Saving Association
- 3.05 'Canoeist' Women's Superstars
- 3.35 Strand Glass Fibre Presentations
- 3.40 Canoe Polo & Presentations
- 5.20 Pool Programme ends

Diving Pool (All coaching — half hourly sessions)

Saturday

- 10.00- World Record Continuous
- 12.00 Handrolling Attempt
- 13.30- Slalom Coaching:
- 15.00 Premier to Division 2
- 15.00- Slalom Coaching:
- 17.30 Division 3 to Novice

Sunday

- 12.00- Slalom Coaching:
- 15.00 Premier to Division 2
- 15.30- Slalom Coaching:
- 17.00 Division 3 to Novice

Training Pool (All sessions are for ¾ hour and start on the half hour)

Saturday

- 10.30- Come and Try It
- 17.15

Sunday

- 10.00- Come and Try It
- 16.45

INTERNATIONAL CANOE EXHIBITION

20-21 February 1988

Once again, the Exhibition is going to be full of excitement — new developments will be on show for the first time — exhibitors will be displaying new craft and equipment of their own and produced under licence from overseas companies and as usual a pool programme 'par excellence' with the opportunities for all to 'come and try it'. Last year's successful film and lecture programme is being repeated — with, of course, new subjects and titles. So come along to Crystal Palace and enjoy a day (or even two) at what is the foremost shop window of our sport.

Hall Two, the Hall of Canoe Sport, offers every canoeist the opportunity of finding out what is happening in the voluntary sector of canoeing. Here there is a chance to meet your area representatives, those involved in particular disciplines and recreational work. Find out how you can help others, through being involved in Access, Coaching, Lifesaving, etc. Those agencies who are linked to our watersport also have the opportunity of giving you information on how they can assist or link with our interests. Always a popular part of the Exhibition, this Hall has a new layout in order to ease the crowding of the past, and to give everyone more room to move about. A wealth of information is available — to be ignored at your peril!

A free programme is included in the price of your ticket. These colourful brochure programmes are available for you to collect immediately you enter the Exhibition. Take a few minutes to have a quick look through as it includes a detailed layout of all the Exhibition areas and will also help you identify those activities you wish to locate quickly. The programme also serves as a useful source of reference after the Exhibition.



CLUB'S SYMPOSIUM

Club Officers visiting the Exhibition on Saturday 20 February are invited to come along to the Club's Symposium from 2pm to 3pm. The main topic will be "Access — the Club's Role" led by Mike Twiggs, Chairman of the BCU British Access Committee. The second half will be given over to a forum session when any questions of interest to clubs can be asked. Admission is free.

TOURING

Members of the Touring Committee would like to meet and have a chat with canoeists who have toured abroad or are interested in doing so — please come and see them on Stand 220.

FILM AND LECTURE PROGRAMME

Saturday		
FILM	10.45	URUBAMBA — An expedition in Peru
		SUSITNA — Mountainous waves in Devils Creek (1 Hour)
FILM	12.00	FILMING THE IMPOSSIBLE — Extracts from Leo Dickinson's earlier films (38 Minutes)
LECTURE	12.45	KASHMIR '87 — by the Portsmouth Polytechnic, by Neil Dunn (1 Hour)
LECTURE	13.45	ENCHANTED WATERS — Three months canoeing in the Galapagos Islands, by Andy Fleck (1 Hour 15 Minutes)
LECTURE	15.00	AMAZON ADVENTURE Expedition for BCU members on the River Negro in Brazil (45 Minutes)
FILM	15.45	FAMILY MAD — Crazy Germans doing things in the mountains — not to be missed (45 Minutes)
FILM	16.45	HAMATHKO Exciting new film of Germans paddling in Canada (50 Minutes)
Sunday		
FILM	10.30	COLORADO — Excellent photography through the mighty Grand Canyon in the USA (60 Minutes)
FILM	11.15	HAMATHKO — as above
FILM	11.45	FAMILY MAD — as above
LECTURE	12.30	KASHMIR '87 — as above
LECTURE	13.30	AMAZON ADVENTURE as above
LECTURE	14.30	ENCHANTED WATERS — as above
FILM	15.45	FAMILY MAD — as above
FILM	16.30	URUBAMBA — as above
		SUSITNA — as above





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WEIL'S DISEASE

Several cases of Weil's Disease were notified during 1986, particularly in the Eastern Region. One member died from the illness, which was contracted after he had capsized several times at Dobbs Weir, at Hoddesdon, on the River Lee, on 10-11 October. A month later another member was seriously ill with Weil's disease after marathon training on the Chelmer from Chelmsford. He had not capsized. A farm worker from Bishops Stortford died in November from Weil's disease after wading in the Stort.

It is most unlikely that there is any particular link between these cases, although it could appear to be a geo-

graphically biased "outbreak". The most likely link is that the rivers are very similar — slow moving lowland streams. The water was high in that period, and this means that the rats runs are flushed out, leading to a high concentration of the bacteria.


Members are also reminded that it is advisable to cover cuts and abrasions when paddling, and desirable to shower afterwards. Early identification of the illness, and treatment with antibiotics, is the key to recovery. To this end a card is enclosed with this magazine which you are advised to keep in a safe place, and produce to your doctor, should the need arise.

Because the disease is rare, and is still traditionally related to sewage workers, your doctor will probably not have the possibility of Weil's Disease as his or her top priority if you present yourself with flu-like symptoms. Another difficulty is that a number of illnesses start with flu-like symptoms.

Moves have been made to get the medical profession generally more aware of the possibility of Weil's Disease, should a canoeist showing the vital signs, become sufficiently ill. Your attention is drawn to the description of the illness and the symptoms, on the enclosed card.

- AN UPDATE

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MEMBERS YEARBOOK AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

It is regretted that due to financial constraints, it is not possible to produce a Members Yearbook and Calendar of Events for 1988. Accordingly an abridged calendar of events will be published with CANOE FOCUS in future editions. Whilst stocks of the 1987 Yearbook are available these will be issued to new members, and amendments to the lists of voluntary officers will be published in CANOE FOCUS as and when they occur. Existing members are recommended to retain their 1987 Yearbook and amend as necessary.

CANOLFAN TRYWERYN

National White Water Centre

As a result of the Centre now being liable for Value Added Tax the prices for 1988 have had to be increased, as follows. All prices quoted are inclusive of VAT.

Canoeing:	Members	Non Members
Adult	£4.00 per day	£7.00 per day
U/18	£3.00 per day	£4.75 per day

Season Tickets (calendar year)

Adults	£35.00	U/18	£30.00
Affiliated group	£40.00 per ticket		

Events

BCU Clubs/Committees £60.00 per weekend plus 15p capitation.

Courses

£30.00 per course plus £3.00 per head.

Rafting

Single Trip

Adult	£4.00	U/18	£3.00
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Group Rates

2 hour sessions with own crew £40.00; crew provided £45.00. Special prices for Outdoor Pursuit Centres on application.

AMENDMENTS TO 1987 YEARBOOK

The following amendments should be made to the 1987 Members Yearbook and Calendar of Events:

Page 5 REGIONAL COMMITTEES

East Midlands	Delete G. Wardle Insert D. Halsall, 45 Auburn Road, BLABY, Leics. LE8 3DA.
London & SE	Delete D. Gent Insert Vacant (Correspondence to B. Hughes — Chairman, 14 Reeves Avenue, KINGSBURY, NW9.)
North	Delete D. Raspin Insert Vacant (Correspondence to B. Howell — Chairman, Eynsford Barn Hey, Allinthwaite, GRANGE-OVER-SANDS, Cumbria LA11 1RJ.)

Page 6 ACCESS OFFICERS

East Midlands	Delete F. Goodman Insert D. Windsor, 11, Wallis Close, Draycott, DERBY, DE7 3QS.
North (NE)	Delete D. Willett Insert G. Gordon, 14A, St. Thomas Crescent, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.
South	Delete W. Dedwell Insert Vacant
South West (Wessex)	Insert J. Combs, Briar Cottage, Middleton, Winterslow, SALISBURY, Wilts. SP5 1QS.

Comment

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

One of the problems that I have already encountered in writing this article is the gap between me putting pen to paper and you readers reading the result. I am having to write this in mid-December, knowing that you will not be reading it until early mid-February. If I write about recent events will they be long forgotten by February? If I look forward to the immediate future will the actual events live up to my predictions? The safest way is to attempt to look forward to the period when you will be reading this and talk about planned events at that time.

This is not a problem unique to me of course. The gap between the deadline for articles and publication date preclude CANOE FOCUS being able to carry much in the way of up-to-date information. The editorial board have been having a critical look at FOCUS recently and we would hope to introduce changes as a result. By undertaking more work "in-house", and utilising modern computer techniques, it is hoped that we can reduce the gap between deadlines and publications, and thus make FOCUS more of an up-to-date magazine. We are also going to include more articles on basic techniques, instruction, in depth reviews of new products etc.

For this article I have chosen to steer a middle course and write about both a recent event and one that will be about to happen when you read this. For anybody that went to Llangollen for the 10th Mike Jones Rally over the first weekend in December I am sure the event is very fresh in your mind. For those who did not go, let me say you missed a treat. The organisers, a very small but dedicated team, provided a weekend of real canoeing fun. Competition obviously plays a leading role in our sport and the success of our World Champions helps to publicize canoeing to a wide public audience and hopefully encourage some to "have a go". Nobody should lose sight, however, of the basic fact that our sport should be one of enjoyment.

Because of the work of the small team organising the Mike Jones Rally many hundreds of canoeists, of all abilities, had a really enjoyable weekend. Perhaps the highlight was the Saturday evening film show. For those that missed Jochem Schweizer's presentation "Family Mad", I must say that if this film is ever televised, and I understand Jochem is trying to get a TV company interested, don't go out that night and you will have



a real treat. On behalf of the hundreds of people who had such a good time may I thank the organisers. One black spot was that a number of canoes went missing over the weekend. Time for a plug — BCU members can buy a canoe lock for £4.95 (non-members for £5.95) which is approved to the standard required to validate BCU membership insurance.

If this copy of CANOE FOCUS reaches you on schedule, you are less than two weeks away from one of the major canoeing events of the calendar, The International Canoe Exhibition at Crystal Palace. The Exhibition has now been going for over 20 years and each year sees it grow. This year another varied programme has been prepared and I am confident that all visitors will find something of interest. If you have not been before, why not make the effort this year. I am sure you will not be disappointed.

GEOFFREY SANDERS MBE



Everybody connected with canoeing must have felt particular delight to see that our Chairman, Geoffrey Sanders, was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List in recognition of his services to canoeing.

Geoff, who by profession, is Headmaster of King Edward's Grammar School, Five Ways, Birmingham, first became involved in canoeing in 1943 and since that time he has devoted himself to advancing the well being of people of all ages by encouraging and facilitating their

participation in this activity. During the early years his work was at local and regional level, but for the last 25 years it has been at a national level through the British Canoe Union and associated organisations.

The progress of Canoeing in this country owes a great deal to Geoff's encouragement of canoeing in schools, his invaluable work in the development of an effective National Coaching Scheme and as Chairman of the Council of the British Canoe Union.

Public recognition of his services to Canoeing will have given great pleasure to the many people in all parts of Britain who know of, and have profited from, his endeavours.

Geoff's contribution to the sport can be highlighted by the following list of the positions he has held over the years:

1944-48 Founder and Leader of Lanca Canoe Club
1948 Hon. Secretary, Humber Group of the Canoe Camping Club
1953 Joint Founder of Birmingham Canoe Club: Chairman and then President

1959 British Canoe Union — Youth Officer for the Midlands
1960-76 Founder and Chairman of the Birmingham Schools Canoeing Association
1961-65 British Canoe Union National Coaching Committee: Hon. Secretary then Chairman (1966-74)
1962 onwards Founder and Chairman of the West Midlands Schools Canoeing Association
1973 onwards British Canoe Union — Chairman of the Council of Management and the Executive Committee
1970 onwards National Council for School Sport: Member of Executive, Chairman 1979, Member of Development Committee since 1984
British Canoe Union Coaching Scheme: Senior Coach.
Founder Editor of Coaching Newsletter and Handbook.
Author of 'Canoeing for Schools'.

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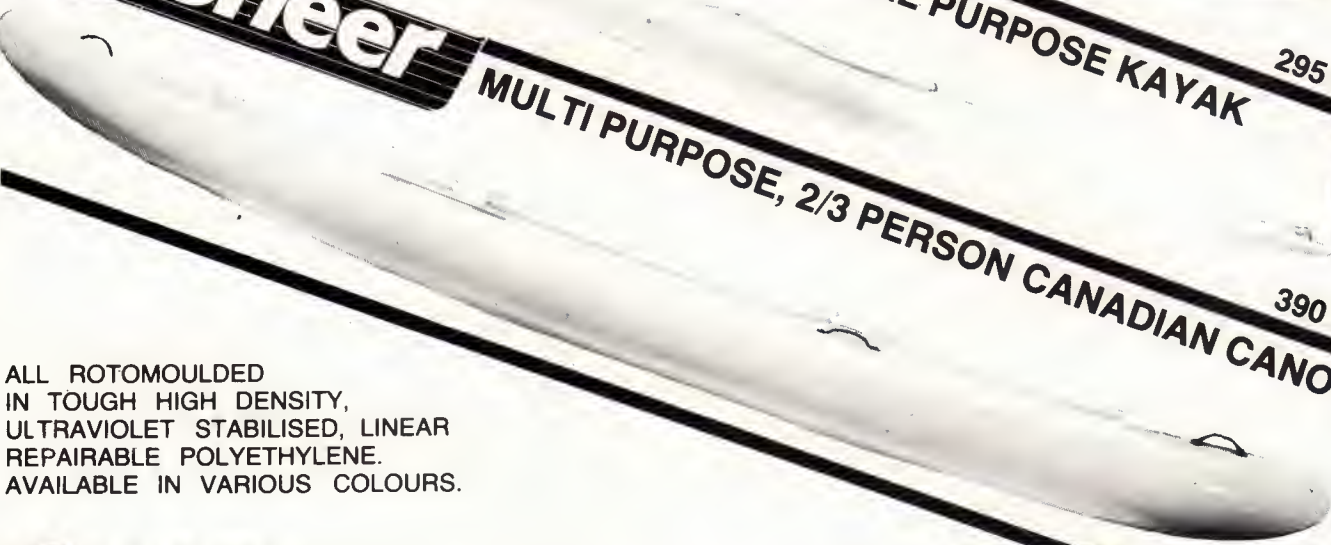
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Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre

THE NOTTINGHAM SLALOM COURSE MOVES ON

As part of the further development of the Canoe Slalom Course an extended experiment of alternating rates of flow has been introduced which it is projected will increase the challenge of the course to a wider cross section of canoeists.

