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CANOE FOCUS

Canoe Focus, Dudderidge House, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Notts NG2 5AS
Tel: (0602) 821100

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

ISBN 0953-010X

Trevor Bailey Director
Caroline Tombs Editor and Advertising Manager
Carel Quaife Regional Roundup Editor

Next Issue August 1990
Latest Copy Date 25 June 1990

Printed by Leicester Printers,
164, Barkby Rd, Leicester LE4 7LF

BCU Headquarters

as above for all enquiries except:
Supplies at BCU, The Elms,
National Watersports Centre, Adbolton Lane,
Nottingham NG12 2LU. Tel (0602) 817412.
Assistant Directors of Coaching,
The Elms, address as above, tel (0602) 455423
Slalom
1, Barnacre View, High St, Garstang, Preston,
PR3 1EB, tel/fax (099 52)4579

Front Cover

By Dave Walker. Tamsin Phipps and Karin Wilkinson, Ladies' Winners, Devizes-Westminster Canoe Race. Story on P.13

Subscription Rates

UK inland £12.50, overseas £14.50 for ten issues.
Supplied free to BCU members.

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 otherwise stated the Publishers assume no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or photographs. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Canoe Union, its committees or members. The printing of an advertisement in Canoe Focus does not necessarily mean that the British Canoe Union endorse the company, item or service advertised. All material in Canoe Focus is strictly copyright and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without prior permission from the Editor is forbidden.

'Canoeist' is an independent monthly magazine available on subscription from:
4, Sinodun Row, Appleford,
Oxon OX14 4PE

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What was Russ Smith eating at Grandtully? Photograph by Pete Astles.

Membership Survey

If you want to make your opinions known on issues raised but not actually resolved at the AGM, fill in this survey. I will publish the results and bring them to the attention of Council members.

1. People who have commercial interests in canoeing should be allowed to hold influential positions on BCU committees.

Yes No

2. If the BCU AGM was held on the same weekend as the canoe exhibition, would you go to (and stay throughout) a 4-5 hour meeting after the stands closed at 6pm on the Saturday evening?

Yes No

3. Should election results and votes on motions at AGMs be published?

Yes No

If yes: in Canoe Focus
or the Yearbook

4. Do you accept that your membership fee covers parts of the sport that you don't participate in and that this is fair?

Yes No

5. Should there be a full survey of members on access policy?

Yes No

Do you have any further comments?

continue on a sheet of paper if you need more space.

Return to: Helen Mullineux, c/o BCU
John Dudderidge House, Adbolton Lane,
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS.

So What Did Happen at our AGM?

- one canoeist's eye
view.

by Helen Mullineux

The good news is that the new BCU headquarters is to be called **John Dudderidge House** in recognition of his lifetime's service to canoeing. The other good news of the meeting was that the president (Ron Emes - Ray Rowe withdrew from the contest) waived his right to make a presidential address. This was perhaps fortunate since the rest of the discussion more than filled the time available.

Important Rule Changes

The first few motions were rule changes - but ones that affect members directly.

● All people participating in BCU events: competitions and tours must now be individual members of the BCU to pay the lower members' rate for the event. Being a member of an affiliated club is not enough.

Whitewater Rafting

It was agreed that the BCU could widen its scope to cover rafting activities as recommended by the Department of Education and Science (its guidelines state that rafting skills are more closely related to whitewater canoeing than to other water sports). The Council will discuss the exact definition of what we mean by 'rafting' at a later date.

nb: the BCU is not yet the governing body for whitewater rafting: the March Council meeting simply altered the constitution so that it is now possible for the BCU to become the whitewater rafting body if Council so desire.

Commercial Interests

The AGM discussed at length proposal to change current ruling which bans people with a commercial interest in canoeing from holding officers' positions. As no clear decision was reached it was decided to defer the matter to next year's AGM, giving time for members' views to be sought. The survey form at the end asks for your opinions on this and other aspects of the sport. The main argument in favour of letting those with a commercial interest in canoeing become secretaries, chairpersons, treasurers etc of BCU committees was that they may have been canoeing long before taking up their business interests.

The counter argument was that those with business interests in canoeing would have an unfair opportunity to promote themselves by getting the ear of the large number of canoeists they meet in the course of their work. Also they could abuse a position held in the BCU to tout for trade.

Election of BCU Chairperson

There was a great song and dance about whether or not the chair of the BCU should be elected by the whole of the membership or by the Council of Management alone. The idea that the chairperson should be elected by the membership was defeated for a number of reasons, but mainly because the President, (Ron Emes at present) is the figure head of the BCU whereas the job of the chair is simply to run the Council of Management meetings.

Anyone who could seek the position of chairperson has already been elected in the sense that she or he is a full Council member. It was felt that, the Council members were best placed to select the person who was the most able to run their meetings and who has the respect of all the people on Council whose diverse interests need to be tactfully reconciled.

BCU AGM

Should there be more 'ordinary' members than Council members at a BCU AGM for that meeting to go ahead? The Council members present felt very strongly that they are 'ordinary' members of the BCU - but are also prepared to attend meetings - not something everyone seems to enjoy! What would happen if too few non-council members turned up? Either the meeting would be cancelled, wasting the time and money of those who had bothered to go, or Council members would be banned from voting in the meeting. It is obviously unacceptable to prevent a full member from voting at the AGM of her or his own organisation so the motion was defeated.

BCU Council Meetings

A motion to admit members and the general public to council meetings was defeated by a few votes, mainly to prevent 'friends' such as anglers turning up to spy on our strategies. A motion restricting entry to BCU members would probably have been passed.

The rest of the meeting was a discussion of matters raised by Stuart Fisher, Editor of Canoeist magazine, which were not (legally) allowable as full motions at a company AGM (the BCU is actually a Limited Company, I found out - you learn something new every day!) I won't go through all the discussions here because I want YOUR opinions on these subjects

Complete Shock.

At the end of the meeting it came as a complete shock to me to be asked if I would join the Council of Management as a co-opted (non-voting) member.

I think I am an 'ordinary' canoeist (if there is such a thing) so what I want to do is be YOUR eyes, ears (and mouth) at the Council meetings. I will:

● Keep you in touch with what happens in meetings by writing reports for 'Focus'.

● Get your opinions either through surveys or trying to stimulate debate in the pages of 'Focus'

● Find out and publicise how BCU members can get their ideas discussed by the people who take decisions.

by
**BCU Director
Trevor Bailey**



INSURANCE.

Members will be aware that Boat Insurance is now an optional part of BCU membership. Instead of all members being automatically covered for up to £250 the optional scheme, at a cost of £7.50, gives cover up to £500. Unfortunately, the change meant a change in the broker that the Union uses, and led to some confusion regarding the transitional arrangements. The position has now been clarified, and means that members who do not choose to take out the optional boat insurance are no longer covered. In this edition of Focus is an advert detailing the new scheme, which is very cost effective compared with individuals taking out their own insurance, and I would urge you all to consider carefully your own insurance needs.

TOURING.

When I travel the country and speak to canoeists, two topics are frequently mentioned. One is the need for more tours like the highly successful Mike Jones weekend on the Dee, and the second is the need for easily available information on access. Both of these problems are being addressed by the Touring and Recreation Committee but they have come up against a major problem - lack of people to help.

It should be possible to run three separate Dee tours this winter, as well as Touring weekends on the Washburn and possibly even the Usk. This is addition to the popular Tryweryn touring events. But despite repeated requests for help from both the Touring Committee and the Mike Jones Committee, these projects are in danger of cancellation because individuals and clubs will not come forward to help with the work of running such tours.

The Touring Committee aim to work on the access information problem by establishing a computer run river database. This would probably start working on access information on UK rivers, but have the facility to be expanded to cover touring information, and rivers on the continent.

For years the BCU members have been asking for a stronger touring commitment from the BCU. I think the Touring Commit-

tee has done its bit in these projects, and I have mentioned in previous articles the far reaching plans contained in their Development Plan. Access has been arranged for more tours, money has been made available to establish the database. Advice is readily available for those who volunteer to help. It is now time for the touring members to support their committee. If you can help in any way contact the touring committee chairman (John Gregson, address in the yearbook), or BCU HQ.

THE ROLE OF REGIONS.

I have been asked about the role of the English Regions Management Committee. It has been given the task by Council to represent canoeists and to develop all aspects of the sport in England (Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have their own National Associations). It is the route by which the grass roots opinion in the regions gets to council. It supports the regions in their work to create more and better canoeing opportunities. The strength of the BCU is in its members, but for this strength to be significant we must all work together. That takes me full circle to say why we have Regional Committees and the English Regions Management Committee made up of regional Chairmen.

Ron Hodgson, the chairman of ERM, is an active canoeist in both competition and recreation and he is giving the lead to regions to consult their members. I urge you to take the opportunity to make your views known in this way. I cannot say much in a few lines, but we do plan to include feature articles about specific regions in future issues of Canoe Focus.

KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED.

With such a large membership with many varied interests, it is a problem to keep you all fully informed about what is going on in the BCU. Helen Mullineux was co-opted onto Council, and has contributed an article about the AGM. Helen has also indicated that she is prepared to write an article following each meeting of Council.

JUBILEE CANOEING FOUNDATION.

The accounts for the JCF shows that income in the last year amounted to £7772. This was largely as a result of the donation from the TSB of £5000. The interest from this was used to give the East Midlands group a donation to assist them in purchasing Open Canoes, as reported in last Focus. A more detailed report on the year will appear in a later edition of Focus. The funds have been boosted in the current year by Donald Bean's sponsored run in the London Marathon.

SPONSORED PADDLE.

I have again been offered £1000 to undertake a Directors Challenge in 1990. At the time of writing initial plans have been made for a paddle in August around the Isle of Wight. The money will be split between the JCF and the Coaching Project Fund. This latter amount will be used to help finance the attendance of three members to the International Safety Symposium later this year. If you would like to sponsor me please write to me at HQ. Any money raised will be split between the two areas mentioned above, but feel free to nominate one or the other if you prefer.

BCU CANOEING COURSES

The BCU is now running its own canoeing courses at Holme-Pierrepont, in conjunction with Current Trends - send an SAE to the office for full details - or watch this space - BCU Director Trevor Bailey will be personally sampling the courses in September, with a weeks' canoeing in Scotland.

**1990 TOURING
AND COACHING
CONFERENCE
Holme Pierrepont
13-14 October 1990**

A conference open to all who are interested in the kayak or canoe as a vessel for self-contained journeying.

A full programme of practical sessions, and opportunities to debate 'matters of the moment' is planned.

Send sae to BCU office for full details.

Noticeboard

OBITUARY

Norman James Lilley aged 45, was tragically killed in a flying accident over Northern France on Good Friday. His wife, Sue, son Mark and Mark's fiancée also died in the crash.

As a boy Norman sang in Lincoln Cathedral Choir. As a teenager and young man Norman was part of the highly successful Lincoln Canoe Club marathon racing team of the mid 60's. He helped the club win the Hasler Trophy during 4 consecutive years. He competed in the Devizes to Westminster race and represented Great Britain at the Sella River Race in Spain in 1966 and 1967.