The changes in the rate of flow will alternate between full and three quarters flow on a daily cycle. In the winter period the cycle will provide two periods of full flow and two periods at three quarters flow presenting canoeists with the opportunity to experience both grades of water.

During a selected number of full flow periods paddlers will be required to negotiate the course in straight runs only, thereby providing opportunities for wild water canoeists to use the facility in conjunction with slalomists.

The experiment, introduced on Monday 21 December '87, will at all times be subject to the level of the River Trent and the requirements of the Severn Trent Water Authority and will only operate in periods outside the programme of competition and training events.

As a direct response to the views of canoeists after the first full year of operation of the course the following programme has been devised for the remainder of the winter season with a possible extension into the summer season.

DAILY PROGRAMME

0800	1030	1200	1400	1530
Full Flow	¾ Flow	Full Flow	¾ Flow	

Within the above programme the straight runs only sessions will be Monday, Thursday and Saturday 12 noon until 1400hrs. Eventually an interval timing device is to be provided and a

klaxon installed to indicate to paddlers on the course when the rate of flow is about to be altered.

As experience will no doubt show, modifications to the programme may be incorporated and the whole experiment used as an indicator to the programming of the summer season. Following a reasonable trial period constructive comments on how the programme may be further progressed would be welcomed from users.

CHARGES

The Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre has now published its revised charges for use of the Centre facilities. These were agreed at the most recent meeting of The Holme Pierrepont Joint Management Committee who are responsible for determining all policy matters relating to the National Water Sports Centre, and its facilities. The Centre's Director and Management staff are responsible for implementing these policies. The Joint Management Committee is composed of representatives from the two funding bodies of the Centre, that is the Sports Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.

The British Canoe Union, together with other Governing Bodies who use the Centre's facilities, (The Amateur Rowing Association and British Water Ski Federation) have no direct representation on the Committee. However the Sports Council, in order to obtain expert advice and assistance from users of The Centre's facilities do nominate a representative from each of the Governing Bodies concerned, to occupy three of their six allocated places. The representative nominated from the British Canoe Union is currently the Vice-Chairman, Albert Woods.

The new charges for casual users (ie, those not taking part in an organised competition or activity) applicable from 1st January 1988 are detailed below.

Regatta Course | To be announced

Slalom Course

£3.30 per Session Adults

£2.20 per Session Under 18

£5.50 per 2 Sessions Adults

£3.90 per 2 Sessions Under 18

PROGRAMME 1988

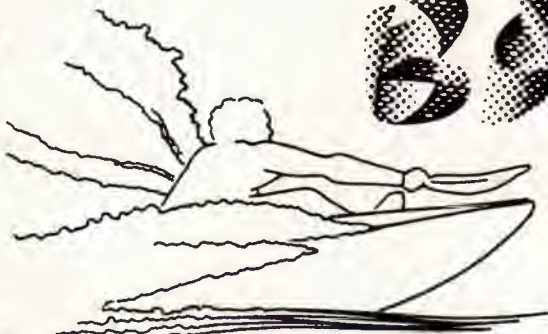
DATE	ORGANISATION	FACILITY	ACTIVITY	DATE	ORGANISATION	FACILITY	ACTIVITY
FEBRUARY				9/10	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Div 4 Slalom
13/14	Racing Committee	Regatta Course	Olympic Racing Squad	16/17	Southern Region	Slalom Course	Regional Training
	WWR Committee	Slalom Course	WW Race	18/24	Marathon Committee	Regatta and Slalom Course	Marathon World Championships
27/28	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Youth Team Training	30/31	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Novice Slalom
MARCH				AUGUST			
5/6	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Senior Slalom Squad	6/7	L & SE Region	Slalom Course	Regional Training
12/13	Racing Committee	Regatta Course	Racing Squad	8/12	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Slalom Squad
19/20	WWR Committee	Slalom Course	WW Race	13/14	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Europa Cup
APRIL				20/21	E. Midlands Region	Slalom Course	Regional Training
2/3	BCU English Affairs	Slalom Course	Regional Training	SEPTEMBER			
16/17	W. Midlands Region	Slalom Course	Regional Training	3/4	Coaching Committee	Slalom Course	International Safety Conference
23/24	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Premier Div Slalom	10/11	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Inter-Clubs Slalom
	Racing Committee	Regatta Course	Regatta		Racing Committee	Regatta Course	Regatta
30/1	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Senior Slalom Squad Training	17/18	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Div 3 Slalom
MAY				24/25	WWR Committee	Slalom Course	WW Race
7/8	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Div 3 Slalom	OCTOBER			
14/15	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Div 1 Slalom	1/2	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Premier Slalom
21/22	Racing Committee	Regatta Course	Regatta	8/9	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Div 1 Slalom
	NW Region	Slalom Course	Regional Training	15/16	Coaching Committee	Slalom Course	National Coaching Conference
28/29	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Div 2 Slalom		Wild Water Racing	Slalom Course	WW Race
JUNE				22/23	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Div 4 Slalom
4/5	Coaching Committee	Slalom Course	WW Coaching	NOVEMBER			
	WWR Committee	Slalom Course	WW Race	12/13	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Senior Slalom Squad
11/12	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Novice Slalom	19/20	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Intermediate Slalom Squad
18/19	Racing Committee	Regatta Course	Regatta	DECEMBER			
	SW Region	Slalom Course	Regional Training	3/4	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Junior Slalom Squad
25/26	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Div 2 Slalom	17/18	Slalom Committee	Slalom Course	Senior Slalom Squad
JULY							
2/3	Northern Region	Slalom Course	Regional Training				
4/10	Racing Committee	Regatta Course	International Regatta				

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SWARKESTONE ACCESS

The East Midlands Regional Committee has made an access agreement for BCU members with the owner of the south bank downstream of Swarkestone Bridge on the River Trent. 27 tons of gravel have been put in place to make a suitable landing place. The access route is from upstream through the dry arch of the bridge.

TRENT LAUNCHING SITE

The Current Trends Canoe Club has had a clause inserted in the fishing club's lease to secure launching of canoes onto the Trent for about 200 yards upstream of the rowing landing stage at Holme Pierrepont. Members wishing to use this facility should call in at Current Trends.

RIVER ITCHEN

At the time of going to press the matter is still in the hands of solicitors. Before planning a trip on this waterway members must first make contact with the Local Access Officer, Dave Evans at Calshot Activities Centre, CALSHOT, Hampshire SO4 1BR. (Sae please.)

RIVER WYE

It appears that all parties would prefer an agreement to seeking a solution through court proceedings in respect of the stretch from Llanwrthwl to Glasbury. The Local Access Officer is working to achieve this at local level. Details for an agreement for access to the river at Rhayader are also being worked out. Before planning a trip contact LAO Chris Charters at Worlds End Lodge, Staunton-on-Wye, HEREFORD HR4 7NF. Sae please or Tele Moccas (09817) 308.

RIVER LYN (EXMOOR)

South West Water have offered access to the River Lyn from Watersmeet to Lynmouth from 1 January to 28 February — exciting in high flows, but rather rocky

otherwise. Contact Local Access Officer J Hilton, Bideford Centre, The Pill, BIDEFORD North Devon. (Sae please.)

WILTSHIRE/ HAMPSHIRE AVON

Regional Access Officer Jim Coombs, Briar Cottage, Middleton, Winterslow, SALISBURY, Wiltshire SP5 1QS would like to hear (with full details) from anyone who has canoed this river or has taken part in slaloms at Downton.

NATIONAL TALKS WITH ANGLERS

A further meeting between the parties to the Statement of Intent took place on 11 November 1987. The meeting got off to a bad start because since the previous meeting the anglers had seen our parliamentary lobby document and were most unhappy about some of its content. The BCU explained that whereas canoeists believed it to be a fair reflection of the position when it was issued in August, the excellent joint meeting held on 18th September rendered parts of it inaccurate. Accordingly the BCU had instructed Regional Access Officers not to issue any more copies. This explanation was accepted and the BCU agreed to put out a press release so that it would be widely understood that the document had now been withdrawn. This cleared the air sufficiently to look again to the future. It was agreed that there would be regular meetings of the Angling and Canoeing Liaison Group, initially under the chairmanship of the Sports Council. The next meeting will be early 1988 with the primary object of setting up liaison at local level. Significant opportunities are now opening up, but it will take time for the lead being given at national level to become effective at local level. Patience is the watchword and it is very important to avoid confrontations which could undermine this new spirit.

PAYMENT FOR ACCESS

The British Access Committee has set up a working party to consider the question of paying for the use of water and whether the current BCU policy needs modification. It is a very complex issue and any decisions will have wide ranging implications, so the working party has a difficult task. They will consider if and when canoeists should pay, for what, to whom and how much. They will also try to find out the basis of payments by other watersportsmen. If you have any views on the subject, please write to Don Windsor, 11 Wallis Close, Draycott, DERBY DE7 3QS.

THE FIRST BCU ACCESS SYMPOSIUM WEEKEND

In late September the first BCU Access Symposium was held in Olney. It attracted over 20 delegates from most regions to examine the whole subject of Access. A number of speakers including Eric Totty, John Gittings and Ralph Tyas covered issues within the Access Debate, from collecting and presenting evidence, to negotiating agreements. Presentations on the second day allowed more time for discussion and debate around the main theme of "The Way Ahead".

This opportunity gave regional representatives the chance to express their views and opinions of people in their regions. In summing up the weekend everyone expressed the view that the weekend was informative and inspirational helping individuals to sustain their commitment to the issue of Access. All thanked Colin Kempson and his helpers for an excellent weekend and requested that he should plan and organise another similar event in 1988 for people that missed this event.

With the positive results from the recent National Meetings involving the BCU, Angling Bodies and the Sports Council there is an approaching climate of goodwill and understanding allowing for negotiations on access agreements. Local and Regional Access Officers will require help, support and training. The next symposium will form part of the support and training package — a must for all involved in Access issues. More details about the Access Symposium '88 soon.

Continued from page 21

SHARED USE OF WATER?

Dear Focus

I have been moved to voice our concern in your hallowed pages by a recent act of aggression aimed at our little group of four canoeists paddling Dancers on the River Dart. We believe others in similar boats received this arrogant extremist's attentions that same day in November.

Such phrases as: "One Dancer on this river is one Dancer too many!" "I've paid to use this water, have you?" "You are not co-operating or helping matters" were used against us. This individual was not, as many might expect, based on the bank with a long thin stick looking remarkably like a fishing rod; he was in fact, breathing fire and increasing his blood pressure from a whitewater racing boat.

To defend our position from criticism,

let us put our beliefs held and still held today. We were paddling the river during a training period for the scheduled WW race. Touring groups were not barred from using the river by the organisers. No attempts were being made to stop anyone embarking on a trip down the river at New Bridge. Whilst on the water we gave way to WW racers and never baulked anyone. All other groups seemed to be doing the same.

We realise we did not pay an entry fee for the race, but we were not racing. Does the entry fee really go on payment for use of the water? As to co-operating and helping matters, we always gave way and stayed out of the way of WW racing craft. This individual stopped and talked at (!) us and others off his own back.

We were somewhat sarcastic with him but this was a serious attempt to get him off our backs. Not only was he objection-

able and incredibly rude, he launched a mouthful of spit in our general direction whilst forcing his views upon us. This revolting habit was seen to be repeated whilst he walked up the road. Is this the image WW racers want to project of themselves?

Granted, we are not angels ourselves but that day we only sought to enjoy the trip and hopefully did not prevent others from enjoying their day's activity. Our main concern is for the obvious gap between this WW racer's views and that of the many recreational paddlers on the river. If his view is the official WW racing position, then we ought to be looking at resolving our differences fairly rapidly. How can we possibly gain better access to our rivers if we squabble about which aspect of our sport should or should not be allowed to paddle on a river.

John Deighton, Cardiff, South Wales.

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CONSERVATION CANOEING-THE DISCIPLINE OF THE 1990's

by David Gent

Whether you paddle on wild upland rivers, along interesting coastlines or tour on peaceful canals, without Britain's varied wildlife and landscape much of the pleasure of canoeing would be lost. The reason why canoeing remains so popular is that the water environment both natural and man-made offers so much interest and challenge to the canoeist.

Unfortunately, too many canoeists only begin to realise and consider the importance of the environment when access to it becomes restricted. Even then the 'environment' is usually only seen as consisting of the 'natural' upland rivers and not the 'car tired infested, polluted, inner city' canals. Since its inception the BCU as a governing body has cared about the environment where canoeing takes place. But its members as suggested earlier have been generally lacking in concern, which perhaps explains why the conservation movement has become to be seen as the moral guardians of Britain's waterways.