At the end of the 70's Norman moved his family to Yorkshire to further his career as a quantity surveyor. During this time he also became involved with the local club in slalom. Despite his increasing success he did not lose touch with his roots. Eventually he became Managing Director of Persimmon Homes, a very successful company which he had created.

Norman still retained an interest in canoeing and in the early days of the Holme Pierrepont International Regatta he could always be relied upon to see his organisational and fund raising talents for the good of the sport. Norman retained his membership of Lincoln Canoe Club and returned to racing as a veteran in 1986.

This terrible accident occurred on Friday, 13 April 1990, when Norman was piloting his own aircraft on the way to his holiday home in Southern Spain.

Norman was always fun to be with, he lived life to the full and was caring and keen to share his good fortune with his friends. He was extremely generous especially to the Lincoln Canoe Club and its members. He will be greatly missed especially as he had so much to live for. Our deepest sympathy goes to his daughter Sarah the sole surviving member of Norman's immediate family.

*Laurence Oliver,
Chairman, Lincoln Canoe Club.*

CANOEING IN THE DOCKS

A new watersports centre recently opened in London's Docklands. The Surrey Docks Watersports Centre is situated on Greenland Dock and will offer sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and sub-aqua. The Centre is financed by the LDDC, ILEA and the Sports Council.

CANOEING AT RAVENS AIT

A bit upstream, the Royal Borough of Kingston on Thames have acquired Ravens Ait, an island on the Thames and are now running watersports course from a purpose built centre on the island. Sailing, wind surfing, canoeing and kayaking are all offered on a residential or non-residential basis.

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GEAR!

Alpine Canoe Holidays is about to start a consumer survey on various items of kit and need your help. They want to know how you find the performance of your own kit and whether it stands up to usage in reality. A questionnaire has been compiled and will be in its final form by May.

The survey has the support of the BCU but will remain wholly independent of any influence from present thoughts on gear. Having no vested interests other than that of consumer, ACH feels that it will be able to compile an unbiased report.

The results will be published in the Autumn and should give you a good guide on your next equipment purchases. Your participation will be most welcomed.

If you would like to participate in this survey, please send a sae to Steve Wales at Alpine Canoe Holidays, P O Box 86, Lincoln LN5 8TP.

SAFETY ON WHITE WATER

In spite of claims to the contrary, currently there is no BCU Whitewater Specification for kayaks or canoes.

A draft is in existence, which draws attention to desirable features of design and for fixtures and fittings.

At the time of going to press a joint panel of paddlers and traders is endeavouring to agree the final version of this document, which will then be circulated to the trade, and within the Union.

When finally agreed the recommendations will be put forward to become part of the BSI specifications.

Please send an SAE to the BCU office for a copy of the final version of the document.

CANADIANS NO MORE

The Canadian Canoe Association of Great Britain has changed its name to the Open Canoe Association of Great Britain. The new membership secretary is: Mrs Carol Gaca, 36 Headley Chase, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5BN.

JUBILEE TRAILER

One of the recent beneficiaries of the Jubilee Canoeing Foundation was the Wey Valley School, who received £100 towards their School canoeing trailer. Canoeing is a popular subject at Wey Valley and the school is this summer embarking on an expedition to Alaska with 19 youngsters, the objective being to canoe the 130km Swanson River System. For further details of the Jubilee Funds, both donors and recipients, please contact Donald Bean, Hon Sec, 44 Corporation St, Stafford ST6 3LX.



This Rob Roy was donated to the charity, HOPE by the staff of Marks & Spencers in Northampton. HOPE aims to give people with disabilities an opportunity to enjoy sporting activities, specialising in canoeing. Call (0604) 233642 for details.

WARNING - MIND THOSE BRACKETS

A serious cut on the foot, requiring 15 stitches, was suffered by a young paddler using an Aquabat, during a swimming pool session.

The cause of the injury was the metal bracket which retains the fixed buoyancy.

It has been recommended by the investigating officer that such brackets are removed and, if necessary, the fixed buoyancy replaced by air-bags.

WOT NO CODE??

Coaching scheme members will not have received a copy of CoDe on this occasion - instead you should have received a copy of the brand-new Coaching Scheme Directory. This 96 page document contains syllabuses for all the BCU Tests and Awards, with other relevant information. Further copies are available, to coaching scheme members and others, from BCU Supplies - £2.50 each.

CoDe 34 is to be published with August's Canoe Focus.

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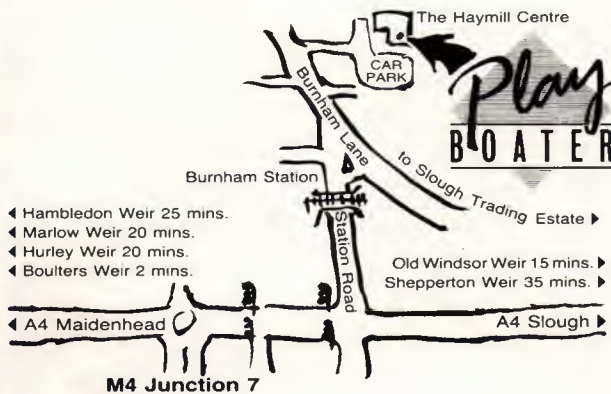
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- ◆ Free use of the River Advisory Service
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Please note: £10 is the price of adult basic membership. you should join as a comprehensive member if you wish to take coaching qualifications or participate in national ranking competitions

CANOE FOCUS BCU MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(for use until 31 October 1990 by those living in England)

I/We wish to apply for BCU membership as indicated below. I/We agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the Union. I/We accept liability for my/our £1 in the unlikely event of the Union's liquidation.

Date..... Signed.....

Surname..... Title..... Other Names.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

All subscriptions run until 12 months from the end of the month of joining Residents of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales should apply to CANI/SCA/WCA)

Have you been a BCU member previously? Yes No

Please tick the membership required:

- Adult Basic £10 Adult Comprehensive £18
- Under 18 Basic £6 Under 18 Comprehensive £9
- Life Comprehensive £280

If you are an adult member your spouse and children under 18 can each be family members in your category. Please indicate your requirements in the boxes below.

Family Basic @ £5 = £

Family Comprehensive @ £8 = £

Names of Family members

- 1..... 2.....
- 3.....

Please tick optional extras required:

- £500 Canoe Insurance @ £7.50
- £500 Canoe insurance plus £250
- Equipment insurance @ £12.50
- Canoeing Handbook @ £12.95

Total Payable £

Please return form and remittance to British Canoe Union, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS

- I enclose my cheque/money order
- I would like to pay by Access/Visa and I have given details below

Expiry date.....

Cardholder name and address (if different from above).....

..... Postcode.....

Data Protection. The information on this form will be kept on computer for the purposes as registered under the data protection act 1984

SPORT IS A VERY RISKY BUSINESS!



At whatever level you participate accidents happen!

THE BRITISH CANOE UNION through the Central Council of Physical Recreation have arranged special insurance for boats, equipment and public liability for BCU members at exceptionally economical cost!

Similar schemes are available for those who participate in Sport, including Professional Indemnity for Instructors.

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Ancillary Equipment Insurance also available to policy holders - only £5 for £250 cover, all risks.

Available when you join the BCU or WCA, or renew your membership (see form overleaf) A separate scheme has been negotiated for SCA members - contact the SCA office for details.



*Full details of the BCU Insurance Policy are published in the
Members' Yearbook, p.16 - 19*



COMPETITION FOCUS

Slalom

SELECTION TIME AGAIN!!

No Slip-up for Raspin

Following the months of intense winter training, and sharpening up on the early season competitions, selection races suddenly arrived with their own, weird brand of nerve tingling moments. Dreams and aspirations of summer events in far-off places ebbed and flowed again, as the two races climaxed at the Tryweryn. This year's results proved just as unpredictable as any other year, especially among the junior paddlers.

Grandtully

For most people, the highlight of the Grandtully event was the return to action of World Champion Richard Fox. Leading by three seconds after first runs, he amazed everyone by pulling out another 5 seconds on his second run, and, despite a penalty, won easily from Jones, Raspin and Crosbee.

The ladies' competition this season has seen Lynn Simpson take pole position, beating Karen Davies and Maria Francis to the top spot - this race was to confirm her current good form.

The battle for places among the junior paddlers was always going to be very tight, Paul Ratcliffe, the outstanding junior so far this season finished outside the top 3 juniors and a possible trip to the Junior World Championships seemed to be slipping away, Peter Francis was taking no chances, claiming the top Junior Spot.

Not the case with the Canadian classes, however, which were going to form. With the top paddlers holding their places.

But would it stay this way....

Tryweryn

The Tryweryn race was as nervy and tense as any Wembley Cup Final, so much to gain...so much to lose. Richard Fox was not paddling, so the race was on for top 3 places.



Lynn Simpson on good form again



Brilliant Clear run for Raspin

Ian Raspin, who narrowly missed out on a Senior team place last year stormed home to win with a brilliant clear run, closely followed by Russ Smith and David Crosbee. Melvyn Jones could only manage 5th place - was this David's big chance!

Lynn Simpson maintained her winning form to guarantee her place, Maria Francis taking 2nd place with Karen Davies 3rd. Maria's result was all the more creditable as she had to use her spare boat - her race boat having been damaged on her practice run. The graveyard was living up to its name.

The Canadian teams more or less followed form and the top three C1 and C2 placings went as expected (I think they take it

in turns to win!) Gareth Marriott just ahead of Mark Delaney and Martin Hedges in C1 with Richardson and Thompson just pipping Meikle and Brown in C2.

The junior team competition proved to be the making of Paul Ratcliffe. He flew down the course with a stunning clear run to claim his Junior Worlds Place. A big surprise in the Under 17 selection was the form of Chris Wetzig (under 16 and a Division 1 paddler) who had put together a steady series of clear runs over the two races, and had paddled himself into a team place

for Spittal. Nice one Chris!

The selection committee certainly had plenty to think about, and no doubt with so much at stake, there would be some disappointments. After many hours of deliberation, the decision was made - see overpage for the full list of selected paddlers.

BRITISH SLALOM TEAM SELECTIONS 1990

Europa Cup and World Cup Slalom Teams

K1 MEN

I Raspin
M Jones
D Crosbee
reserves
R Smith
S Pearce

K1 LADIES

L Simpson
K Davies
M Francis

C1

G Marriott
M Hedges
M Delaney
reserves
B Horsmen

Intermediate Team (Mezzana) Italy

K1 MEN

K Campbell
A Raspin
R Wright
A Fuller
M Stephens

K1 LADIES

Joan Jayes
Rachel Fox

C1

T Morgan
R Comer
R Moss
R Domoney

C2

Rouch/Ambridge
Osborne/Shreeve



Gareth Marriott C1 Senior

European Junior C (under 17) - Spittal, Austria

K1 MEN

J Croft, L Hoare, S Moffitt, C Wetzig, P Ebrey, G Mulholland

K1 LADIES

S Masters, T Warman

C2

Burt/Elsworth



Arrowsmith/Brain Senior Team C2



Burt/Elsworth Junior C2 (Spittal)

C2

Meikle/Brown
Richardson/Thompson
Arrowsmith/Brown
reserves
Clough/Clough

World Cup team as above including Richard Fox in Mens K1 Team

Pre-world Championships - all above paddlers are eligible except Richard Fox

Green/Green Junior World Championships (Grison, Switzerland)

K1 MEN

P Francis, P Buckley, P Ratcliffe
reserve P McDermid

K1 LADIES

C Daniels, R Doherty, E Player
reserve. S Masters

C1

J Scott, N Gray, H Lloyd

Under 16 Training Camp

All registered paddlers not selected for any other team who are eligible and who took part in the nominated Division 1 events will be invited to a training day to be held at Llangollen on 13 May 1990.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RICHARD!