As the Anglers found to their cost last year, if you don't show concern for the environment where your sport takes place, the power of the conservation movement is such that virtually overnight all use of lead shot was made illegal. How long is it before canoeing comes under the microscope and is excluded from water because it is found to be ecologically incompatible?

What is often forgotten by the conservation movement and what canoeists have consistently failed to argue successfully, is that the canoe causes no erosion, noise or pollution and leaves no trace of its passing. That is why the canoe is used throughout the world for exploring wilderness areas and observing wildlife without disturbing it. Secondly, whilst we all come into canoeing to paddle and not to build footpaths and hides for watching waterfowl, we all individually have a clear duty and vested interest to directly concern ourselves with the care and conservation of the environment where canoeing takes place.



The appalling state of our polluted rivers is something which canoeists have come to almost accept when in fact we should be the people screaming loudest to get them cleaned up. Conservation is about access to resources but it may well be the conservationists who finally exclude canoeing from the water not the anglers. The water authorities undertake massive land drainage and river engineering works consulting with the anglers often because the anglers appreciate the effect that such work has on their sport and make sure the water authorities know their feelings.

Canoeists must individually lobby more and not expect BCU HQ to do all the work. If you see something you don't like happening to your stretch of water get on to the water authority, don't just accept it. The conservation movement uses its members eyes, ears and noses to monitor changes that are happening and so are able to quickly inform the national and regional bodies to take action.

The BCU has established an environmental conservation sub-committee to argue the case for canoeing and the environment. Its success will depend on how well local clubs and individuals are ensuring the committee knows what is happening on Britain's waterways. A policy statement has been produced which clearly states canoeing's case and has been distributed to a wide range of conservation groups.

The committee has as its first objective to continue to encourage BCU members and others to conserve and care for canoeing environments. Secondly, to

promote scientific research and collect information on any effects that canoeing may have on the environment. Thirdly, to participate in, and encourage projects and schemes which attempt to conserve canoeing environments. Fourthly, justifying canoeists obtaining the maximum enjoyment of the countryside that it can sustain. Fifthly, to develop links with canoeists on environmental matters in Europe and further afield.

Conservation is about the wise use of resources based on the idea of how much use a resource can tolerate over a period of time. Canoeing has shown that well planned competitive events such as slalom, wildwater racing and long distance competitions are compatible with the most sensitive of landscapes, as can be seen for example on the World Championship course which is located on the Afon Tryweryn in the Snowdonia National Park.

Canoeists need to show that level of conservation responsibility elsewhere. This can be done by monitoring environmental changes and lobbying to ensure those changes don't unduly affect canoeing. Canoeists should learn from other outdoor recreation governing bodies like the Ramblers Association (RA) who use conservation as a tool to aid access demands. The RA's practise of promoting conservation objectives by taking practical action in conjunction with groups such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers is one the BCU and all its clubs should follow. When the club's stretch of water needs improving why not really improve it with a local conservation group?

The BCU as mentioned earlier does care for the environment and the 'Canoeists Code' shows this. However, no matter how many tons of rubbish we collect from the river if the few still continue to throw fibreglass and tape into the river the conservation movement will not believe we are seriously committed to caring about where we canoe.

As the 1990's approach public awareness about the environment is increasing by the day. Every canoeist must help to ensure the public regards canoeing as sensitive to the environment or we may find ourselves excluded on ecological grounds from the few areas where we can canoe at present.



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1



2



3

by Sylvie Nickels

After canoeing several thousand kilometres of big rivers (e.g. Danube, Mississippi) my husband George Spenceley and I decided last summer to test our elbow power on long distance lake travel. With 187,888 lakes (at the latest recount), Finland seemed the obvious choice, so in mid-June we hoisted our 17.5ft. Reynard Cruiser

Classic on to the roof of our car and set off via Danish Seaways Harwich-Gothenburg and Silja Line's Stockholm-Helsinki routes.

Advance advice on the bewildering number of possibilities was less easy to come by, for canoeing is a surprisingly new activity in a country that has some of the best and certainly the most extensive waters in Europe. Most of our preliminary gen came from Steve Bowles (yes, of

Arctic Canoe Race fame!) and it was on his suggestion that we preceded our lake safari with a jaunt down most of the 320 Arctic kilometres of the Ounasjoki (*joki*, river).

Jaunt isn't quite the word, for the midsummer weather was unusually diabolical in this land of the Midnight Sun. But the river was truly magnificent. Rising at Enontekiö, 300km. north of the Arctic Circle, it flowed to Rovaniemi (more or



4



5

Finnish Safari

1 Island halt on the 360km. canoe circuit of Savonselän Melontarengas, south of Hirvensalmi.

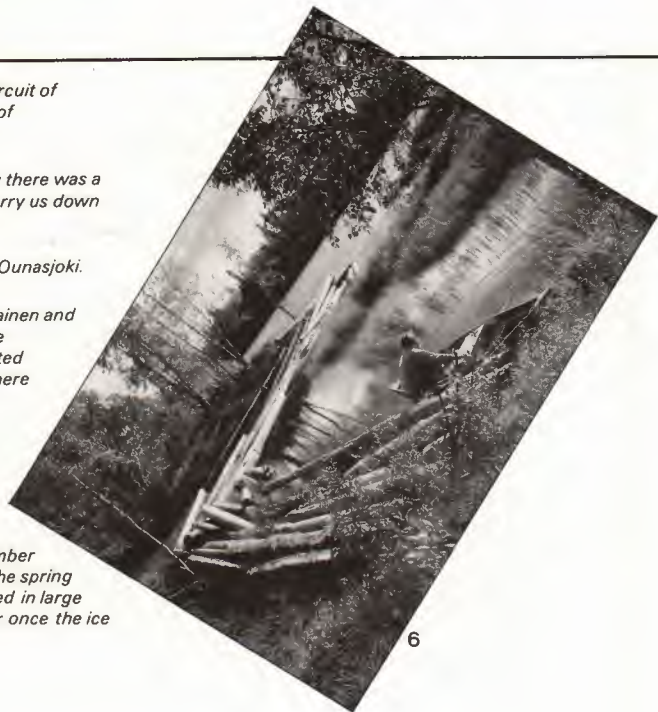
2 For most of the way there was a brisk current to carry us down the Ounasjoki.

3 An early halt by the Ounasjoki.

4 We joined Kimmo Karjalainen and his kayak on a section of the 360 km. canoe route he created (Savonselän Melontarengas), here south of Hirvensalmi.

5 Typical scene in the Saimaa lake region.

6 FINLAND (Lapland). Unloading the canoe north of Alokylä on the banks of the Ounasjoki (river). The timber shown here are the booms, used in the spring to prevent log jams as timber is floated in large quantities down the fast flowing river once the ice has broken up.



less on the Arctic Circle), offering 21 rapids in the first 100km., after which they were more widely spaced. Most were Grade I or less, but there were a couple of Grade IIs (Köngäs and Kurkkio) and a Grade II-III (Molkoköngäs) to be wary of.

For the first 200km. it was a river of magnificent loneliness, scurrying through virgin forest, at times with glimpses of bare-topped fells, past occasional timber-built farms set amidst tiny pastures, and even more occasional villages where food supplies could be replenished. The time to avoid is May when the ice breaks up and logs are floated down river in their multi-thousands.

After this Arctic interlude, we headed south for the Great Saimaa system, Europe's largest: a monumental labyrinth of dozens of lakes inter-linked by channels from which eventually you can spill out via the Kymijoki into the Gulf of Finland. We didn't, for our route was finally determined by the people and places we wanted to see, and took us from Kuopio via Leppävirta-Varkaus-Joroinen-Salvonlinna-Puumala to Mikkeli, a total of about 400km.

Our first mistake was trying to "make do" with 1:200 000 maps. The complexity of Saimaa's islands, headlands, straits, bays, nooks and crannies is beyond belief until viewed from canoe level, and even good compass work is put under severe strain without appropriate maps. Happily and fairly soon, Finnish friends came to the rescue with an old set of navigation charts (1:40 000) on which barely a rock escaped attention! Our second mistake was undue optimism about our speed. With a heavily laden canoe and virtually no current, except in a few narrow channels, we were glad to average 4-5km. an hour under reasonable conditions — and there were not too many of those.

The Finnish summer is normally a delight; we merely coincided with the worst in 40 years. It seemed that when we were not heads-down against stiff head winds, we were sneaking from the shelter of one island to the next to avoid a

pummelling from port or starboard. Sometimes the islands ran out and there were open stretches of several kilometres which produced a few quite nasty moments. Once a rising tail wind kept our bows out of the water for an hour or more and there was grave risk of swamping from the rear. Several times we turned tail before a seething grey-and-white prospect of invisible limits. More than once we had to hole-up until gales abated, which was usually in the wee hours when we would scuttle on to more sheltered waters while the going was good.

But the compensations were great, not least the endlessly fascinating permutations on the theme of lake-island-forest-rock-reed under a sky that seemed more vast than anywhere else. The interplay of light between sky and water and land in a normal Finnish summer is pure magic, as it reminded us during a few golden interludes. And then there were the countless pleasurable encounters with the reserved but extremely likeable Finns.

Long stretches of paddling were punctuated by visits to attractive little towns, museums, markets, art galleries, churches, and a memorable performance of "Carmen" in Savonlinna's splendid medieval castle. From time to time we stayed with friends, or in hotels or official camp sites, but mostly we camped "wild", finding a patch among the berries and mosses under pine, spruce and birch, or the corner of some farmer's field. Finland's "Everyman's Right", according to which you may wander at will and camp for a night anywhere except within unacceptable proximity to a private house, has been disgracefully abused by some foreigners. We therefore sought permission whenever possible, and it was never withheld.

The Reynard performed beautifully, including in the all-too-frequent buffeting winds. In rough conditions, she could produce a fair degree of roll or pitch, but her recovery from even the most alarming angles was never in doubt. Other waterborne companions were rare: mostly little

boats with outboard engines, a few pleasure launches, yachts and wind surfers, occasional passenger vessels and cargo boats and, most characteristic, the tugs trailing their long, long rafts of timber. Canoes and kayaks came at the bottom of the list, though local canoe clubs and such canoeists as we encountered were unfailingly helpful.

And things are changing, as canoe routes spring up all over the place, ranging from a few kilometres to several hundred. Some follow ancient logging routes, others such historic trails as the old Tar Route from the Kuhmo district close to the Soviet border to Kajaani, even eventually to Oulu on the Gulf of Bothnia.

One of the newest and most varied is Savonselän Melontarengas (due to acquire a more manageable name!), a 360km. circular route linking Hirvensalmi-Heinola-Joutsa, mainly through a wilderness setting in the heart of Finland. (In fact, this will provide the venue for the First Savonselkä Canoe Marathon, non-stop, from 1-3 July 1988.) Combining lake and river, it features many narrow channels, a number of rapids, a few portages, all of which are marked on the new detailed route charts, along with useful information on launching points, camp sites, shops, etc. Canoes are available for hire, for example in Heinola, at 350Fmk. in 1987 (about £50) per week.

We ended our Finnish summer by canoeing part of this route with its creator Kimmo Karjalainen, rejoicing in two of the best days of our 10 week trip: indeed, the Finnish summer as it usually is. As we sat on sun-warmed rocks by a camp fire, looking out over the lake reflecting a kaleidoscopic sunset that would linger almost into the next day, we knew we'd be back.

Addresses: Finnish Tourist Board (UK Office), 66-68 Haymarket, LONDON SW1Y 4RF; Finnish Canoe Association, Radiokatu 12, 00240 HELSINKI, Finland; Kimmo Karjalainen, 52550 HIRVENSALMI, Finland.

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- July 30/31 1st Wildwater race in Soja, Norway
Aug 6/7 1st Slalom in Dublin, Ireland
Aug 6/7 2nd Wildwater race on the River Awe, Scotland
Aug 12/13 2nd Slalom at NWS, Holme Pierrepont, Notts

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The RIVER RACERS move south from Scotland on the 8 August to the Washburn and then on to Holme Pierrepont for RAPID RACING on 10 August.

THE ARTIFICIAL SLALOM COURSE HAS BEEN BOOKED FROM 8-14 AUGUST, 1988.

The Programme for this week at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham is: 8/9 Aug international slalom training

- 10 August — RAPID RACING
11 August — international slalom training
12 August — pm is non stop practice
— 1 run per competitor
13 August — EUROPA CUP SLALOM followed by ICF Prize Giving
14 August — ROBIN HOOD AND MAID MARION CHALLENGE
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N.B. British Paddlers (Div II and above) wishing to use the course during the week should send a stamped, self addressed envelope to the: DIRECTOR, Europa Cup Slalom, 12 Holmscroft Road, LUTON, Beds LU3 2TJ.

FOR ACCOMMODATION IN NOTTINGHAM

Camping — write enclosing an S.A.E. to Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre, Adbolton Lane, HOLME PIERREPONT, Notts NG12 2LU. Tele 0602 821212.

Hotels/Guest Houses etc. write to Accommodation Office, County Hall, WEST BRIDGFORD, Notts NG2 7QP. Tele 0602 823823.

The Organising Committee for the Slalom at Holme Pierrepont is:

Chairman: Roger Fox, 3 Moreton Avenue, HARPENDEN, Herts AL5 2EU; Director: Jim Croft, 12 Holmscroft Road, LUTON, Beds LU3 2TJ; Mike Carter and Jennifer Munro (addresses as per Slalom Yearbook).

DRAGON BOAT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS by Di Lawler.

The National Championships of the Dragon Boat Racing Association of Great Britain were held on the Serpentine lake in London's Hyde Park on Sunday 18 October 1987. The event was held in conjunction with the Westminster Serpentine Rowing Regatta and sponsored by L.E.B. and the Hong Kong Tourist Board.

Dragon Boat Racing is a sport and custom imported from Hong Kong to Britain as far as we know in 1980 for the Chinese Festival in London. A fleet of four genuine Chinese boats were shipped from Hong Kong to be raced on the Thames at Battersea Park. The boats are made of wood, weigh approximately one ton, are over 40 feet long and seat 20 people plus a steersman and a drummer. Ornate dragon heads decorate the bow and stern and the twenty paddlers try to maintain their paddling rhythm to the beat of the drum.

Since 1980 British crews have been invited by the tourist board to take part in the Dragon Boat racing at the Festival in Hong Kong. The competition held in Hyde Park in October was to find a British Champion Crew to be the representatives for the 1988 Dragon Boat Racing Festival in Hong Kong.

In response to an open invitation distributed to canoeing and rowing clubs countrywide 24 entries were received. There were several entries from clubs which have already begun to take the sport seriously, amongst them Northwich Dragon Boat Club from Cheshire and Tyne and Wear DBC. Most of the entries were however from either canoeing or rowing clubs or combinations of the two. Amongst these were the 1987 Dragon Boat Crew to Hong Kong, Weybridge

Rowing Club, this year going under the name of Thames Valley as their crew was a combination from Weybridge and Reading Rowing Clubs. Other local clubs included Wraybury Skiff & Punting Club, a combined crew from Royal Canoe Club and Kingston Rowing Club, Wey Kayak Club from Guildford and Elmbridge Canoe Club from Weybridge.

The racing was held over a 500m course and there were three rounds, heats, semi-finals and final. Elmbridge Canoe club made a good start when they defeated Northwich DBRC in their heat and recorded a time which stood as the fastest over the course for most of the day... bettered only by Wey Kayak club in the last of the heats. Elmbridge went on to the semi-finals with the closest opposition in the race being Thames Valley. The race went badly for Elmbridge with the rhythm and timing being lost completely about half way down the race... somehow they recovered and crossed the line only inches in front of Thames.

The final was a triumph for the Canoe Clubs, between them they had defeated the Dragon Boat Clubs, the Rowers, the Skiff Clubs, and combinations of all three. The final line-up was Wey Kayak Club, Lincoln CC and Elmbridge CC. Lincoln and Wey had all male crews, stronger and more experienced than Elmbridge, who had four girls in their crew, two of those being only 14; Four of the boys were also only 14 and in fact there were only eight crew members over 20.

The race was so close all the way down it was hard to tell who had the advantage if anyone. At 350m Elmbridge inched their way in front and having realised that victory was now possible they pulled out all the stops and eventually finished half a length in front.

The excitement was tremendous, even club coach Roland Lawler, the steersman, raised his paddle in triumph as the boat crossed the line first... he was obviously very pleased with his young crew winning against all odds. Young Gina Russell, the drummer collected the trophy, presented by Mrs. J. J. Wilson, wife of the Chairman of LEB. The carved model of a Chinese junk will be engraved with the winners name and retained by the Hong Kong Tourist Board in London. All crew members received souvenir T-shirts and an electric shaver or hairdryer, and can look forward to racing in Hong Kong next year.

MARATHON DRAW

The September winner of the Marathon Draw was Lisa Mortimer of the Fladbury Canoe Club, with a certificate issued at the Bath to Bradford Race. Lisa will receive a new kayak from the sponsors, Kirton Kayaks, and the Bradford on Avon Canoe Club will receive a cheque for £100.

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forerunner of a programme of expansion of touring and recreational canoeing which will develop over the next two to three years.

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We are wide open to ideas for future expansion but this depends on you helping us to get off the starting blocks... we are not aware of any limits other than those created by lack of support. If you are interested please contact me, at 108 East Street, OLNEY, Bucks MK46 4DJ.

Colin Kempson, Co-opted member of Touring Committee.

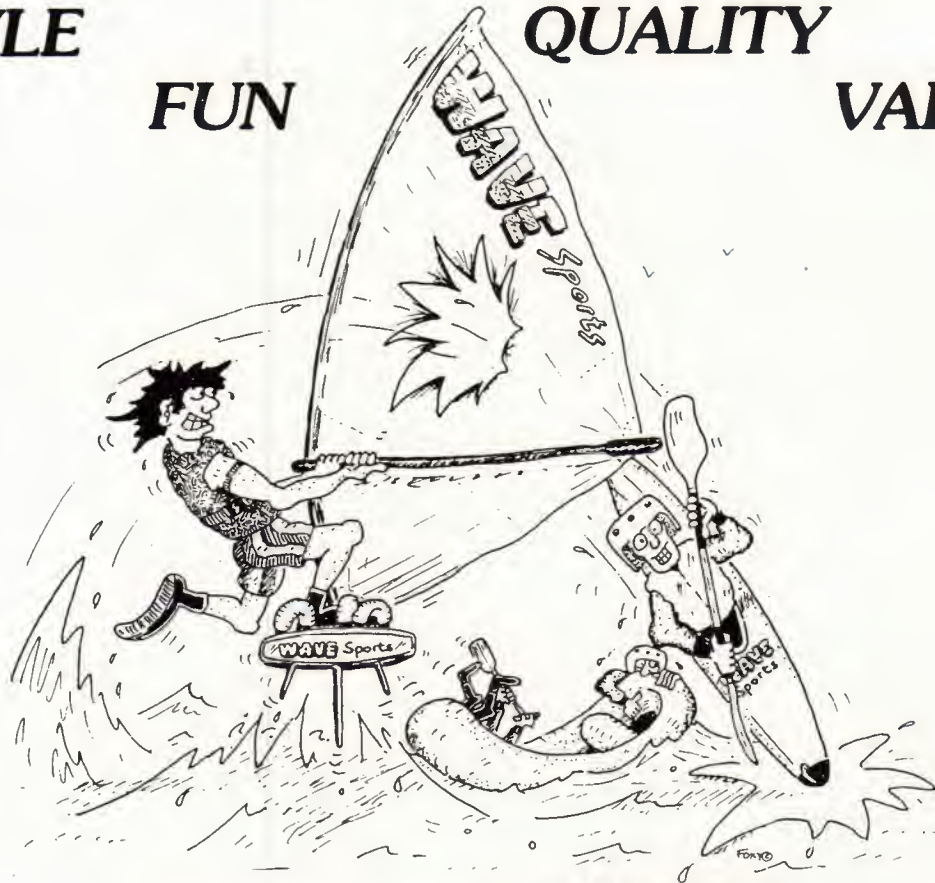
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BKS29 'Canoeing Skills and Techniques' by Neil Shave (Paperback).	5.65	5.15
BKS07 'Canoeing - The American National Red Cross.	7.70	7.00
NEW		
BKS34 'Paddling Progressions' by Paul Jackson	5.80	4.80
BKS08 'Canoeing - The Fladbury Way' by D. Train.	2.65	2.45
BKS04 'Canoe Games' by Dave Ruse.	8.25	7.25
BKS13 'Barty' by Janet Collins.	6.45	5.95
BKS27 'The Black Hole' by Foxy.	3.50	3.30
BKS32 'Canoeing - An Olympic Sport' by A. Toro.	Temp. Unavailable	
BKS31 'Slalom Canoeing - An Introduction'	3.95	3.00
BKS22 'To Win the Worlds' by Bill Endicott.	11.25	10.25
BKS14 'US White Water Handbook' by J.T. Urban.	5.90	5.50
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BKS10 'Exercises in Coastwise Navigation' - White.	4.65	4.15

BOOKS Cont'd

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BKS35 'Godwin's Saga' by Kenneth Macksey	12.40	11.40
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BKS36 Blue Water Summer by David Johnston and Krista Nicholson. A Pacific Coastal Adventure.	5.20	4.20
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BKS 39 'Survival' by Martyn Forrester.	3.65	3.15
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BKS38 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Expedition Guide.	9.30	8.30

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- Choose your method of payment. You may pay by cheque, postal or money order, BCU Voucher, cash or Access/Barclaycard, although cash is not recommended. Cheques and money orders should be made payable to "The British Canoe Union". Please note that members' discount cannot be applied if current membership number is not supplied. Remittances from Overseas must include 25% extra to cover excess postage and any bank charges incurred in currency exchanges.
- Telephone Orders. Access/Barclaycard holders can speed up delivery by telephoning their orders. Simply call (0602) 817412 during office hours.
- The BCU guarantee that if you are not entirely satisfied with your purchase, you can return any item to us unused within 14 days and ask for a credit, refund or replacement, it's up to you. This no-quibble guarantee is in addition to your legal rights, however we are not responsible for loss or damage on the return journey or for postage costs.
- Under normal circumstances, goods are despatched within 3 days. We may sometimes hold up a consignment if 'out of stock' items are expected soon, otherwise these will be sent on later. If we cannot deliver within 28 days we will notify you. If you have not received your order or notification from us within 28 days, please telephone us immediately.
- Send your order, enclosing payment to British Canoe Union, The Elms, c/o The National Watersports Centre, Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, NG12 2LU, England.

Access/Barclaycard holders can speed up delivery by telephoning their orders.



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- Terms:** Strictly cash with order. Access and Barclaycard-Visa Credit Card payment excepted.
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1	SWEATSHIRT	CLO21	S	LT. BLUE	7 90
2	CANOEING HANDBOOK(SOLID)	BLT02	-	-	14 00

HOUSE PUBLICATIONS Cont'd

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BLT24 Canoe Polo Coaching and Tactics by Brian Barfoot.	2.00	1.60
BLT27 Touring Logbook.	1.00	.70
BLT26 Canoe Lifeguards Manual. Eight booklets covering awards and training, equipment, first aid, accident prevention and reading water and weather conditions presented in a ring binder.	8.90	7.90
BLT34 Expedition Pack. Includes planning guide, details on BCU Expedition Grant.	2.50	2.00
BLT08 Information Directory. Summarised version of all information leaflets and documents available from the BCU, loose leaf binder supplied.	8.00	2.80
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Regional Roundup

EASTERN

Cambridge Canoeists Assn

Concerted efforts have begun to reform a County Association for Cambridgeshire and an inaugural general meeting has been arranged for 29 February 1988 at 7.30 pm at the Ramsey Bingo Hall, RAMSEY, Cambs.

All those associated with the sport either recreationally or competitively in the County are urged to attend. The aims of the Association are to promote all aspects of the sport in the County. It is therefore important that as many of the various bodies who canoe as possible are represented. Any club, youth group or school will be eligible to apply for membership, while unattached canoeists who support the Associations aims may apply for associate membership.

At this inaugural meeting a draft constitution will be considered and elections held for the posts of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and at least six ordinary committee members. Please come to this meeting with your ideas and the names of some **volunteers** to see your ideas put into practice.

EAST MIDLANDS

AGM

A new regional Committee was formed at the AGM in November. If anyone would like the names and addresses of the newly elected members please send an envelope and stamp to Dave Halsall, 45 Auburn Road, BLABY, Leicestershire LE8 3DA.

Congratulations

C. Harvey from Nottingham Kayak Club was promoted from novice to Div II C1 in the space of three months. He won the Novice C1 at Stratford in July. He then competed at Kings Mills, Peterborough and Finchdale Abbey to accumulate 200 points and promotion placings at HPP and Middleton and then competing at the Sowerby Bridge event gave him the 200 points for promotion to Div II. Well done!

NORTHERN REGION NEWS

Access

Following the resignation of Ray Willett as Northumbria Regional Access Officer the new appointment is Mr G Gordon. 14A St Thomas Crescent, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. Many thanks to Ray for his work spanning many years.

River Tees

The River Tees is the subject of complaints about canoeing around Catherstone. Before paddling the Upper Tees please contact the new Local Access Officer Len Smith on 0833 37829.

North Tyne

Use of the River North Tyne is threatened by inconsiderate parking in Acomb obstructing access to the transport depot. Park sensibly and above all leave this access clear.

Help required

Northern Chairman, Barry Howell, would

like to hear from those able to help with the regional stand at Crystal Palace. Phone him on 04484 4172.

Press Officer

The Northern Region Press Officer is Mary Armstrong of 7 Dryburn Park, Durham Moor, DURHAM, DH1 5AD.

NORTH WEST

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Region will be held in the Merseyside area during the week commencing 14 March 88. Details of date and venue will be circulated direct. Anticipated time of meeting is 8pm. Up for election are the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and two individual members. Also a volunteer is required to act as Slalom representative. Nominations, and motions for consideration should be forwarded to either Linda Halton, Roy Bradshaw or Phil Ferguson, 1 Redcar Road, Little Lever, BOLTON, Lancs. Tele 0204-76767.

Coaching AGM

The AGM of the Regional Coaching Committee will take place at the same venue and date as above, but commencing at 7pm.

Grants Officer

As members will know, Harry Reeves, our Grants Officer, has been taking things a little easier in 1987, but he is now back to full strength — so welcome back, Harry.

Lost Boat

Will the person who left a boat in the car park after the Ribble Tour, please contact Phil Ferguson, address and telephone number as above.

Cheshire/Dee Rally

This Rally will be held over 30 April/1 May 1988, over a distance of twenty-four miles (Grade I) between Bangor-on-Dee and Chester. The cost to members will be £3.50 per head. This will include mixed bunkhouse overnight accommodation (to sleep 30 — on a first come-first served basis); camping, buffet tea and breakfast, mini bus and trailers (for shuttles) and films. Booking (together with cheques) and further information can be obtained from Pat Moran, 1 Mawdsley Avenue, Woolston, WARRINGTON, Cheshire WA1 4DJ.