Photograph by Tony Tickle

Richard Fox is thirty this week and has now been bringing home the medals for an incredible ten years.

Richard won his first International medal in 1979 when he was the third man in the British team which won the World team Gold in Canada (the team also included Alan Edge, now Britain's Olympic Slalom coach!) and he also won the individual bronze. He has now been World Champion, World Team Champion and European Champion four times, won both of the new World Cup series and has brought much-needed publicity and stimulation to the sport. Through his many contacts and his day to day work, he ensures that British canoeing is kept in the forefront of both the national and international scene.

Richard is now a very busy man indeed. He is here, there and everywhere around the world, training competing and honouring the numerous invitations which he receives. The Minister of Sport, Colin Moynihan personally invited him to join the Sports Council, a voluntary job which takes up a great deal of his time. He has been a delegate at the International Drugs Conference in Moscow, a guest speaker at the National Conference on Sports injuries; a well known publishing firm has asked him to write a book..... and these are just a few of the things he does. It is a varied, interesting and to some, enviable life, but it allows for few, if any days off; in his spare time he has to earn his living and pay for his mortgage!

Richard is sadly unable to take part in the Europa Cup this year, to defend his title, but hopes to win the third World Cup series. From everyone in Slalom, the best of luck to him.

ON THE MOVE?

New Job, New House, New Town even..

Having sorted out the Milkman, papers, told the bank etc please, please don't forget to tell your Divisional Ranking Officer, keep us informed too!!

ITS OFFICIAL!

Good news travels fast, sometimes too fast, but its congratulations time for Richard Fox and Myriam Jerusalem, who have recently announced their engagement.

We understand that The Wedding is planned for later this year in Marseilles.

From everyone in Slalom, we sincerely wish Richard and Myriam a long and happy future together.

The Slalom Section was compiled by Joe Mulholland, who also took the photographs

Wild Water Racing

See Page 29 for Wild Water Racing Selection Races Report

MONSCHAU WILD WATER RACE

1ST PLACE JUNIOR
K1
TIM SUGGETT
GREAT BRITAIN/
LEEDS

An excellent win despite losing his footrest half way down the course, puts Tim well on the way to gaining honours at the Junior worlds in Switzerland later this year.

BRITISH TEAM ITINERARIES

Seniors

June 2 Spindleruv Mlyn, Czechoslovakia
June 6 Spittal, Austria
June 10 Merano, Austria
June 16/17 Bovec, Yugoslavia
July 18 Albula, Switzerland
July 22 Mezzanna, Italy
July 26 Isere, France

Junior

July 13-15
Junior World Championships, Albula, Switzerland
July 22 Mezzanna, Italy

BRITISH WILD WATER RACING TEAMS 1990

Senior Team

<i>Mens K1</i>	<i>Ladies K1</i>	<i>Mens C1</i>	<i>C2</i>
Neil Stamps	Julie Ashtons	Steve Wells	Clough/Clough
Alan Tordoff	Gill Berrow	Mackon Singh	Simpson/Twigger
Wayne Boss	Tina Parsons	James Wingfield	
Robin Murray	Karen Porter		
Ian Tordoff			
Neil Blackman			
<i>Manager</i> John Handyside <i>Coaches</i> Nigel Morley, Dave Kay, Steve Raven			

B. Team

Paul Mercer	Andrea Clayton	Tony Jones
Guy Sellwood	Nicola Weaver	Colin Smith
Andrew Tomlinson	Katie Watt	
<i>Res.</i>	<i>Res.</i>	
Mark Williams	Helen Marriott	

Juniors

Tim Suggett	Claire Daniels	Andy Tracey
Gareth Jones	Gemma Hargreaves	
Dean Thompson	Naomi Bailey	
<i>Res.</i>		
Stuart Brass		
<i>Managers</i> John Anderson/Don Player		

WILD WATER RACING BACK ON THE TRYWERYN

At last we could race the Tryweryn again. With all the problems resolved and with the agreement of the relevant interested parties, the Welsh Open Wild Water Race was held over an excellent dry and sunny weekend. (April 20 - 21)

Combined with a Team Training Weekend, the event attracted nearly all the top Wild Water Racers and some fine exciting racing was seen. It was evident that the paddlers were really enjoying their visit to the river from their comments afterwards. For some it was the first visit, practice now is important as next year will more than likely see at least one of the Teams selected on the Tryweryn.

Welsh Open Champions:

K1	Alan Tordoff
Ladies K1	Julie Ashton
C1	Steve Wells
C2	Clough/Clough

Juniors

Tim Suggett	Claire Daniels
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REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RIVER WASHBURN MARCH 8TH 1990

After a very close fought race the regional shield was wrested away from North West Region and returned to its rightful place in the East Midlands. The event was only finally decided by the

fact that East Midlands had considerable depth across all the classes and the 3 mixed teams finally pushed the North West Mixed Team so far down the list that the final positioning went in favour of the East Midlands Team.

CALENDAR PROPOSALS

There is currently discussion regarding the structuring of the domestic Calendar in Wild Water Racing. By the time of this publication it is possible that the WWR year will be focused around the calendar year (Jan to Nov).

All the Div A Races will take place between March and May and will be on rivers where a release can be almost guaranteed. The British Open will be the final Div A

All other Championship Events will be in the Autumn, i.e. English, Welsh, Universities, Regional and Club etc.

All the Autumn Races will be Ranking B

The National Team Championships will be decided in the Autumn

Gaps will be left in the Calendar to accommodate those who wish to compete in the popular races of other disciplines, Exe Descent, Ardeche marathon, Monschau WWR etc

For further details ensure you receive a Year Book early and familiarise yourself with any changes there may be.

NORTHERN SERIES WINTER 1990

The revival of this series after a 10 year break saw unprecedented high water - the Tyne system was in spate continually from mid-January to mid-March - but sadly a dearth of competitors.

The series kicked off with the popular New Year's day Division 'B' race on the North Tyne. The weather was mild and sunny with medium water. By the Clyde Race at the end of January, water was very high, and in the afternoon several team competitors were sitting on the tree together in the middle of Hazelbank Rapid. The English contingent nearly missed the start due to the amount of snow on Pennine roads, although Southern Scotland was clear and sunny.

The North Tyne Division 'B' and Regional Championships on 4 February produced horrendous conditions. The wind, gusting to hurricane force on high ground the previous night, produced waves 2-3 feet high coming back up the river! Many competitors scratched, and times were slow. (The water incidentally was very good).

Two weekends later, the organisers tried an Open Race - on the same weekend as Crystal Palace - fools, no one turned up! - but had the satisfaction of trying out a timed run over a new course on the North Tyne - the Barrasford rapids, grade III-

IV on the day, in the very high water, with Alpine-type conditions further down in Warden Gorge. The landowner pronounced himself satisfied, and so, barring accidents, we have a new Division 'B' course - special access and egress - for a race next winter.

The weekend on 10-11 March produced perfect Division 'C' race conditions on the Wear and South Tyne - flat, fast water, no rocks, and mild, sunny conditions, and the small band of competitors, one group travelling from Lincolnshire, had a good time.

The seventh race, the Division 'B' on the Tees on 18 March, brought the competitors beautiful spring weather, but very little water.

The organisers have decided that, due to the lack of hard competition (it looks as if the trio will win three of the classes!), prizes will not be awarded this year; the series will be repeated in early 1991, however, with more publicity, so we look forward to seeing you all.

Results after 6 races (- 1 race inoperative)

MENS K1
1. J Tracey 2.S Dolbus 3.F Gormel
4.R Hudspith 5=A. Armstrong. K Hardmna. R Smith.A Tordoff.
LADIES K1
1.L Rae 2.G Berrow 3=J Howe. H McClure
UNDER 18s
1. M Mason 2.N Pybus 3.A Roddan
C1
1.A Tracy 2=S Wame.S Wells
C2
1=Clough/Clough.Martin/Brunton. Henderson & Partner
VETERANS
1.E Palmer 2.J Roelich 3.R Mitchell



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
international
CANOE • WEEK**

7-15 July 1990

**BCU Summer Regatta - 7-8 July
International Slalom - 14-15 July**

with

Special Fun Events all Week

Raft Race

Clifton Bridge Handicap Challenge

Open Canoe Rally

Womens' Day - with Liz Sharman MBE

Canoe and Kayak Courses

and much more!

Come to Holme Pierrepont, the National Watersports Centre and see some of the Worlds' top paddlers in action, including: Britain's Richard Fox MBE - World Slalom Champion, Gareth Marriott - Junior Slalom Champion, Maria Francis - British Ladies' Slalom Champion, Ivan Lawler and Grayson Bourne - World Championships 10,000m silver medallists. Britain's Junior Teams are off to the World Championships this summer - so come and give them your support and a good send-off.

The object of the week is to promote a wide range of canoeing activity in and around Nottingham, and to generate interest in the sport at all levels. As well as top level competitions in slalom and sprint canoeing, there will be special events all week, with opportunities for everyone, young or old, expert or novice to have a go. We're not here for a long timewe're here for a good time!

Supported by - Nottinghamshire County Council, National Water Sports Centre, Sports Council (East Midlands), British Canoe Union (East Midlands), Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottingham City Council.

BBC Midlands Today, Central TV, Nottingham Evening Post, Radio Trent Roadshow (Sunday 15 July).

Alternative Promotion, Sealink British Ferries, Perception Kayaks, Mobile Adventure, Nottingham Kayak Club, Current Trends, Wild Water, Chrisfilm and Video, Mont Bell, Feelfree Rafting, P & H Company, No Limits.

Photographs by Tony Tickle (top) and Chris Worrall



CANOE 90 Programme

Sat/Sun July 7/8

British Canoe Union Summer Regatta

Sprint Canoeing 500 - 10,000 metres
Contact: Di Lawler 081 979 4933/081 783 0926

Monday 9 July Canoeing for 50+

2 - 8pm National Watersports Centre - Winfield pool

Contact: Geoff Good (BCU) 0602 821100

Tuesday 10 July Women on Water

11am National Watersports Centre

Contact: David O'Neil 0602 821887

Clifton Bridge Race

6pm Nottingham Kayak Club

Contact: George Oliver (0602) 819758

Wednesday 11 July } Canoeability -

Thursday 12 July } with sessions for disabled

National Watersports Centre 10am

Contacts: Colin Raines 0602 823823

or Keith Hampton 0533 674428

Champions of the Trent Raft Race

6pm Current Trends Canoe School 0602 818844

Friday 13 July Women on Water

2 - 4 pm National Watersports Centre

Contact David O'Neil 0602 821887

Sat/Sun 14/15 July

International Slalom

Holme Pierrepont National Watersports Centre

Saturday 14 July Kids in Kayaks

2pm Trent Bridge

Contact John Handyside 0602 823823/ 892313 or George Oliver 0602 819758



Canoeing, Kayaking and Rafting Available all Week. Contact National Watersports Centre (0602)821212 or Current Trends (0602) 818844.