River Ribble Rally

Advance notice is given of the Rally which will be held at 5 November 88 between Clitheroe and Balderstone, a distance of 12¾ miles (Grade I-II). Applications not before September again to Pat Moran, address as above.

SOUTH WEST

River Axe Race

Please note this event is on SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY and NOT 7th as stated in the BCU Calendar. The race over a distance of five miles is being sponsored by Gribble, Booth and Taylor, West Country Estate Agents. There are nine separate classes with 50 trophies. This is a very popular event and as entries are limited to 200 early application is advised. No entries on the day will be accepted. Entry forms and full details from Axe Vale Canoe Club,

Pippins Centre, Lyme Road, AXMINSTER, Devon EX13 5AZ. Tele 0297 32820.

Holme Pierrepont

The region has booked the whitewater course for 18/19 June. Interested clubs should contact Jim Cornwall Tele 0458 250254 with suggestions regarding the programme. The approximate cost will be £5 per head for use of course. Accommodation/camping extra.

Youth Afloat Festival — Poole Harbour 3/5 July

This important event attracts several hundred young people. Instructors/helpers are needed to run the "taster" sessions. Please contact RCO for Wessex — Peter Pendlebury, 128 Bath Road, SWINDON, Wilts, Tele 0793 641861.

South West

Haslar League Results

1st — Fowey River CC. 2nd — Plymouth College. 3rd — Exeter CC. 4th — Bradford-on-Avon CC.

Fowey Race

Last years marathon race had to be cancelled due to the aftermath of "Hurricane Mike", therefore the 1987 Race will take place in 1988! on 10 April. Details from Martin Compton, 18 Daveys Close, Swanpool, FALMOUTH, Cornwall.

North Devon — Surfing

An incident occurred when canoeists ignored advice given by a Beach Life Guard which nearly resulted in a fatal accident. Please heed and seek advice whenever the RED FLAG is flying. Personal safety is important but so is public relations, so use discretion.

Salisbury Canoe Club

This club has been established for 18 months and has a full programme, it meets on Tuesday evenings and Sundays. Interested paddlers should contact W.T. Clayton, "Dungarth", Winterslow, Salisbury, Wilts. Tele 0722 862286.

WEST MIDLANDS

Holme Pierrepont Weekend and Rally

The West Midlands Holme Pierrepont Rally will take place over the weekend 16/17 April. The weekend will include events on the slalom course, social events, a tour and will be planned to suit paddlers of all abilities. Full details and booking forms can be obtained by sending sae to Mike Hubbard, 78 Derrydown Road, BIRMINGHAM B42 1RT.

West Midlands River Guide


The second edition of the West Midlands River Guide is now available, with even more information than the first edition. The second edition is available from Mike Nicholls, 25 Dunbar Grove, Great Barr, BIRMINGHAM B43 7PT. Cost £2.50 plus 25p p & p.

1988 Regional Handbook

The 1988 West Midlands Handbook is now available. Packed with information about clubs, events and courses. The Handbook can be obtained from Brian Porter, 15 Russel Croft, Aston Fields, BROMSGROVE, Worcs. B60 3EF, for 50p + 9" x 6" sae.

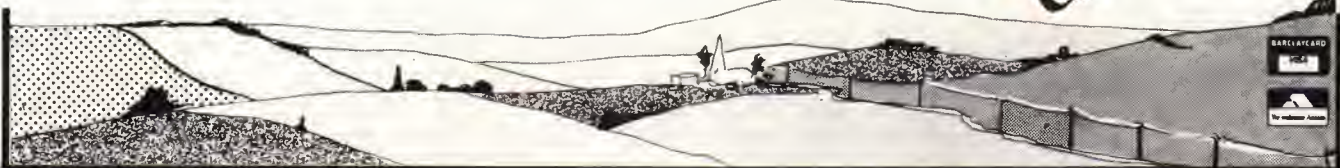


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Here and There

BWB PUBLISH LEISURE STRATEGY FOR KENNET & AVON

The completion of restoration of the Kennet and Avon Canal at the end of 1989 will enable boaters to navigate directly from the River Thames to the River Severn for the first time after a period of nearly 40 years. This new experience will create commercial development opportunities. To ensure that this was handled in a sensitive way British Waterways launched their strategy for the full development of the waterway for all aspects of recreation at a meeting of the Kennet and Avon Canal Advisory Group.

The plan acknowledges the environmental qualities of the canal and makes proposals to ensure that development will be carried forward in a way that is sensitive to the surrounding countryside, villages and towns. Copies of the document "Kennet and Avon Canal — A Leisure Strategy" are available from the Information Office, British Waterways Board, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, LONDON, NW1 6JX at a cost of £7.00 plus 45p p & p. To avoid delay remittances should accompany orders.

BCU BOAT INSURANCE

Members are reminded that comprehensive insurance ie Public Liability Insurance, Life, Accident and Boat

PADDLING AT NIGHT

Dave Hellawell has sent the following ideas for sea kayakers:-

"Overhead Kayaker Light Sticks".

Techna-light waterproof torches with diffusors — plastic lens hoods shining down over onto the rear deck. Plastic rods mounted vertically onto a bracket fixed to the pump surround. Whilst not the perfect answer to kayak 'night lights', it solves most of the problems mentioned in recent sea kayak night paddling items.

1 The system is cheap and simple. For the

Insurance are provided as a benefit of membership to Life, Full, Family and Youth Members.

The following conditions apply to Boat Insurance:

- 1 A member's boat(s) only are included. The insurance does not apply to paddles or equipment.
- 2 The maximum value considered for insurance purposes is £150.
- 3 There is an excess payment of £25 or £50 for claims on Grade II or over white water.

All other classes of membership including clubs, receive Public Liability Insurance only, to a value of £1 million.

Full details regarding the Insurance Scheme are available from BCU Headquarters on receipt of a s.a.e.



SEA KAYAK TOUR AROUND ISLE OF RÉ

This tour being held off the west coast of France is scheduled to be held from the 4 to 12 June 1988. The main activity will be a four to five day exploration of the island "Ré la Blanche", which is situated close to LA ROCHELLE, a well known sunshine spot on the coast. Further details can be obtained from Christian Gabard, 10 Rue Simon Létouille, F-9 2260 FONTENAY AUX ROSES, France.

BRITISH OLYMPIC APPEAL

HRH, The Princess Royal, gave Britain's Olympic competitors a Royal boost when she launched the 1988 British Olympic

affluent, light sticks could be used.

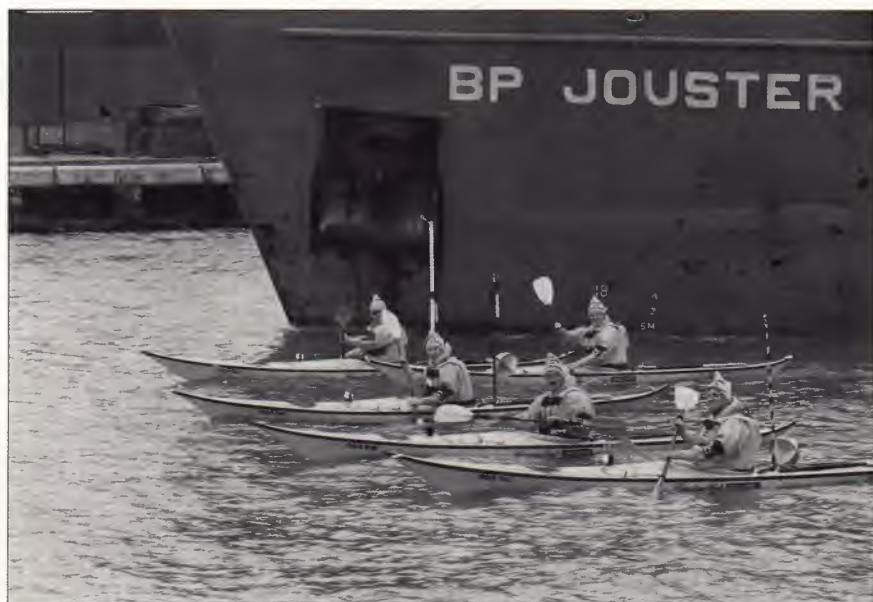
2 The all round sight of the paddler is maintained.

3 By diffusing the light, one audios night vision problems and sea sickness.

4 The mast is a push or screw-on fit and is easily dismantled and carried when not night paddling.

NB: The large white vertical rod is a radio ariel — but that's another story.

The five paddlers who took on the North Sea took time out for a training session in Great Yarmouth, being dwarfed by a gas rig supply ship.



Appeal at the offices of Barclays Bank in the City of London in October.

The 1988 Appeal to the public has a £2 million target towards an estimated overall cost of £2.5 million to send our teams to Calgary, Canada, for the Olympic Winter Games in February and to Seoul, South Korea, for the Olympic Games in September.

"Our task is even more difficult this time round", explained BOA Appeals Secretary, George Nicholson, at the glittering Barclays launch. "Because 1988 will be the first time since 1932 that both Games have been outside Europe and that means a lot of extra costs."

With Sports Minister Colin Moynihan on the rostrum, The President was not slow to point out the independence of the British Olympic Association which does not receive any government money.

Donations should be sent to the British Olympic Appeal, 1, Wandsworth Plain, LONDON SW18 1EM.

BCU WATER CARNIVAL

Once again we are pleased to announce the holding of the BCU Water Carnival at Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham. This will take place over the weekend of 10/11 September 1988. A full exciting programme will be arranged, with something for everyone. Whether a spectator or action man or woman come along and enjoy all that is on offer. Make a note of the date in your diary now. Further information will be contained in the next issue of CANOE FOCUS.

RIVER LEVEN OPEN DAYS

Due to increasing congestion on the river, it has been necessary to restrict numbers to 100, and every paddler must have a bib. These bibs can be booked in advance by contacting the organiser, J. Stilling, 11 Carlingdale, Burnside, KENDAL Cumbria LA9 6PW Tele 0539-22349.

CANOE FOCUS 52

Members who renew their subscription in the month of October may not have received their copy of Canoe Focus No 52. We very much regret the inconvenience and disappointment caused to these members and can forward an abbreviated version of the magazine on request.



LAKELAND WAY

Lakeland Way is a new route and system for paddlers. It is a beautiful waterway in Finland for paddlers of all the world. In

1988 they will be offering two opportunities between 1/3 July 1988 called Lakeland Way 360 or Lakeland Way 100. First is a 360 kilometres long nonstop competition with few small rapids, but mostly lakes and rivers. 100 is a hundred kilometres long Classic Series in Finland, part competition, with lakes and rivers. Further information from The Secretary, Savonselän Melontarengas — Lakeland Way, SF-52550 HIRVENSALMI, Finland.



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by James Olupko

The Faeroe Islands, which lie between Iceland and Shetland, present a challenging environment to the sea kayaker. Less than half of one percent of the 538 mile coastline can be landed on, with cliffs of over 2,000 feet dominating the landscape. Tidal streams of 12 knots race through fjords between the 18 islands, and rapidly changing weather makes crossings between islands precarious. The appeal of paddling in this sea kayakers utopia lead David Taylor and I to attempt the first complete circumnavigation of the islands.

After three days of travelling we found ourselves on the quayside in Torshavn, the capital of the Faeroe's, with one month, 144 Yorkie bars and 265 miles of paddling in front of us. One hour and four miles later we landed on the island of Nolsoy. The welcome we received in this sleepy little fishing village by some children soon put paid to any doubts we had. They were soon sitting in kayaks and navigating the world's oceans. In return they brought us the local delicacy — dried fish!

In the following days we made rapid progress paddling down the eastern coast. Astonished fishermen, changed course to come and see us. Expressing their surprise they would say: "I could not believe my eyes, so I had to come over and look". In Skalavik, Bjarni Dalsgaard, the postman, general store keeper, and a fan of Lady Diana (Bjarni's dog is called Lady Di), gave us endless cups of tea and mountains of cake. When we left, Bjarni appeared with a fork lift truck to carry our kayaks down to the slipway.

As the BCU Expeditions' Committee had given us a grant on condition that we made a complete circumnavigation, we had to go round Munken, a group of "rocks" four miles south of Suderoy, the southernmost island. After a cold night, we spent the morning planning the day's journey round Munken. The whole trip, though not any great distance, was quite daunting. The description in the Admiralty pilot was horrendous with overfalls, rips, races and eddies, "areas to be avoided by shipping at all costs". The "Sumbo Maelstrom" in the days of old was supposed to have sucked whole ships down into its vortex! Having taken the latter as sheer legend, we planned to leave on the southerly going stream to arrive at Munken in slackwater.

However, Faeroe tidal movements take little heed of what the books say. When we arrived at the southern tip of Suderoy the tidal stream was already flowing west. This meant that rather than having tidal assistance towards Munken, we now faced a four mile ferry glide. It soon became apparent that the pilot had not been exaggerating, with the growl of breaking waves behind us we quickly learnt the art of surfing heavily laden sea kayaks during our forty minute crossing to Munken. At Munken we devoured Yorkie bars and chatted to the seals before paddling North to ferry glide back through the overfalls.

As we approached Suderoy a helicopter appeared. We jokingly suggested it might be looking for us. An hour later, as we were nearing the shore, the helicopter flew directly above us nearly wiping us out with its down-draught, it then circled above us while we paddled the last 500

metres into Sumbo. We suddenly became aware of the whole village migrating towards the harbour. Endless hands

helped us from our boats, which the locals looked at with disbelief. We were later to learn from Eli Poulsen, who invited us to stay with him, that the helicopter had been called out to look for us when the lighthouse keeper lost sight of us in the overfalls.

After two days of "enforced rest" we headed north up the west coast of Suderoy to Sandvik, where as evening drew in, the wind increased to gale force and rain drove horizontally up the valley for most of the night. During our stay in Sandvik, we demolished pilot whale meat and a smoked salmon that Eli Poulsen insisted we should have — a pleasant change from the usual dehydrated primeval stodge. Pilot whale bones dotted the beach from a kill the previous year. Because of the northern latitude the Faeroese cannot rear sufficient livestock or grow enough potatoes, so to supplement their fish diet they depend on pilot whales and on puffin which they collect by dangling on ropes over cliffs.

Just as we were about to turn in for our second night in Sandvik, two rather large gentlemen appeared. They said: "Our mother has heard about you. You must come with us now for coffee and cake". It was an offer we could not refuse. When we arrived, we were faced not with coffee and cake but a "missionary pot" full of rhubarb wine. It turned out to be a most enjoyable evening with Birtha Neilsen, her sons, Ole and Jens and their wives. We did not get back to our tents that night. After a further stormbound day in Sandvik a break in the weather allowed us to paddle the twenty-five miles to Skopun on the island of Sandoy, where our first supply box was stored. Once we had solved the problem of how to get the last Yorkie bar into our hatches we again headed north west to the island of Mykines, three days away.

On Mykines we again became prisoners of the fickleness of the Faeroese weather. For five days and nights storms prevented us moving on. We became desperate. I started to listen to Womens Hour while David counted the stitches in his tent. We ran out of food and then we ran out of

Yorkie bars. It was getting desperate. Fortunately, the weather cleared and we could make the twenty-two mile open

crossing to our last supply box at Eidi. The whole crossing was dominated by Mylingur a vertical cliff of 1,847 feet.

From Eidi we continued east along the northern coastline where we came across the limitations of using 1:100,000 charts. We had planned to land at Trollanes. It looked possible on the map, but it was not feasible to scale the eighty foot cliff which greeted us. We therefore continued on to our reserve landing of Mikladalur, which turned out to be equally inhospitable. The only option was to head down the fjord to Kunoy, seven miles out of our way. Again the fickle Faeroese weather intervened, we were storm bound for two days. Time, like Yorkie bars was running out, but we were powerless against the unrelenting momentum of the calendar.

A break in the weather allowed us to paddle to Fugloy. Then again the weather closed in. Our objective to complete the circumnavigation, Torshavn, was only thirty miles away, but all we could do was sit and watch the massive gale driven waves crash into the harbour. Our tents were pitched in the lee of a barn, sheltering us from the full force of the gale. At 0200, we were woken by violent gusts of wind striking our tents causing them to gyrate like cossacks. After my tent had disintegrated, I moved into David's, but within minutes his tent suffered the same fate.

Three hours later the shipping forecast didn't sound too hopeful with winds force 5/6, increasing to 7 occasionally 8. As we intended to head South West back to Torshavn, we would have head winds all the way. However, only two Yorkies were left and with the air being perfectly still we decided to make a dash for it. "The miles dripped off our paddles". As we paddled into Torshavn harbour to complete the circumnavigation, I jested, knowing the hospitality of the Faeroese, that they would have the bunting up and a band playing. Almost as I stopped speaking a jazz band struck up. Joie de vivre intoxicated us.

A fifty page expedition report and an audio visual presentation are available from David Taylor on Tele 0966 32286.



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Trade News

GREGSON FIRST AID SYSTEM FOR SPORT



The Gregson Pack is a brand new product designed to give quick accurate diagnosis and action in difficult situations and times of panic. The water resistant pack has four main storage areas divided according to treatment for convenience, is designed to protect the sterile bandages from the wet and at the same time display the step by step instructions in a way that both young and experienced canoeists can easily understand. The Gregson Pack is an essential piece of equipment developed with the advice of medical experts to help provide you with the confidence to cope when it matters most. A unique system at a price that gives excellent value for money. Advice on pack contents and first aid instructions has been given by the British Canoe Union, St John Ambulance, Mountain Rescue and Corps of Canoe Lifeguards. Available from BCU Coaching Supplies at £15.99 inc p & p and VAT. **Sportwise, Maryport Workspace, Solway Trading Estate, MARYPORT, Cumbria CA15 8NF. Tele: 0900 818276.**

CURRENT TRENDS AT CURRENT TRENDS

After the concentrated building programme that enabled Current Trends to open its doors overlooking the Regatta Course at Holme Pierrepont in July, the first six months of activity have shown some remarkable results.

Membership is approaching one thousand. Current Trends Canoe Club, with its own committee, is now officially affiliated to the Old Nottinghamians' Sports and Social Club, thus providing, not only thirty hot showers, so desperately needed by users of the Artificial Slalom Course, but the pavilion bar, which is proving attractive as a venue for the "Second Wednesday of the Month" evening lecture programme. Rowers, windsurfers, sailors and even fishermen are enjoying the free car-parking and the excellent food served in the Cafeteria, and Current Trends has redrafted the fishing lease on the adjoining bank of the Trent to make it an official launching area for canoes!

The Canoe School itself has shown remarkable buoyancy in its first half-season. Day, evening and residential courses have proved extremely popular.

Close co-operation with The Anglesey School of Sea Canoeing, and Mobile Adventure, is ensuring that a whole range of activities is being catered for. There will be another "Nordkapp Owners" meet in Anglesey from Friday 29 April until Bank Holiday Monday 2 May.

July 9 is the start of a sailing trip from Holyhead to Scotland in a ketch... with sea kayaks on board, so the Western Islands can be explored by kayak for two weeks. A similar trip leaves on 23 July.

All manner of canoeing courses are available, including BCU Coaching Awards. **Current Trends, Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, NOTTINGHAM NG4 5AS. Tele: 0602-818844. Send SAE for programme.**

COLD HANDS — HOT GEL



Crewsaver, using a recent development in thermochemical engineering, have produced a rechargeable handwarmer which provides real heat exactly when you want it, and wherever you are. Heat is produced from "food quality" chemicals sealed into a sachet. It is non-toxic and non-combustible, and will continue to give off heat for up to two hours after which it can be recharged. The Crewsaver Hot Gel handwarmer retails at around £5.95 which includes the insulated pouch. **Crewsaver Marine Equipment, Mumby Road, GOSPORT, Hants PO12 1AQ.**

HEADWATER AT THE BOAT SHOW

Headwater Holidays are appearing at the 1988 London Boat Show (stand C18). River holidays in France are again a main feature. Headwater use Canadian canoes, arrange accommodation at small country hotels on the way downriver, and move all your luggage for you on the Creuse in the Southern Loire valley. New for 1988 is the river Loue, in the Jura near the Swiss frontier. It's a little faster flowing and will suit those who have done the Creuse or have some previous experience. The firm is small enough to tailor holidays to individual needs yet are ABTA members. **Headwater Holidays, FREEPOST, NORTHWICH, Cheshire CW8 3BR. Tele: 0606 78011.**

MOBILE ADVENTURE — THE CANADIAN

CONNECTION

Following a recent trip to Canada and the USA, Mobile Adventure have now been appointed sole European distributors for Gray Owl Paddles (the range has been extended) and Sawyer performance canoes, some of which will be made in Britain under licence. The full range of paddles from Gray Owl, and the new Sawyer "Summersong" solo touring C1 will be available for view at Crystal Palace, in production and available at that time. **Mobile Adventure Ltd, Bridge Works, Knighton Fields Road West, LEICESTER LE2 6LG. Tele: 0533 830659.**

NEW BOAT BUILDER FOR THE NORTH

Peel Wyke Boat Hire, based on Bassenthwaite Lake, near Keswick in the Lake District, are now building a large range of fibre glass boats under the name of Plattyplus. The range includes general purpose/slalom kayaks, Arrow K1, Challenger K2, Rapide marathon tourer, Banook sea kayak and a range of open Canadians. They are the only authorised builder in the North of the Dragon Polo Bat as supplied to the "Mutineers" GB Ladies A team. **Peel Wyke Boat Hire, Smithy Green, Thornwaite, KESWICK, Cumbria CA12 5SL.**

NEW TWO-PIECE DRY SUIT FROM STINGRAY



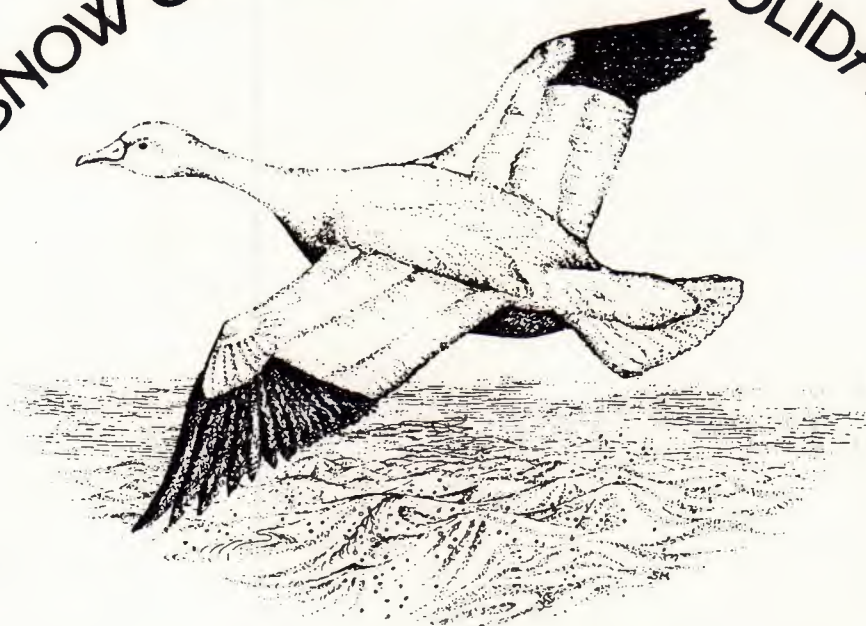
Veteka Sports is introducing a new design of dry suit particularly suited to surface watersports enthusiasts. The main feature of the Stingray two piece dry suit is that there is no need for a cumbersome dry shoulder zip, so the suit can be put on without assistance and there is greatly improved freedom of movement over the shoulders and arms. The suit boasts a smart colour combination of red and yellow and is available from all Hotline stockists at RRP £162 inc VAT. **Veteka Sports Limited, Unit 18, Bookham Industrial Park, Church Lane, GREAT BOOKHAM, Surrey KT23 3EU. Tele: 0372 56501/4.**

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FIELD TEST

HEAD TORCH REVIEW

Ray Rowe looks at the new Lago head torch, and makes some comparisons.

Before using the Lago LO2 head torch on the sea I tested its waterproofing by filling a washbasin with water and holding the whole torch about one inch below the surface for two minutes. This seemed like a reasonable test for a light which could be used by canoeists. Within seconds the lens unit was half full of water and bubbles streamed from the battery containers. The light continued to show brightly throughout the two minutes.

When I removed the torch from the water and opened the battery containers they both had puddles of water inside. The lens unit had to be unscrewed to drain the water which it contained and the socket into which the bulb is screwed had also been penetrated by water.

I feel that it is only reasonable to conclude from this simple test that the head torch would be unsuitable for paddlers who wanted to use it whilst afloat. Although it stayed lit whilst completely waterlogged a longer period in this condition would result in problems of rapid decline in battery power and, particularly on the sea, serious corrosion of the connections.

However, for use around the campsite, tying boats onto the roof rack and diving under the bonnet on a dark night, this would be an excellent tool. The broad, elastic headband is very comfortable and positive. This, combined with the idea of splitting the battery weight into two containers worn on each side of the head makes long duration wearing of the torch a relatively painless experience, a compliment which cannot be applied to some other models. The lens can be angled to direct the beam through a range of about 90 degrees. This range, however, is limited by a basic design fault. When you try to raise the lens unit to give a horizontal beam of light the wire going into it pushes against your head, effectively limiting the range of beam to between vertically downwards and 45 degrees upwards. I think this is a minor problem because that is exactly the range of lighting through which most head torches are used anyway. The on/off control is by rotation of the lens unit as per many other outdoor torches. It is a good system, minimizing the complication of a fragile switch and yet easily workable with gloved or cold hands.

The actual lens on the Lago torch has had a lot of thought put into it. It has a

frosted outer ring which gives a diffused,



lens body can focus the beam to be long and thin for looking ahead, or broad and spread out for map reading, etc.

The head band is joined at the rear by a two-part clip which opens by bending it through 90 degrees. It would be possible to put the headband on tight enough to cause this to open accidentally. The consequences of accidentally dropping your head torch can of course be anything from very serious and life threatening to socially enlightening when you end up in someone else's tent!

The Lago takes four of the popular AA batteries and comes with a spare bulb in a holder on the lens body. It is very compact and is one of the few head torches which comes in a carrying pouch which would keep it together and protect the lens outer from scoring.