Polo



EUROPE'S CANOE POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS MAY BE HELD IN BRITAIN

The Polo Committee are putting in a bid to hold the first European Canoe Polo Championships in Great Britain in 1992. This would replace the successful British International Open which is now established as an annual event in Luton.

Now that the International rules have been ratified by the ICF, a Canoe Polo World Championship is a possibility for 1996.

BRITAIN'S CANOE POLO SQUADS 1990

The 1990 International Squads have been selected, they are:

Mens' Squad

Gary Linton	Bere Forest
Dave Fancourt	Bere Forest
Dave Brown	Independent
Greg Smale	St Albans
Ian Plumer	St Albans
Clive Rackham	St Albans
Alan Vessey	St Albans
Mathew Cain	St Albans
Chris Parkes	St Albans
Michael Vessey	St Albans
Steve Marlow	St Albans
Andrew Leaf	
Nick Taylor	
Ian Hall	Luton
Simon Davison	Luton
Chris Bradwell	Luton
Graham Barrett	Viking
Colin Davis	Viking
Darren Divall	Viking
Doug McDonald	Derwent
Paul Harrison	Meridian
Paul Hammond	Meridian
Graham Gurr	Meridian
Brian Moore	Woodmill
George Spittal	Woodmill
Richard Rollason	Dudley
Matthew Bennett	Dudley
Steve Bennett	Dudley
Coach Brian Barfoot	

GB Squad - Ladies 1990

Jackie Marlow	St Albans
Zoe Hilliard	St Albans
Wendy Plummer	St Albans
Cynthia Berry	Woodmill
Jackie Moore	Woodmill
Linda Scott	Woodmill
Jenny Wilkinson	Woodmill
Lyn Knowles	Mutineers
Ginny Coyles	Mutineers
Jo Kirkbride	Mutineers
Caroline Bell	Mutineers
Annie Wright	Dudley
Nicky Bradwell	Luton
Helen Wheeler	Luton
Sharon Wheeler	Luton
Charlotte Crabtree	Pennine
Lindy Spiller	Notts
Susan Ottoline	Notts
Liz Smith	Notts
Tina Arrowsmith	Dragon
Coach Dave Brown	

* *Diane Ratcliffe of Quest accepted a place in the Ladies' squad but has suffered severe injury in a car crash so is sadly unable to compete this year.*

Financing the International Squads may be a problem: last year the Sports Council Grant of £3000 paid for the ferry costs only. The players footed the rest of the bill. This year there is no grant at all from the Sports Council for the International Polo teams, who seem to win almost every tournament which they enter. The logic seems hard to understand, perhaps losing a few internationals is the answer!

Both squads are training hard and aiming to better their excellent 1989 results.

Albert Murkin

THE LUTON OPEN

Easter Saturday saw the annual Luton Tigers Open Canoe Polo Tournament. There was only one entry in the ladies section, from St Albans. They were entered in the senior section, automatically winning an Easter egg each plus their name on the trophy again.

There were four teams in the

youth. The Luton team contained three beginners which left their extremely capable team captain with his work cut out. Viking and Bere Forest had both come very close to qualifying for the youth semi-finals at Crystal Palace this year. Also present were the national youth champions, St Albans.

The youth tournament was played as a league, the final game proving to be the decider, with Bere Forest playing the St Albans team. The Forest team had safely won their other two games and were looking the strongest side. St Albans had drawn with the Viking team leaving them a point behind Forest.

In the first half, a lucky half way lob put the St Albans team ahead. Forest had all of the second half play, with the ball never leaving the St Albans half. Despite this, Forest were unable to achieve the finishing touch and the end score remained one-nil to the lucky St Albans side.

There were four first division teams in the senior, newly appointed Tufty, the young Viking side, and old hands St Albans and Luton Tigers A. They faced competition from St Albans C, Baldock, Luton Tigers B and the St Albans ladies.

Two leagues of four were played with St Albans A easily beating Tufty, the Ladies and Luton Tigers B to make the final. In the other league, Viking were left needing to beat St Albans C eight-nil to make the final. They started off with a very quick first goal, but the St Albans side equalized quickly. The game ended with the very organised St Albans tactics beating the more skilled Viking team three-two. This meant that the final was between Luton Tigers A and St Albans A. St Albans played their typically high speed, very skilled game, but the calmer Luton team managed to keep the full time score at two goals each. Sudden death penalties were played, and by taking advantage of the very open St Albans defence, Luton scored within the first minute winning their home competition for the second year running.

Aside from the usual trophies the winning teams each received an Easter egg. Thanks to all those who organised and helped run an enjoyable tournament.

Paul Kerr and David Smith (with a little help from Andy Reddington!)

CANOEISTS WITH DISABILITIES

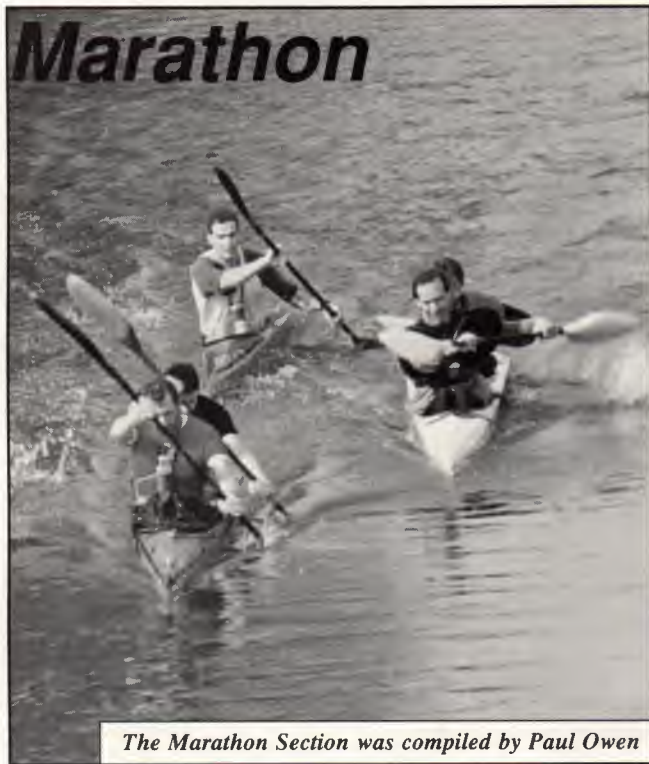
Are you are a competitive canoeist with a disability, or a coach of canoeists with disabilities?

I am working towards having canoe sport recognised as an event in the Paralympics. There is a long way to go and my first objective is to persuade COOB '92 to have a Canoeing Exhibition event at Barcelona.

I would be grateful to receive any information about canoeists with disabilities who are competing, or who wish to compete, in canoeing events in this country. If you are such a canoeist, or if you coach such canoeists, could you please forward your name and address to me so that I can contact you.

Geoff Smedley, 11 High Road, Coventry CV5 7QD.

Photograph JABright



CALENDAR AMENDMENTS

The *Broadlands Marathon* will take place on 24 June and not 17 June.

The *Richmond K2 Race*, 22nd July, has been cancelled.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

British Canoe Youth Summer Marathon Championships

14 July Stratford on Avon

A singles 4 mile race on the Avon at Stratford on Saturday morning followed by a doubles 4 mile race on Saturday evening. Age groups are 12, 14, 16 and 18 years run by Stratford on Avon Kayakists and Banbury Canoe Club for British Schools Canoe Association. Boats will be classified as over/under 14' to accommodate a class for both Plastic/Slalom and one for racing boats.

The Second Anglesey Sea Kayak Classic

will take place over a twelve nautical mile course North of the Anglesey coast line on July 28/29. For information please contact Cae Adda, Llanbadris, Cemaes Bay, Anglesey LL67 0LN.

BWB/Cropredy Canal Chase 1/2 September 1990

A two day Marathon/time trial. Forty five miles from Thrupp to

Cropredy on day one and from Stockton to Cropredy on day two for both singles and doubles. A full half marathon will be run on day one for those wishing to do so, especially juniors who want placid water marathon certificates. The event is being run on the Oxford Canal as the inaugural race to celebrate the bicentenary of the BWB Oxford Canal with prizes from BWB some of which will be competed for each year.

SPONSORSHIP

The Marathon Committee have announced the continuation of Ron Hills' sponsorship of the Marathon Racing team. This will be the third year of involvement for the sports and leisure clothing company and support will be in the form of clothing for both on and off the water.

A sponsorship prospectus is being prepared and will be released shortly. The committee are seeking both major and facilities support. In this connection it will be important to adopt a suitable logo for use on track-suits, stationary etc. The current view is that the logo should include reference to the GB Marathon Racing Team as well as incorporating the red, white and blue of the Union flag. Suggestions for the design are welcome and should be addressed to Pete Travis, 67 Princes Street, Oxford.

Marathon Racing in Spain

The long established marathon race series in Northern Spain will again be held during the first week of August this year. Each of the five races has its own unique character but all have a flavour totally different from anything to be found in the UK. The combination of sunshine, fiestas, mass starts of up to 1,000 boats and huge crowds of spectators who consider the local canoe race to be the most important social event of the year, is an experience not to be missed.

Probably the best known of the races is the first one - the Sella Descent (4 August 1990) which will be held for the 54th time this year over the downstream course of shallows and minor rapids from Ariondas to Ribadesella with a mass start of about 1,000 boats.

In recent years though, the Nallon race (Tuesday 7 August 1990) has been gaining in stature to rival the Sella. Following start line problems in 1987 the course has been changed to start and finish at Pravia with a number of minor rapids to be negotiated both upstream and downstream.

The start is now a mass Le Mans style, similar to the Sella and in 1989 this race attracted over 700 paddlers from 78 clubs and 14 countries including Poland. Run entirely by the people of Pravia, the race is now highly organised and is the only one in the series to produce provisional results printouts for checking by competitors prior to the final results and prize-giving.

The series continues with the Villaviciosa estuary race, the Gijon harbour race where in 1989 the entire senior K2 field was disqualified for pushing the start, and the Ribadesella race. The finale on Sunday 12 August is the Cares-Deva descent where the gorge section provides some exciting paddling and usually takes a heavy toll of the K2s.

For more information about a week's marathon racing with a difference contact George Oliver (Nottingham 0602 819758). Private paddlers wishing to compete in Spain are reminded that they need to apply via the BCU (marathon chairman Alan Laws).

Team Selection. Marathon Grand Prix, Amsterdam June 9.