I have made some comparisons of it against three other head torches:

Lago LO2

Batteries — 4 x AA
Bulb-3, 5V (spare bulb and holder supplied)
Weight without batteries — 3 ounces
Weight including batteries — 7 ounces
Not completely waterproof
Manufactured — France
*Price — £18.00

Petzi Micro

Batteries — 2 x AA
Bulb 3, 5V (spare bulb and holder supplied)
Weight without batteries — just under 3 ounces
Weight including batteries — 5 ounces
Not 100 per cent waterproof but has an excellent seal on the battery compartment
Manufactured — France
*Price — £12.50

Petzi

Battery — 1 x 3R12 (flat type)
Bulb-3, 5V (double spare bulb holder)
Weight without batteries — 5½ ounces
Weight including batteries — 9 ounces
Not completely waterproof
Manufactured — France
*Price £15.65

Pampa

Batteries — 3 x AA
Bulb-3, 5V (watertight spare bulb holder)
Weight without batteries — 3 ounces
Weight including batteries — 5 ounces
Waterproof
Manufactured — France
*Price — £16.84
*Average retail price including VAT



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27/28 Feb	Marathon Racing Clinic Open Canoe (Sit Style)
08/10 March	Inland Senior Instructor (Kayak) Training
08/10 March	Inland Senior Instructor (Kayak) Assessment
11/13 March	Advanced Proficiency (Kayak) Training & Assessment
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09/10 April	Intermediate White Water Training
09/10 April	Placid Water 1 & 2 Skill — Canoe & Kayak
16/17 April	'Come and Try it' Sessions
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07/08 May	Placid Water 1 & 2 Skill — Canoe & Kayak
07/08 May	Intermediate White Water Training
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21/22 May	River, Sea & Surf
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11/12 June	Placid Water 1 & 2 Skill — Canoe & Kayak
18/19 June	Whitewater Safety
25/26 June	Open Canoe Whitewater Safety
02/03 July	Placid Water Teacher Assessment
02/03 July	Introductory 1-2-3 Star Course (Inland Kayak)
09/10 July	Open Canoe Instructor Training Weekend
11/12 July	Sea Touring Trips
16/17 July	Placid Water Advanced Skills 3 to 4
16/17 July	'Come and Try it' sessions

22/03 Aug	Sea Touring Trips
08/20 Aug	Continental Whitewater
21 Aug	Open Canoe Senior Instructor Assessment
03/04 Sept	Placid Water Senior Instructor
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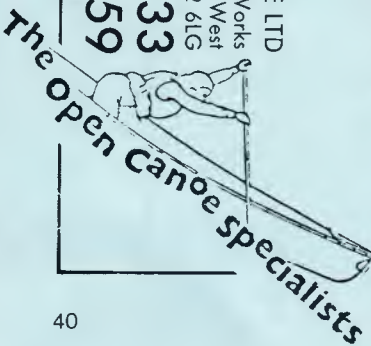
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INTER CLUB SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE SHEPPERTON VIEW POINT

by Kevin Orledge

This was the second year that Shepperton CC had competed in the inter club championships representing the London and South East Region. Last year we entered without our full team and managed seventh place. So for this year's event, with every position in the team filled, confidence was high for a placing in the top five.

With around 300 competitors the programme had to start early on the Saturday morning. Someone said that official practice would start around 8.00 am. With no other free time available it was important to ensure no-one from the team missed their practice run. We had the benefit of the more experienced members of the team coaching the others on the best way to tackle certain gates. (Unfortunately Adrian didn't listen).

The first event on the Saturday was the Division Four, Three and Two team runs. After a mediocre first run we were lying halfway down the field. With things not improving much on the second run — not a very inspiring start! However the ladies team of Pallet, Player and Bricheno turned in two good runs and only just missed first place by virtue of a first run penalty of 50 on the team gate and an upheld protest from Stafford & Stone CC. This was an indication of things to come, in more ways than one. We knew on paper we had the strongest Canadian team; Richardson & Thompson having just returned from the 'worlds', Richard Domoney currently pushing hard for Premier and Tim Wootten ranked premier in both Kayak and Canadian. The team duly produced the expected first place.

The Premier and Division One individual mens event followed the team runs on the Saturday. This was in accordance with ranking Premier events but a new experience for the Division One competitors. Chris Hendy, just back from the Youth Team Tour showed good form in finishing third in the Division One event. It was now important to finish the day with two good results from the Premier men. After the first runs our main hope, Rob Wright, was down in a disastrous 20th place suffering the effects of a bad back, and ten penalties. However it all came together on the second run with Rob finishing fourth, (behind Smith & Raspin with Fox third, five seconds off the pace) and Tony Harmen in a 'steady' 19th place.

After the final day's competition, Tees CC lead by eight points ahead of ourselves with Stafford and Stone, the defending Champions, pushing hard in third place only four points behind. This unexpected high overnight placing put paid to plans 'for a few beers' on Saturday evening. We knew with a couple of good performances on Sunday a placing in the top three was a distinct possibility.

The first event on the Sunday was the Division Four men. This is always an unpredictable category with certain clubs managing to 'catch that elusive 'hot' paddler who is steaming through the divisions just at the right time. Our Division Four paddler, Chris Smoker, performed well enough so that we did not lose too many points to the clubs close to us. The Division Three ladies provided us with our second outright win and sadistic spectators with the best entertainment of the day. Danielle Bricheno paddled two fine runs to comfortably win the class.

Adrian Gough, Division Three men, had just returned from a week's training in Augsburg, so we hoped that the water would not provide a problem and his previously questionable fitness should be improved. Anything less than a top five result would be disappointing. Adrian duly disappointed, paddling straight past downstream gate 13 on his first run and missing the stopper combination on his second. (I suppose we should have known better). Fortunately some good results followed and saved our Adrian from a small operation with a sharp knife.

After the Division Two event we were back into the hunt. Emma Player finished fourth in the ladies and our third outright win came in the mens event. This class had the closest results of the day with less than one second covering the top three positions. The C1 event gave us a third and a sixth place. Richard Domoney's third place being an outstanding achievement considering he was competing in a division four duck mill back in March of this year. Clare Pallet finished sixth in the Premier ladies and Richardson & Thompson, being pushed very hard by the Clough brothers, won the C2 class.

The overall result now rested on the Premier/Division One mens team event. A position higher than tenth and we could not be beaten. First runs and things were looking good until gate 17. Somehow Tony, the second premier paddler in the team, missed the gate completely. With it being positioned just downstream of the main stopper it was an impossible task to get back — so we were nowhere! The pressure was now on for the second runs. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when the team finished eighth, enough to give us overall victory in the event, a £400 cash prize and a new boat of the club's choice from the event's sponsors, Nomad Canoes.

Fourth Canoe Club finished second, (I believe for the third time), nine points behind with Stafford and Stone, who kept everybody on their toes throughout the day, finishing third with the overnight leaders, Tees CC, down in fourth place. Banbury took the prize for the top Club without a premier paddler and Viking KC took home the prize for the Club that put most into the event.

Once again this was a slickly run event by Viking KC. Friendly organisers and some healthy good spirited rivalry between most teams made this one of the best events of the year. Even the sun made an appearance.

One final point however. With this event growing in stature each year and with such relatively large prizes available surely there must be a case for providing a weekend in the calendar free from all other competitions. Each Club then has

an equal chance to field its best team, (heaven knows how much we would have won by if we were not running a Division Three event back at the Club).

PETERHEAD CANOE CLUB

by Joe Scoular

The club decided to venture further afield for its annual weekend. So for the second year running we experienced new rivers and had a good old social bash. Eleven of us went to Tummel Bridge and had a whale (note the nautical term) of a time. We chose the Tummel Bridge Holiday Centre as our base. After all it provided all the necessary basics and home comforts. There is a licenced bar on the site, toilets, a licenced bar, showers, a licenced bar, BAR-B-Q site, a licenced bar, it sits on the River Tummel, a licenced bar, good residential caravan accommodation, a licenced bar, good touring caravan and camping pitches, a licenced bar, a shop and most importantly of all its got a licenced bar and restaurant with evening entertainment.

On the Saturday we went to the River Lyon intending to paddle the upper section of McGregor's Leap. However we encountered a less than happy landlord and eventually we decided to move further down river and eventually had a very pleasant trip from a lower bridge to Comrie Castle. (About six miles, grade I with only one rapid of any note towards the end). A very good novice or beginner trip.

On Sunday we went to Loch Tummel and spent a pleasant couple of hours paddling around and playing some games; throwing the fisbee, playing tig, charriots, tug-o-war and some raft hopping. A couple of so-called friends decided to show me what the loch bed looked like at the end. (They were just jealous because they were wet). We then went a mile or so up the Tummel and paddled back to a short set of rapids and falls which run from the bridge to the power station outflow. (Grade II and very enjoyable but technical). The canoeing was rounded off on the Monday with a trip from Kenmore to Grandtully which was fairly uneventful until the rapids. They were full, running at Grade III and we thoroughly enjoyed them. The perfect way to round off the weekend.

Memories of the weekend include:- three very good nights spent in very good company in the licenced bar and the caravan; looking at the upper Lyon, planning the route, getting ready and then getting chucked off; Jim dumping his car in a ditch and the local sailing club guys hauling it out; Grandtully, which I had never done before and can't wait to do again; the BAR-B-Qs on Sunday and Monday; and then finally the Tummel wasps. Between the caravan and the tent we must have killed over 100 and I got stung twice (glad to say it was on my fingers and not in my pocket). Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are already looking forward to next year's trip. Any club planning a similar experience is advised to seriously consider following our footsteps.

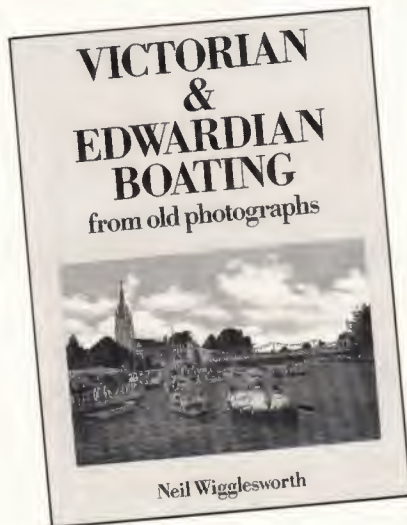
Book Review

VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN BOATING

by Neil Wigglesworth

ISBN No 0-7134-5510-1

Published by BT Batsford Ltd at £10.95.



This photographic survey of the Victorian and Edwardian Boating scene contains two shots of the *Rob Roy*, refers to MacGregor and shows the start of a canoe race in 1902 involving both open canoe and Rob Roys. For anyone interested in boating history, this publication makes an ideal "coffee table" purchase.

SECONDHAND BOOKS

Information supplied by Jennifer Munro

M & M Baldwin, 24 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer, KIDDERMINSTER, Worcs, DY14 8BY, Tele 0299-270110, publish a catalogue of secondhand books on inland waterways and industrial history. **A Thousand Miles in the Rob Roy, Kingfisher Abroad** by T & T Rising, and Robert Louis Stevenson's **An Inland Voyage** are included amongst others.

THE CANOE PADDLING THUMB VIDEO

Prepared by We-no-nah Canoe Company

Stocked by Mobile Adventure Ltd, Bridge Works, Knighton Fields Rd West, LEICESTER. Tele 0533-830659.

Reviewed by Dave Hellawell

The Canoe Paddling 'thumb' video, whilst not a new idea, is a novel presentation of a quite complex series of actions. **The Basic Stroke Canoe Paddling Video at £1.25** is a good lesson on Marathon Canoe Paddling technique whilst throwing in for good measure the written 'basics' for forward paddling using the Canadian 'Bent' paddle.

Using the thumb to flick through the sequence of photographs, enables the 'Paddle Switching' hand movements util-

ised when marathon racing the Canadian canoe, to be seen quite clearly. Any area not shown in the 'flick' mode was covered well in the accompanying written explanation. A neat small booklet presentation, featuring Al Rudquist, US Canoe Association National Champion, well worth the small outlay for the interested canoe paddler.

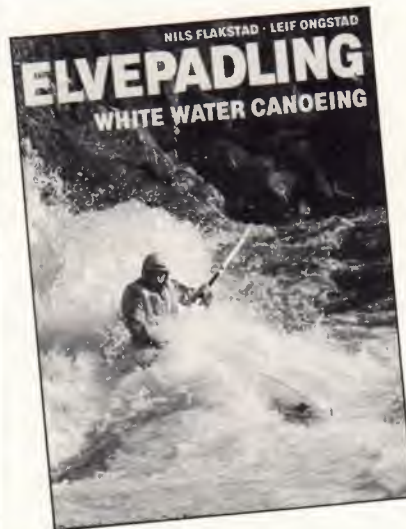
ELVERPADLING

by Nils Flastad and Leif Orgstad

ISBN No 82-90674-00-7

Published by Norges Kajak-OG Kanoforbund.

Available from Sgt R Spring, JSATI, Llanddoged Road, LLANFWST, North Wales LL2 60 at £8.00 including p & p.



This comprehensive, well-illustrated guide to the white water rivers of Southern Norway contains an English translation alongside the original text. Plenty of Grade IV's Vs and VIs are listed with an indication of likely water levels at different times of the year. With the freedom of camping and access in Norway generally, it stands to be 'discovered' by more British paddlers. This guide is a useful starting point.

SURVIVAL

by Martyn Forrester

Published by Sphere Books Ltd.

Available from BCU Supplies at £3.15 members; £3.65 non-members including p & p and VAT.

Reviewed by Danny Skillman

'Death is God's way of saying you should have done survival training' may sound dramatic to those about to embark on hazardous pursuits. However, after reading Martyn Forrester's book, the potential adventurer will either be put off for good, or will immediately rush out to buy the recommended supplies. By vivid use of examples the author shows how

even an innocent road journey can become a nightmare.

Survival techniques, and the equipment necessary, are explained in detail, and cover all eventualities from jungle to desert, and snow to sea. Perhaps more importantly the theme that runs throughout is the need for a 'will to survive'. The examples included are not for the squeamish. Indeed one is nearly discouraged from venturing out the front door for fear of ending up with a maggot-infested wound or losing frost-bitten limbs!

Each survivor's tale has the makings of a book in its own right, but contains a wealth of practical advice. It would benefit from diagrams and illustrations, but anyone with some experience of outdoor life will be familiar with most of the terms used.