Mens K1

Ollie Morgan, James Butler,

Mens K2

Chris Ballard/Greg Slater, Lichfield Paul/Michael Wells, Richmond.

Ladies K2

Anna Ballard/Janine Lawler.

Ladies K1

Jackie Eastwood, Anne Plant.

C2 Steve/Andy Train, Fladbury.

C1 Marcus Gohar, Richmond

Tejo Race, Portugal.

28 April - 1 May

A British team of four attended this 100 mile, 4 day race. Lenny Pritchard (K1) came in third. Rod Kinch (K1), after leading the race for three days, was forced to retire due to sickness. Paul and Michael Wells (K2) were equally unlucky - after leading all the way, they broke their rudder four times on the last day and had to be content with second place.



A.J. Ford and G. Scragg, of Bryanston School after winning the Junior K2 class in this year's Devizes-Westminster Canoe Race. They completed the course in 16 hours 41 minutes

Devizes to Westminster 1990

a different way to spend Friday 13th!

This year's Devizes to Westminster Canoe Marathon took place over one of the coldest Easters on record. Tamsin Phipps who, with her partner Karin Wilkinson, won the Ladies K2 Class, describes the experience.

Ever had a burning ambition that requires you to have a certain amount of insanity? - well perhaps the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race was mine. The Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, held over Easter each year, is often considered to be the 'Canoeists Everest' because it is an extremely arduous race that tests the individual both physically and mentally. The race proceeds along the Kennet and Avon canal to join the River Thames at Reading, a distance of 53 miles with 56 portages. The remaining 72 miles are paddled on the Thames making a total of 125 miles!

"OK crew 314 - hold it there - off you go". Those few immortal words signified the beginning of a very long haul to Westminster.

The first 15 miles of the race is just Canal... no locks to add to the interest and stretch the legs so one of the canoeists least favourite complaints 'Numbous bumus' is to be suffered. To add to the joy of this section there was a thick green slime covering a large part of the canal which made paddling exactly difficult as well as turning one into a green slime monster!

One of the major hurdles is a portage of 3/4 mile at Crofton where with the canoe on the shoulders one is required to 'run' to the next entry point. The ever present and excellent support crew cheered us on encouraging us to run faster (we did mutter a few choice words under our breath!).

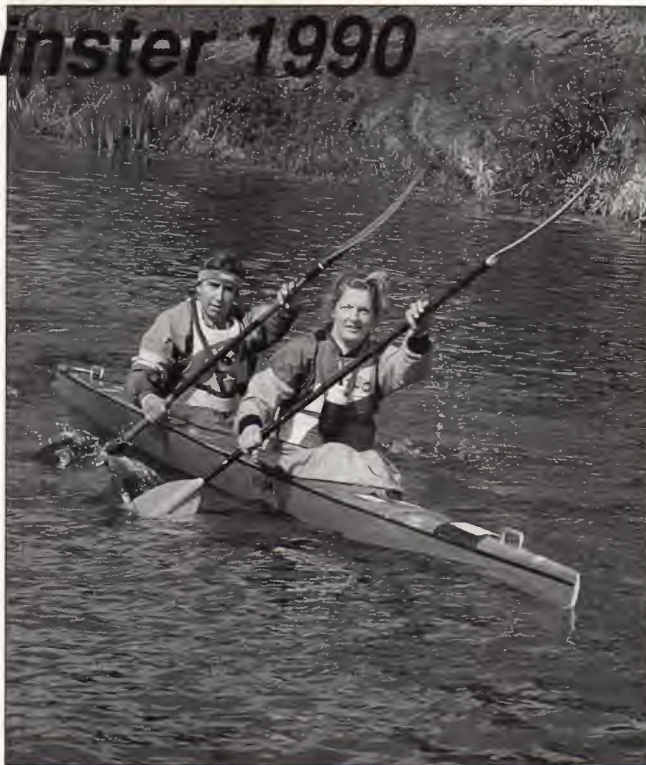
It was at Newbury that the foot rest broke. Despite a botch repair, by Marlow it had completely broken. This meant that the person in the back had to sit in a very uncomfortable position to balance the canoe! The next obstacle was a low bridge - where after getting stuck we swam! At least it woke us up - I hasten to add we were not the only crew to come a cropper there.

At Reading we changed with the help of our support crew into warmer clothing for the night and were fed a weird concoction of food 'to keep us going'. Disaster soon struck: trying to negotiate a barge, we went broadside and were swept underneath it. PANIC!! We struggled for what seemed ages and eventually managed to empty the canoe, find our paddles and set off. Our morale was beginning to wane. We had just put on dry clothes and now were wet again.

Paddling in the dark, even with a partner, is a very lonely experience. As you get more tired, the mind begins to wander and the imagination plays tricks; bends appear mysteriously in the river. It was lovely to catch up with crews and have a chat. There were other people as daft as us doing the race as well! It is at night that the real dangers occur; many people found the cold too much and had to abandon their race. But our ever present support crew were there to warn us of the weirs and rough water. This was particularly useful at places like Sunbury Lock where the only way of crossing is down a shute. Throughout the night we never ceased to be amazed that our support crew were always there and were so helpful at the portages. Dawn eventually arrived and gradually the sun rose defrosting our hands and hats!

The river had virtually no flow on it despite all the winter storms so it was a relief to arrive at Teddington Lock - the last one before Westminster. From Teddington to Westminster the river is tidal and the aim of all competitors is to catch the tide so that the journey to Westminster is a bit easier (not a lot I hasten to add). The bridges to Westminster may be spectacular but there are an awful lot of them!! It's during these last 17 miles that the body finds its normally hidden reserves.

Our support crew were on some of the bridges to cheer us on but all we really wanted to know was how many bridges to Westminster... We rounded the last corner and I could see THE BRIDGE. It was a truly magnificent sight. As we passed under the



bridge I couldn't help cheering in sheer delight. We had done it. 125 miles...

Big Ben also welcomed us in by striking 10 o'clock. What a magnificent sight. The crowds, our support crew and sunshine! We cruised the last few hundred metres to the steps just past the old GLC building. We were helped out of our boat and for once we didn't have to carry it as it was whipped away from us. We staggered up the steps not really quite believing that we had done it. Medals were placed around our necks at the top of the steps and then we wobbled off in the direction of some dry clothes (wobbling because we were not used to terra firma!).

We had completed the race in 22 hours 29 minutes despite two swims and our equipment problems. Out of the 233 crews that started only 155 finished. We actually won the Ladies K2 event but it was not the winning that really mattered as by completing the race I had raised £700 for Chalfort Epileptic Centre.

The race would not have been possible for us without the excellent help of our support crew who gave up so much of their free time and we cannot thank them enough.

Results

MENS K2

1. R A F Catchlove/R Elliott (17hrs 48mins) 2. S Dark/T Phillips (17hrs 58mins) 3. D Burdan/M W Brew (18hrs 48mins)

LADIES K2

1. T J Phipps/K Wilkinson (22hrs 29mins) 2. E Samuels/S Pease (29hrs)

MIXED K2

1. G Syananan/K George (21hrs 05mins)

SENIOR C2

1. S Murcatroyd/D Halsall (22hrs 29mins)

VETERANS K2

1. S K Ellaro/C R Middleton (18hrs 58mins)

K1 MEN

1. D Blyth (16hrs 12mins) 2. D Hallam (16hrs 44mins) 3. A Fitchett (17hrs 38mins)

LADIES K1

1. B A Jones (20hrs 42mins)

C1

1. A W Watts Westel (24hrs 02mins)

JUNIOR MEN K2

1. A J Ford/G Scragg (16hrs 41mins) 2. N Stackey/D Ricketts (17hrs 27mins) 3. P Watkins/D Watkin (17hrs 35mins)

JUNIOR LADIES K2

1. T Ascins/H Smith (23hrs 34mins)

For details of how to enter 1991's race, send £1 to Mrs J. Begent, 87, Hibernia Rd, Hounslow, Middlesex.

Racing

The Holme Pierrepont Spring Regatta (April 21 -22nd) Conditions were rather severe with the wind gusting straight down the course - times were consequently rather slow

Photographs by Peter Davey



National Championships results, Holme Pierrepont Spring Regatta

Boys K2 3000m was won by Thomas/Love.
 Girls K2 6000m: 1st.Davey/Kelley. 2nd.Horsley/Horsley. 3rd. Lawton/Lawton.
 Boys K2 6000m: 1st Richardson/Jenson. 2nd. Hibberd/Wynne. 3rd. Hynds/Smith.
 Womens K2 6000m was won by Dallaway/Lawler.
 Mens K4 10,000m: 1st. Horsley/Ellis/Burgess/Morgan. 2nd. Maycock/Maycock/Quittendon/ Horslkey. 3rd. Burns/Jenson/Bourne/Lawler.
 Mens Veteran K4 10,000m: 1st. Mason/Brown/Greenaway(yes he is the National Coach)/Wesley. 2nd Oliver/Oliver/Edwards/Thorogood. 3rd. Parker/Skellern/Hawthorn/Nolan.

HEAVY RAIN FOR RICHMOND SPRINTS

The qualifying event for the Thames Area Jeremy West Trophy took place in heavy rain on the River Thames at Richmond, just below Teddington Lock (13 April 1990).

The Jeremy West Trophy Competition is a new event in honour of Jeremy's success at the 1986 World Championships. The Trophy is organised on a regional basis with four time trial events over a 500m course, in eight ability groups. Points gained from all four time trials are added together and used to select an area team for all eight ability groups to compete at the final; this year's is to be held in conjunction with the Junior Open European Regatta on August 3-5th at Holme Pierrepont.

Ten Point winners from The Richmond Time Trials
 CLASS 1
 Lawler, Elmbridge
 CLASS 2
 Van Someran, Royal
 CLASS 3
 Dresser, Royal
 CLASS 4
 Stock, Royal
 CLASS 5
 Goad, Elmbridge
 CLASS 6
 Greasby, Rickmondsworth

RESULTS FROM MECHELEN -

Silver medal for Andrea

In the first major event of the International Racing Programme, (4 - 6 May), Andrea Dallaway was placed second in the 5000m event, only 1 second behind the winner. The ladies' K4 team of Dresser/Eastwood/Troop and Thorogood set a new British record of 1.42.77, taking sixth place.

MEDALS FROM BOULOGNE

The British Junior Racing Team brought back a fistful of medals from this year's first international Regatta (Boulogne 28 - 29 April). In all, the team won a total of nine events; Boys K1 500m (P.Slater); Boys K1 100m (P.Slater); Boys K2 500m (N.Hibberd/I.Wynne); Boys K2 100m (N. Hibberd/I.Wynne); Boys K4 500m (I.Wynne/P.A.Richardson/P.Slater/P.Hoborough); Boys K4 1000m (S.Jenson/S.Hynds/P.Slater/R.Bradbury); Girls K1 500m (T.Davey) and Girls K2 500m (T. Davey/S.Kelley/S.Hynds/H.Gilby)



SCOTTISH RACING WEEK 23 JUNE TO 1 JULY

The SCA have arranged a weeks' programme of racing (similar to the Spanish one) to cater especially for the visiting paddler. There is a complete variety of races including flatwater 500m, 1000m and 10,000m, open water, and rivers including weir and rapids! In fact, a whole week of enjoyable racing and not a portage in sight.

The week kicks off on June 23 - 24 with the **Strathclyde Park Regatta**. Strathclyde Park is situated South of Glasgow near the M74 - only 4 hours drive on the motorway from the Nottingham and Birmingham areas or 6 hours from London. The regatta course is purpose built and offers similar facilities to Holme Pierrepont, including an excellent camp-site. There's a full programme of events on offer - including Senior/Junior/Ladies/Veterans in K1/K2/K4 over 500m and 1000m as well as 10,000m K1 and K4. They'll even lend you a boat! -

K1s, K2 and K4s are available for loan if required-and prizes will be awarded in all classes.

On the Wednesday evening (27th June) is the **Loch Lomond Marathon** held on open water - right beside those bonny banks.... There's a choice of three courses - a long one of 9 miles, a short one of 6 and a novice course of three.

The week also includes **The Tay White Water 10,000m**; an informal Friday evening event (29th June) which covers the most exciting stretch between Kinclaven and Thistlebrig. This allows you to get a sneak preview of the river two days before

The Tay Marathon on July 1st! - one of the most challenging and scenic marathon courses in the world..Again, there's a long course of 23 miles starting from Dunkeld a short course (11 miles starting at Kinclaven) and a Novice course - 6 miles of easy water starting

at Thistlebrig. The Grand Finale is at Perth, where all the courses end up.

The Tay Marathon incorporates the **Scottish K1 Marathon Championships**. To be eligible for a medal you must have been a member of the SCA for at least 9 months.

More information about the Scottish Racing Week, including advice on accommodation, courses, entries etc, is available from Neil West, 83 Broomhill Avenue, Aberdeen (0224 311585) or Ken Bryce, 24 Castle Wynd, Bothwell (0698 854772).

Surf

BCU NATIONAL PADDLE SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Round One: Whitesands

The first competition of the 1990 season was held at Whitesands Bay in West Wales on March 17 - 18. This turned out to be an excellent venue - Competitors were able to camp on site - only about 200 yards from the beach and spectators and judges had an excellent view of the surfing from the car park.

The surf was a clean 3'-4' throughout the weekend with some of the sets coming through at 5'-6'.

There were classes for slalom kayaks (minimum length 3.50m) and open (Skis and kayaks below 3.50m) with awards for highest place novice and junior surfers.

For the first time a 'Hot Dogging' class was run and it is hoped that this will continue at surf competitions throughout the year. Although this was a bit of an unknown entity for the experienced kayak surfers the event went off well - helped by the fact that Andy Middleton (of Bitches Rodeo fame) kindly came along to offer his help, advice (and then went on to win the event!). Competitors were awarded points for a variety of tricks and manoeuvres from loops, pop outs and pirouettes to paddle twirls and yahooing! It basically seemed to boil down to anything that entertained the spectators and judges scored points.

The class attracted entries not only from the serious canoe surfers but also a number of rodeo competitors.

All in all a well run event and a very enjoyable weekend with that unusual combination of both surf and sunshine.

Round Two; Cornwall

This was held at Gwithian on the North Cornish Coast - a beach known as Red River. Again 'Hot Dogging' proved popular.

The competition was under way by about 10.30 on the Saturday morning with the judges comfortably perched about 30'



Photograph Kevin Whibley

above the beach on a small cliff face enjoying both the ideal vantage and the warm sunshine. The surf was being pushed in by a low pressure system and the waves were being held up nicely by a strong cross/offshore wind.

As the tide came in the surf started to dump quite heavily, leading to a couple of very entertaining hot dogging heats. Two or three competitors had unexpected swims and one took an upside down surf ride through a 3' gap between large rocks (unintentionally!). Luckily no harm was done although his girlfriend in the judging area was reported to have aged about 10 years in that brief moment.

Sunday morning saw the surf drastically reduced in size although the weather was still perfect. It was decided to try and continue with the competition, but after a couple of heats in what could only have been about 2' of surf it was decided to change venues. Within hour everybody was packed up and a peculiar looking convoy of cars and vans laden with a variety of kayaks, skis and surf shoes headed off to the south coast where there was known to be better surf. The convoy arrived at Maenporth (Falmouth) about 45 minutes later to find 4'-5' of wind blown surf being pushed in by about a Force 5 onshore wind. This was more than sufficient to enable to competition

organiser to run the remainder of the event. Again judges and spectators had a good vantage point, watching this time from inside the vehicles, VW vans proving to be the most popular judging points.

If you would like to know more about surf competitions and how to go about entering one please contact me for further information. Simon Discombe (Sec BCU Surf Committee), 8 Wordsworth Close, Chelston, Torquay, Devon. Tel (0803) 211121 work or 614722 home.

Results

Whitesands Contest (Wales) 17/18 March

Cornish Championships - Red River 7/8 April

SENIOR SLALOM

- 1 S Discombe
- 2 I Plumridge
- 3 A Leonard
- 4 D Gibb

SENIOR SLALOM

- 1 M Ford
- 2 I Plumridge
- 3 S Discombe
- 4 J Rosevear

SENIOR SKI/OPEN

- 1 G Adcock
- 2 S Quinton
- 3 A Stubbs

SENIOR SKI/OPEN

- 1 S Discombe
- 2 J Rosevear
- 3 C Kerswell

JUNIOR SLALOM

- 1 C Walker

LADIES OPEN

- 1 C Sears
- 2 S Rosevear

HOT DOGGING

- 1 A Middleton
- 2 J Wilkins
- 3 I Plumridge
- 4 H Evans

JUNIOR SLALOM

- 1 C Kerswell
- 2 C Walker

HOT DOGGING

- 1 R May
- 2 I Plumridge
- 3 C Symmons
- 4 M Ford

Trade News



Peak Performance Race Wear is a new range of canoe clothing designed by premier slalom paddlers Pete Astles and Rob Wright. Based in Nottingham, the two aim to produce quality canoe competition clothing which is designed and tested by competitors themselves. The range consists initially of a long-sleeved cag, short-sleeved cag, and buoyancy aid with dry cags and Mountain bike clothing to follow shortly. Available from No Limits, Desperate Measures and direct from their competition trade stand.

BUFFALO CLOTHING

Buffalo's **Double P-System** has won some devoted fans amongst mountaineers and sailors. Its been successfully used by Himalayan Expeditions, mountain rescue teams and the Rothman's Crew in the Round the World Yacht Race. Devotees claim that its completely comfortable in rainstorms of up to half an inch per hour, dries quickly and causes no perspiration problems whatsoever.

The clothing consists of a fibrepile inner, and a Pertex outer and is designed to be worn next to the skin. Pertex by itself is not waterproof - in fact its one of the most water absorbent materials around. What it does do, is expel water from inside the garment (eg perspiration) keeps the wind out and dries extremely quickly. Provided that you are actively exercising, you should stay warm and dry. Even in the middle of winter, in sub-zero temperatures. So the manufacturers claim.

The Buffalo Mountain Shirt has been on the market for 4 years, but the canoeing model is a recent development, introduced last November. Its particularly recommended for sea touring, open canoeing, and inland touring up to grade 3. Its also aimed at people who are in and out of the water a lot - like instructors or people who can't roll - because of its quick drying properties.

NEW CANOE SHOP IN CHICHESTER

TM Water Activity Training has expanded into a full canoeing facility offering a retail, hire, tuition and information service. Simply called Canoestore, the shop has waterside premises in Chichester harbour, where boats can be tested and launched.

Canoestore has at present on display the prototype of an innovative new craft, called

the SKI SAIL. They call it a canoe, it looks more like a windsurfer and can best be described as a 15 foot surf ski with 10 foot wings, supporting a standard wind surfer rig. SKI SAIL is controlled by foot pedals and a rudder, and at winds above Force 4 runs on the foil. A 'foil craft' can be sailed at a leisurely pace or very very fast - cutting through waves rather than jumping over them - don't be surprised to find yourself waist deep in water!

Designed by David Chinery, soon to be produced by Gaybo.

XR TREKKING CANOES

If backpacking with your canoe sounds a little unlikely, you've reckoned without the German company 'BIGPACK'. Their 1990 catalogue has details of a 2 man inflatable canoe, which packs into a carrying frame, total weight 21kg, enabling you to walk into previously inaccessible canoeing areas. XR Trekking canoes are suitable for both placid and medium grade whitewater and are claimed to be light running and amongst the fastest inflatables on the market. The catalogue also has details of the CANOE TENT, weighing 3.5kg which attaches to the XR, the canoe itself becomes a giant lilo, sleeping 2



quite comfortably. Brochure available from Ardblair Sports, Blairgowrie (0250) 3863.

EXIT RSC, ENTER MI



Thespians do not normally leave their profession and go off to become sales reps. It's normally the other way round: members of the rat-race jump ship and become actors instead. So, Simon Bennett must be something of an odd fish because he has just left the Royal Shakespeare Company to go on the road for Scanro Ltd of Newcastle Upon Tyne. Selling a variety of products - including MI kayaks and accessories - Simon is doing about 1200 miles a week in his Mercedes van and, apparently, loving every minute of it.

Simon is located in Newark, and his sales patch is somewhat large. As he's aiming to visit ten shops per week this doesn't leave much time for hanging around the phone waiting for his agent to tell him his next job! So Simon, despite holding onto his Equity card, has finished with acting completely.

BUY-OUT AT SCANRO

A management buyout has been successfully accomplished by the Directors Of Scanro Ltd. Scanro, who make MI Kayaks and accessories, were previously a subsidiary of London-based Expedier Leisure PLC. No changes are envisaged in the key personnel at Scanro, but with greater independence, the manager-owners are hoping to steer Scanro to bigger and better things - updating their product ranges and bringing in more expertise on the design and prototype front.

ALL CHANGE AT WILD WATER

Allan Jones, ex-proprietor of Whitewater Sports, Shepperton has joined Wild Water to cover sales in the South of England and Wales. Paul Hawkesworth, who has recently rejoined Wild Water will be looking after Sales in the North. Sales of Wildwater's 'Double Torque' paddleshafts have now topped 2000 since last December, and have reached Australia! (used by Martin Hunter, winner of Australian Flat Water Sprints). Propulsion Paddles are back in production and will be available shortly, phone(0243)711624 for details. Wildwater Sponsorships for 1990, include Canoe 90, Nottinghamshire's first International Canoe Week (see page 33) and the J&B European Whitewater raft racing championships (Val de Sole, Italy, June 21 - 24)



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TOURING THE LESSE



Moira - Anne Jeffcoat joined a group of paddlers from Milton Keynes and Martlett Canoe Clubs, to attend the 21st Annual Paas Rally in the Ardennes area of Belgium

We all met up at Houyet on Good Friday afternoon, where we were to camp for the weekend. On the Saturday we were offered a choice of rivers to paddle with a guide on grade I-II water. We chose to paddle Le L'Homme from Forrieres to Rochefort. The afternoon was spent sightseeing. Easter Day dawned and was the day of the main rally on the River Lesse from Lessive to Houyet - some 22km. The host Club providing a soup kitchen at Wanlin - their home base. In the evening a presentation of awards was made,

the English contingent receiving five of these; travelling the furthest; having the most foreign paddlers; the oldest male paddler and the one to swim the most.