As this book skips along from snow to tropics and eventually a hostage situation combining technical information with survivors' accounts, the reader is recommended to use it as a textbook, reading it all quickly, then returning to the part which interested him or her at the time. Certainly worth keeping on the shelf and glancing at before deciding to conquer the wilds.

FRESHWATER SAGA

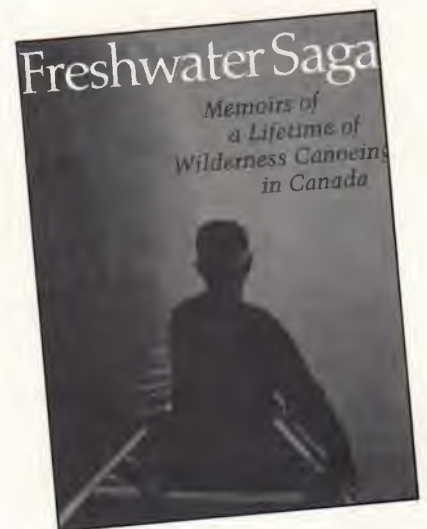
by Eric W Morse

ISBN No 0-8020-6657-7

Published by University of Toronto Press.

Available c/o IBD Ltd, 66 Wood End Lane, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts HP2 4RG.

Reviewed by Geoff Good



Eric Morse was in his fifties when he commenced a thirty-year programme of re-tracing the historic trade routes of the voyagers. His companions were mainly of similar ages and often of exalted rank.

Freshwater Saga is an account including illustrations of these annual pilgrimages including all the hardships and rewards of wilderness travel, and involving journeys in Alaska and the Northern Territories.

Eric Morse regrettably died just before the book was published. He has left an account of considerable interest to all who love to read of the canoe in use in its traditional context.

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Come and meet us at the Canoe Exhibition

by Ron Cameron

When I first saw the Falls of Shin they frightened me. The thing that worried me most was that they were obviously canoeable and that someday soon I would have to go over them. It was the winter of '85. I had just moved to Ross-shire. I stood on the platform which the cafe owner had built for the tourists to view the salmon jumping and felt nervous. My family looked bored. They had seen it all before.

It looks pretty straightforward. The river narrows and swings left. Submerged rocks create irregular waves. On the left hand wall there is a huge pot-hole with a swirling eddy which threatens involuntary breakouts. The river bears right again and rushes down a steep ramp before plunging over a seven foot shelf. A lot of noise and a lot of white water. On the lip of the shelf a nasty rock can be seen through the cascading torrent. Suppose the funny waves at the top get you and you bang your head on that? Stomach churns a bit. Doesn't bear thinking about.

Soon after that I fell into bad company again. Ross-shire Canoe Club. As we assembled for my first outing with them on a rocky river called the Averoan a fishy man arrived. "Sorry lads you can't canoe here. This is a salmon river". "It's Sunday — fishing is illegal today so we can't disturb your sport." "Sorry, the fish are breeding. If you go on the river they won't have any babies." "People have been canoeing this river for years. We believe a right of navigation exists". "That only applies to navigable rivers. This is a waterfall river. If you disobey me you will have to pay the Angling Club £2 million in compensation". "Try us, we're going" "Well you can't because I've turned off the river".

This last remark turned out to be true. The gentleman in question had closed the sluice on the dam controlling the river's exit from a mountain loch. The first ten miles of its 600 foot descent to the sea was impossible. Fortunately the last two and a half miles down to Alness still looked on. My abiding memory of that paddle is of sitting in my boat in a succession of short pools looking at the boulder field at the end and the apparently huge drop beyond and thinking, where now? But the lads went on. In between boulders. Round corners, down shoots, over cills, through stoppers, up trees. Later I discovered that the first ten miles is a bit like this too. One of the most technical little rivers in Scotland.

Afterwards we stood under the new bridge on the A9 Alness by-pass and went through the usual changing contortions. "What other rivers are there about here to paddle?" "Well the Ness isn't very exciting. The Findhorn and the Feshie are good and up in Sutherland there's one called the Shin. We paddled the Falls with some loonies from Newcastle University last year".

And so it came to pass over a year later, that I found myself on the Shin with my heart in my mouth. Andy went straight over the fall. Didn't even inspect or wait for Willie to get his grow-bag out. Willie went next. The tourists cameras clicked. Doug had done it before and had his family to think of. He decided to give it a miss. So then it was me. Back into the boat. Very nervous. Ferryglide above the Falls. Turn, over the top and into action.

THE SHIN AND AVERON



A strange calm descends. Past the funny waves, down the ramp, over the edge. The stopper hits me on the chest with the force of a big wave breaking in surf. Everything turns white. Then it's finished. Elation. We do it again and take photos. Nothing to it really. Not difficult but impossible to grade. The price of failure could be high. I don't know what it did to the fish but by god it frightened me.

As a postscript, the last time I paddled the Averoan the fishy man was waiting for us at the bottom and taking photos of us. "I'm charging you. I've got the evidence I've been taking photos of you all the way down the river". "If the prints are any good I'll buy a set" said Willie. Always a cheeky boy. He then turned on me. "Is this your car?" I looked at the vehicle I was unlocking, a battered X reg. Cavalier which actually has horse hairs on the front seat. I wasn't exactly filled with pride of ownership and so exercised my right to silence. He left in a huff.

A few days later I received a letter from our local Procurator Fiscal inviting me to a meeting. It seems that the gentleman had obtained my name and address from the Police Vehicle Computer (possibly a breach of the Data Protection Act) and attempted to persuade the Police Force to prosecute me for "willfully damaging Salmon Redds (spawning grounds) under the 1868 Act". Fortunately he failed to attempt to persuade that there was enough evidence for a prosecution. Subsequent enquiries by the Fiscal and by myself suggests that canoeing is unlikely to interfere at all with salmon breeding — hence local access agreements

on the Tay and Tweed which allow for unlimited access during the closed season for fishing.

Notes. The *Shin* can be canoed from the Hydro-electric dam at Laing to its confluence with the Oykel at Invershin. Total distance about seven miles. The first half is flat. Then comes the falls and several interesting lesser rapids.

The *Averoan* can be paddled from its source to Cromarty Firth when in spate. The last 2½ miles are Grade IV. Could be Grade V if the flood gauge reads more than about 3'6". For the sake of peace only go on a Sunday when the fish are at the kirk.

Mary Conacher, National Access Officer for Scotland comments:-

This is the very situation we are trying to avoid — confrontation between fishermen and canoeists. However it is bound to happen from time to time. There are one or two facts which stand out in this particular incident.

- 1) Since when do we not paddle salmon rivers? Most rivers of any size have salmon in them in Scotland.
- 2) So far it has not been proved whether we disturb the fish or not. For the few seconds we take to pass a fish I very much doubt it.
- 3) The right of navigation on a river has to be proved or disproved. Unless you have plenty of money to go to court — leave it to someone else to prove.
- 4) We are trying to contact the landowners concerned to come to some agreement on these rivers — perhaps to paddle only on a Sunday.



Photographs by Rod Cameron

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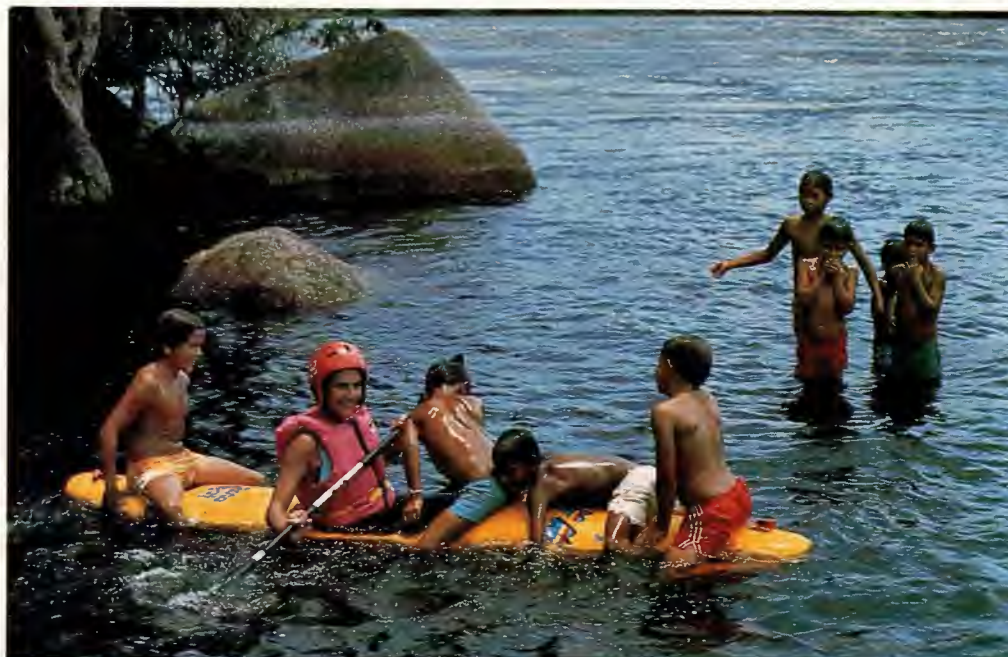
pyranha



MASTER

THE AMAZON ADVENTURE

The BCU Expedition that had been advertised in CANOE FOCUS No 50 took place over the period of 7/30 October last year. The Expedition party was made up of four ladies and six men, all members of the BCU. They were aiming to travel deep into the Amazon region, in order to paddle white water on a section of the River Negro, using Rota Bats and native craft. Leaving London, the party flew to Rio, on to Manars, and after an overnight stop to St. Gabriel de Cachoeira. Guy Baker takes up the story:—



Our first achievement was getting the four Roto Bats as far as St. Gabriel de Cachoeira. The final flight in a small light aircraft meant that Bats took up eight of the passenger seats while we occupied the others. The pilot flew low over the River Negro so we could inspect the rapids after which the town is named. They looked as if they would provide some good play waves. However from ground level these waves were somewhat bigger than had been anticipated. The river, which was about 1 km wide at this point, was divided into two by an island. A 200m long by 3m deep stopper blocked much of the right hand passage.

The locals were quick to advise us to go nowhere near the rapids. The local Doctor didn't do much to restore our confidence when we were told that if a motorboat broke down, then the passage to the left or right of the island was dictated by how good or evil the occupants were. The passage to the left was for good people, the passage to the

right was for evil people. No-one had survived the right, and a month earlier, six men had died on the left!

Our group was of mixed canoeing ability, but this expedition was to try to cater for everyone. As it was, the heat was a constraining factor to the amount of paddling that could be attempted in any one day (it was 80°+ at 8 o'clock in the morning with temperatures soon reaching the high 90°s). Two kilometres upstream, leaving us just enough room for error, there was an excellent rapid which enabled us to warm up for the next few days. The locals even provided us with a motorised rescue boat which proved to be very useful as the Bats didn't move very well across massive boils and swimmers were often soon several hundred metres away from other paddlers.

We travelled upstream for two days to paddle a rapid on the equator and to dance the night away to the "Sounds of the Amazon" on a portable record player while drinking fresh coconut milk and

tequila. Returning to St. Gabriel we were met by a French film crew waiting to make a film about us. More playing on the top rapid and as navigation of the left passage was out, we were left with only one other option — the right hand channel. An afternoon's scouting gave us a confused perspective and an idea for a route. Next morning, cameras in position, four paddlers managed the first descent without incident.

The following week we travelled 1100 km downstream on a small boat with our kayaks on top and our dugouts strapped to the side. Excursions were made into the jungle by canoe and on foot. Dolphins were admired and pyranha caught and eaten. Three members of the party were lost on the wrong side of an island one evening. We had arranged to rendezvous with them at the bottom of the island, but later discovered it to be 70 km long. We had the wrong island! Alligators sprang into the water as torches picked out their red eyes in the dark. The others were found by the "mother ship" when we travelled to the end of the island and up the other side, locating them by the flash from their cameras.

The final week was spent canoeing in the surf on the North Coast of Brazil in a remote fishing village at Cumbuco. A beach buggy added a luxurious touch for some, and gave access to magnificent sand dunes which offered a very different canoeing venue. Other members learnt to roll in our villa's swimming pool! Lobsters and prawns made a welcome change of diet, with every evening offering a different bar in which to eat and drink.

All the travel arrangements were tailored especially for the Expedition by Lamington Travel, 54 Shepherd Market, London. They were of the highest order. Canoeing equipment was provided by Wave Sports, and again proved to be of the highest quality. If there is sufficient demand, a similar expedition could be arranged this year.

If you are interested please contact Headquarters. Likewise any Club interested in an audio-visual presentation should contact Guy Baker also c/o Headquarters.

Classified

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STOLEN

RED PERCEPTION SABRE lost on the River Severn in the region below the bridge taking the Welsh Water to the Midlands on Saturday 12th December. The name LANCER KINDER appears with the number 00 0033. A reward of £50 will be given for information leading to the boat's recovery. Please contact Lancer Kinder on 021 429 2273 (Eves & W/E) or 0384 54499 (Office).

STOLEN from a car roof in Darlington, Co. Durham, a Nomad Extra slalom canoe, black hull, bright red top with transfers on front, back and sides (Old Spice, Guide Dogs for the Blind and BCU sticker 03347-1). If spotted please contact Darlington Police and then Stuart Campbell on (0423) 530063. A £25 reward has been offered for information leading to the return of this canoe.

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INSTRUCTORS — OUTDOOR PURSUITS. We are looking for qualified staff for 1988, starting from Mar/April to Aug/Sept. Application forms from: Nessi, Sealyham Activity Centre, Wolfscastle, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA62 5NF. Tele (0348) 840763.

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