You might ask what else happens on an International Rally? Well it is a very social event and could also have been known as a Gastronomic tour, with every opportunity taken to sample the local food and wine.

Come on readers why don't more of you attend these events!

CORSICA RALLY 1990

Many British paddlers aspire to visit Corsica, a true whitewater paradise with steep rivers, glorious scenery and cheap red wine. To make it easier this year, the Touring and Recreation Committee organised a rally in Corsica over Easter. The aim was simply to bring the separate groups together for mutual help during the day and for socialising in the evening.

Six groups took part and had a good time despite lowish water levels. Most of the Corsican classics were attempted by at least one group, including the famous falls on the Travo and Rizzanese. The only problems were experienced by Simon Dawson, the rally organiser who claims to have set up the event in order to obtain drinking company in the evenings! He tore some shoulder ligaments when bouncing off a boulder on the River Liamone and had to fly back early.

The BCU Touring and Recreation Committee organise a number of visits to International Tours and Rallies. Details are published in the BCU Members' Yearbook, and in Canoe Focus' Canoe Touring section.

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FORTHCOMING TOURING & RECREATION COMMITTEE EVENTS

BCU members receive a discount on entry fees for these events on production of a current membership card. Instant membership is also available.

Avon Camp Weekend.

(Worcestershire 7 - 8 July) Fun weekend catering for individuals, groups and families. Games, Bar-B-Q and beer. Camp site available. Details from John Gregson, Dorinda House, Wick, Pershore, Wors. Try Tryweryn 1 - 2 September

Grade 2. Free instructors to lead you down. Not for the complete beginner but for those who wish to improve their skills. Details from John Gregson, as above.

MILTON KEYNES COMES OF AGE

Milton Keynes Canoe Club plan to celebrate their 20th Anniversary on Saturday 7 July and would like to be joined by past members. Please contact George or June Davies on (0234) 711374.

TOURING IN N.IRELAND

The Canoe Association of Northern Ireland have at last set up a group to develop "Touring" in Northern Ireland. The group is to be co-ordinated by Stephen Brown, and will hopefully copy many good ideas from "across the water", developing a programme that will allow visitors from the SCA, BCU and WCA to join them for different events. Anyone interested in being involved in the CANI Touring Group, please contact Stephen Brown on 0365 82 8888.

UPDATE

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE BCU MEMBERS' YEARBOOK, PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 1990.

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE BCU MEMBERS' YEARBOOK, PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 1990.

CLUBS

Falmouth Canoe Club, S Petherick, 14 Marlborough Road, Falmouth, Cornwall

Hayle Canoe Club, R Thomas, 3 Upper Lemon Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2PD

Macclesfield and District Canoe Club (NW), Stuart Broadbent, 10 St Lesmo Road, Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 0TX.

Penzance Canoe Club, R Uren, Trescowan, Heamoor, Penzance, Cornwall.

Truro Canoe Club, Mr O A May, 24 Trelawney Avenue, Treskerby, Redruth, Cornwall.

EVENTS

17 June only. Windermere Open Canoe Tour (and R. Granta) BCU Touring Committee event, previously listed as whole weekend.

Philip Ferguson, 1 Redcar Rd, Little Leven, Bolton, BL3 1EW

24 June Broadland Canoe marathon

Date change, from 17 June. 35th Norwich Sea Scout Group, 44, Pelham Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 3NG.

7-8 July Kielder Paddler & Plunge Weekend.

Julie Bowers, Kielder Tourism Development Action Programme, Bellingham, Northumberland NE48 2BQ (0434) 220643.

14 July Mawddach Rotary Wool Race,

Mr D D Williams, Dolgellau Rotary Club, Eldon Square, Dolgellau, Gwynedd LL40 1RD (0341) 422647.

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PADDLING PERUVIAN STYLE

by Paul O'Sullivan

You don't see much of Lima as you fly into the airport, the coastal fog/smog doing an excellent job of disguising the city. This is probably a good thing since, if you could see Lima in all it's splendour and squalor you'd be tempted to stay on the plane.

We arrived in late June amidst stories of a 'shoot tourists' policy by the Shining Path terrorists. The large military presence at the airport did little to comfort us.

Having arranged to be met at the Airport by Foptour (the Peruvian Tourist Board) it was great to see Maria and Guillermo's friendly faces and even better when they took us straight past Customs without one bag or boat being examined. Contacting Foptour is almost a necessity because, as well as helping with Customs and flights, its amazing in a bureaucratic country like Peru what doors an official letter from Foptour, will open.

All too soon we had to leave the relative safety of Maria and Guillermo at the airport and headed into Lima. Imagine four people and three Mountain Bats inside a '64 Chevvy station wagon! The second vital contact for canoeing in Peru is the South American Explorers Club, whose club house is a well appreciated, safe haven to head for when in Lima. It provides an excellent place for storing kayaks and kit, and it's a relief to get the boats stashed away as soon as you arrive - leaving you to become streetwise, without having to worry about a kayak.

We spent four days in Lima meeting people and arranging very little. Not surprisingly we were extremely relieved to get away from the noise and hassle of Lima and fly to Cusco and its nearby rivers.

Cusco

Cusco was the capital of the Inca empire and still retains much of it's charm and atmosphere. Being geared for tourism, it is also a city of contrasts where you can go to a restaurant whose walls are of original Inca stonework, eat lasagne and watch Bruce Springsteen on the video jukebox. Compared to Lima, it is small, friendly, clean and picturesque, but the altitude does take a day or so to get used to. The area around Cusco has a number of canoeable rivers, but the



▲ *The Apurimac Valley. Dougie Bell*



▲ *Troubled Times in Lima. Tom Hughes*

most accessible ones are the Rio Urubamba and the Rio Apurimac, both tributaries of the Amazon.

Rio Urubamba

Much of our paddling was done on the Urubamba, running the sections from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu, and from Santa Teresa to Quillabamba. Both these sections offer continuous grade IV and V paddling through steep boulder gardens with heavy water, certainly the most demanding kayaking we did. Since the railway follows the river for the whole of both sections, it's not so serious an undertaking as other Peruvian rivers. The river can be split up into smaller trips and the train used for getting to and from Cusco. Also portaging along the railway track is relatively easy; watch out, however, for the tourist train, which has a habit of catching you unawares as you drag your boat along the track. Travelling on the train itself is usually wilder than the rivers, since almost invariably you will have to hold on to the outside of the train whilst trying to avoid being pickpocketed. Now you realise why you saw so many crosses next to the railway track when inspecting rapids!

Travelling by taxi, bus and truck may seem safer, however the road leaves the river between Ollantaytambo and Santa Maria, so this section of the river is only accessible by train. Considering that all Peruvian vehicles seem to have tyres of the racing slick design, and with roads that are normally no better than dirt tracks, this feeling of extra safety may be illusory. For example, returning from Quillabamba to Cusco by open truck involved a sixteen-hour journey, through a rainy night, over a 4200m pass, sitting on bags of oranges with large Peruvian women sitting on top of you. It's hard to decide if this is a better alternative to nine hours holding on to the outside of the train!

▲ *The Urubamba, photograph Paul Cripps*

Rio Apurimac

We originally had problems in getting to the Apurimac in that no one was prepared to transport us to the river due to the risk of terrorist attack. In the end, a local commercial rafting company which was taking three New Zealanders on a four-day trip down the river between pte Wallachaca, on the Cotobambas road, and pte Cunyac, on the Abancay road, offered us an irresistible deal. In return for us giving safety cover on the river, they transported us to and from the river and provided excellent food during the trip - including wine with dinner!! Pte Wallachaca is a spectacular seven-hour drive from Cusco along a dirt track that just about manages to cling onto the mountain side as it descends to the Apurimac valley. The bus driver's reassuring rapport, which consisted of pointing out spots where in the past buses had fallen off the road into the river thousands of feet below, added to the excitement.

Jose and Darwin, the raft guides, were certainly glad of the extra support for the trip through some committing gorges, containing numerous big grade IV rapids, with five to six grade Vs thrown in for added excitement. Jose seemed a bit worried about the whole prospect, having only been down this section of river once before, and he had to depend upon his supply of grass (not the 'Gardeners World' type) to provide moral support. If he, however, obtained too much moral support from his lunch-time smoke, then he was inclined to raft rapids that were too difficult, and even managed to flip the raft at the top of a 15ft grade V slide. This river would be an ideal warm-up trip and, without waiting for a raft could be done in 2-3 days. Pte Cunyac Bridge was our get-out point, but, due to terrorist attacks on the bridge, there is a large army presence that's nervous about having foreigners around. It's probably best therefore to get out at a small bar on the right-hand bank, about a kilometre upstream of the bridge, and wait for a truck back to Cusco.

Arequipa

The main objective of our trip, and certainly the most spectacular canoeing we did, was the Colca Canyon. This is located in the South East of the country, near Arequipa, and can be reached either by road and air from Lima, or road, rail and air from Cusco. Rather than a long train journey, we opted for the thirty five minute flight from Cusco. Internal flights with canoes in Peru are not too much of a problem, but be prepared to pay a little excess baggage (£1-£15 per kayak). Arequipa is a larger city than Cusco, having a more metropolitan and Spanish feel to it, and with a beautiful colonial square overlooked by the spectacular 5800m high volcano, Mt Misti with its snow cap. From Arequipa trucks can be arranged to take you to Huambo, at the start of the Colca Canyon. Alternatively and cheaper, we took the bus to Huambo, which is run by the Jacantaya bus company and costs about 30p per person and £2 per boat, for the 10 hour drive through a lunar-like desert resembling the surface of the moon.

The Colca Canyon

Huambo is the closest village to the start of the Colca Canyon and mules can be hired for the eight-hour walk to the river at Canco. Suzanne, who runs the village shop, is definitely worth getting to know as she will also cook you meals, which are greatly appreciated whilst waiting for your mules. The man to see about mules is Antonio, but this isn't much help as most of the men in the village seem to be called Antonio. Getting the kayaks down to the river on the backs of the mules is a slow process as the boats continually have to be retied to stop them slipping off. Added to this problem, one of our mules got too tired to carry a boat so we had to take turns carrying the fully laden Mountain Bat on our shoulders for the last 2 hours along a very narrow and precipitous path across scree slopes; luckily it was dark for the last hour so we couldn't see the drop below us!

The paddling on the Colca is exciting, technical and of the highest quality; but it is the setting and committing nature of the lunar Canyon of the Colca that makes this trip so special and unforgettable. The wildlife in the Canyon is also fascinating with otters in the river and Condors overhead during the day. As soon as the evening sky turns red, it is filled with thousands of bats as



▲ Fording the Rio Huambo. Lewis Lyell

they leave the caves in which they have spent the day. All these add to the unique atmosphere of this very special place.

We expected the Canyon descent to take three to four days; and, as we were not making a conscious effort for a fast descent, we were surprised when it only took a day and a half to cover its 50km length. In order to enjoy the Canyon to its fullest, a trip of about 3 days duration would be ideal. The canyon ends at Hacienda Andamayo and from there buses can be caught for the 6 hour ride back to Arequipa.

For many years climbing in Peru has been treated with an alpine, rather than a big expedition, approach. From our experiences the canoeing can be treated with much the same attitude. We spent 7 weeks in Peru and only spent one day walking into a river - all the other rivers being reached by car, truck or train. Apart from the spent bivvying on the river, we stayed in hotels and ate from restaurants, both of which were very cheap. All that's needed is a plane ticket, a kayak and your usual paddling gear. Have a good trip!

We would like to thank for following for their sponsorship and support: - Allied Irish Banks Ltd, British Canoe Union, Midland Bank plc, Nevisport, New Wave Paddles, North Cape, Peruvian Tourist Board, Phoenix Mountaineering Ltd, Pyranha Mouldings Ltd, Rohan, South American Explorers Club, Whitewater Ltd, Wild Water Ltd, Vango (Scotland) Ltd, and Yak.

Useful addresses

South American Explorers Club, Avenida Portugal 146, Brena, Lima, Peru (Tel) 31 4480
Foptour, Andres Reyas 320, San Isidro, Lima (Tel): 42 4195

The Expedition Team

Thomas Owen-Hughes, Liverpool
Lewis Lyell, Glasgow
Dougie Bell, Glasgow
Paul O'Sullivan, Ireland
Paul Cripps, Sussex.

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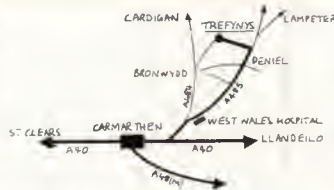
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THE GREAT LIMERICK CONTEST

Prizes from Olympus Outdoor World

Are you a secret scribbler? Ever spent a happy half hour in the loo, composing a snappy lyric? If you're the sort who likes to dabble as well as paddle, now's your chance to come out of the closet and gain the recognition you deserve for your poetic leanings. The contest is to find the funniest, wittiest, most thought provoking, simply **the best** five liner about canoeing in the whole, wide world. You know the kind of thing,

**There was a young paddler from Brighton
Who fancied their chances at writing
Without more ado
Wrote a quick pome or two
And life became much more exciting!**

First Prize

- Kober Paddles

Second Prize

- Yak Spraydeck

Third Prize

- Green Slime Throwbag

Send your entry to Limerick Competition, Canoe Focus, BCU Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS. Don't forget to include your name, address and, if possible, a day time phone number. Closing date 1st JULY 1990, results in the October edition, and top ten limericks. One entry only please per person.

The competition will be judged by famous canoeing writer and cartoonist, Alan Fox, who wrote 'Run River Run' and the prizes are from Olympus Outdoor World, the outdoor pursuits megastore at Thurrock in Essex.



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WEIGHT - 85 LB	NMMA* MAX. WEIGHT CAPACITY - 740 LB	
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*National Marine Manufacturers Assn.
†Patent Nos. 4660498 & 4741284

For further details please contact: **The Coleman Company, Parish Wharf Estate,**

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 MAX. PERSON CAPACITY - 440 LB MAX. HORSEPOWER - 3 HP WARRANTY - 1 YR



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 Lapis Blue #5903D807

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 MAX. PERSON CAPACITY - 570 LB MAX. HORSEPOWER - 5 HP WARRANTY - 1 YR



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 Lapis Blue #5905D807 hauling on a cartop.

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 MAX. PERSON CAPACITY - 575 LB MAX. HORSEPOWER - 5 HP WARRANTY - 1 YR



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Robert Louis Stephenson. (1850 - 1894) canoeist, adventurer and a man who loved the great escape.

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THE WILD WATER SELECTION RACES 1990



Ian and Andrew Clough. Photograph by Phil Noden

The Tay Race at Grandtully was a classic, it was one of those races where we were there on the right day, the water was at its best and was probably the highest it has ever been raced. As far as selection for the Team for this year's World Cup was concerned it was perfect. One or two people were sorted out very severely in a very large stopper on the Slalom Course, notably Fraser Gormal, who back looped in it and Nicola Weaver who was just simply wasted in it when she was in fact winning the Race.

The winners from this race were automatically selected and the results were;

- Mens K1**
 Alan Tordoff Leeds
 Robin Murray Leeds
 Wayne Boss Lichfield
- Ladies K1**
 Gill Berron Edin. Univ
 Karen Porter Leeds
 Andrea Clayton Nottingham
- Mens C1**
 Steve Wells Nottingham
 Mackon Singh Leaside
 Ross Pearton Herts
- Mens C2**
 Clough/Clough ICI ENG
 Simpson/Twigger Nottingham

The Juniors were also being selected for their World Championships at this race and a particularly impressive performance came from Gareth Jones in coming 12th amongst the Senior men.

- Junior K1**
 Gareth Jones Newark
 Tim Suggett Leeds
 Dean Thompson Accrington

- Junior Ladies**
 Claire Daniels R.F.D.C
 Gemma Hargreaves Accrington
 Naomi Bailey Leeds
Junior C1
 Andy Tracey Haefen

A week later the **second selection race** was held on the Tees near Barnard Castle. In complete contrast to the conditions at Grandtully this was a very shallow race despite there being a release of water on the river. The pattern of results was very much the same with the same winners in each of the classes as at the Tay.

- Mens K1**
 Alan Tordoff Leeds
 Robin Murray Leeds Wayne Boss
 Lichfield
- Ladies K1**
 Gill Berron Edin Univ
 Tina Parsons Nottingham
 Karen Porter Leeds
- Mens C1**
 Steve Wells Nottingham
 James Wingfield Nottingham

- Nick Pink Llangollen
Mens C2
 Clough/Clough ICI ENG
 Simpson/Twigger Nottingham
Juniors
K1
 Tim Suggett Leeds
 Dean Thompson Accrington
 Stuart Brass Accrington
Ladies K1
 Naomi Bailey Leeds
 Gemma Hargreaves Accrington
C1
 Andy Tracey Haefen

The third race of the series was the **Washburn** 3 weeks after the Tees. With winners being selected it was still possible for anyone to get selected in the Kayak classes, in the C1's it was a different story as everyone except pre-selected Steve Wells was on equal points. With only two places available to accompany Steve to the World Cup this year. In the end the races were fairly predictable, Tina Parsons managed to get her nose in front of Karen Porter to claim

an automatic place in the Team and James Wingfield and Mackon Singh grabbed the C1 places

- Mens K1**
 Alan Tordoff Leeds
 Neil Stamps Royal
 Robin Murray Leeds
Ladies K1
 Tina Parsons Nottingham
 Karen Porter Leeds
 Andrea Clayton Nottingham
C1
 Steve Wells Nottingham
 Mackon Singh Leaside
 James Wingfield Nottingham
C2
 Clough/Clough ICI ENG
 Twigger/Simpson Nottingham
 Wame/Harvey Chelm/Notting

- Juniors**
K1
 Tim Suggett Leeds
 Gareth Jones Newark
 Dean Thompson Accrington
Ladies K1
 Claire Daniels R.F.D
 Gemma Hargreaves Accrington
 Naomi Bailey
C1
 Andy Tracey Haefen

John Handyside



Andrea Clayton. Photograph by Phil Noden

BOOKS

CANOEISTS GUIDE TO THE EAST OF ENGLAND

British Canoe Union, Eastern Region
Available from BCU Supplies. Members £4
Non-members £4.50

Reviewed by Colin Broadway

This late publication BCU is a welcome and updated revision to previous guides to this part of the world, covering in varying degrees of detail 49 waterways and offering a number of circular tours and alternative methods of avoiding car shuttles.

The Guide covers in detail some 600 miles of canoeable waterways, rivers, canals, creeks and estuaries, not covered by other guides. It offers basic guidance and details where to get further information on waterways which are covered perhaps in greater depth than a guide of this size could offer. Where this is the case, and the Broads is a prime example, you are referred to the best book available, a cruising guide; and yet, the writers still remembered to give the essential information required by a canoeist that would be missing from a book written for larger watercraft.

As a paddler who failed geography I would have liked to have seen a few more sketch maps of some of the rivers, and perhaps an outline map of the whole region with rivers marked on, just to give me a better understanding of where the rivers are in relation to each other.

Where the guide impressed me was in its honesty, with comments like 'its not really worth bothering with as only 3 miles are feasible', and then goes on to add the history of the navigation rights to that river.

Well I'm glad they bothered, it is another 3 miles of water and for my first weeks of learning to paddle, I didn't move 300 yards away from the put in point.

This is a well researched booklet, and a must for any paddler who is considering canoeing in the Eastern Region, or who is thinking of writing a guide to any other area of the country.

SCA GUIDE TO SCOTTISH RIVERS

Available from
BCU Supplies
£3.50 members
£4 non-members

The Scottish Canoe Association Guide has been updated and is now published as a separate booklet.



In all, 38 rivers are covered, alphabetically, including popular ones such as the Tay, Tweed, Findhorn and Orchy and some less well known ones - eg the Carron, Clumie and Whiteadder. Each river is mapped, graded, and given a brief description, written by local paddlers. The descriptions vary in length and detail but all include the essential points: access and egress points, major rapids, hazards, portages and place where inspection is recommended. The maps didn't appear to have a scale and distances were not always mentioned, which could cause problems if the guide was used without an OS map.

On the whole, though, I found the Guide to Scottish Rivers useful and succinct: telling me all I needed to know without going into superfluous detail.

A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE KAYAK

By Nigel Foster

ISBN 0 908 754 50X

Reviewed by Roy Hitchings

Available from BCU Supplies. £6.95 members
£7.95 non-members

All the basics are covered, including types of kayaks, personal clothing and buoyancy - as well as all the basic strokes and rescues. The book also contains a good cross referencing system from earlier to later chapters.

The book is very well illustrated throughout, even to the extent of including many dry land sequences. The alternative use of the Poly Pippin and the Dancer in the early photographic sequences is also highly acceptable.

The whitewater photographs however seemed superfluous and misleading - the slalom kayak photograph shows all 10cms of it and Richard Fox is not performing a low rudder but a forward paddling stroke!

My only other criticism concerns the practice position for the draw stroke. From a purely philosophical point of view I dislike the teaching of incorrect technique which then has to be retaught.

These minor points apart I found the book easy to read and ideal for its intended market. It would do well in the libraries of schools and centres who are introducing people to the sport of canoeing as well as the general public who may be considering canoeing for the first time.



WHITEWATER TRIPS AND HOT SPRINGS IN THE KOOTENAYS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

by Betty Pratt-Johnson

ISBN 0 921009 18 6

US \$16.95. Adventure Publishing, British Columbia

Reviewed by Stuart Wagstaff

Again an excellent river guide from Betty Pratt-Johnson. This one is far more important than the previous two because the area is more remote from Vancouver and Calgary, the two most likely arrival points and centres of population. As a result its harder to get people from those two centres to either come out and show you around or get information.

The guide is clear, accurate, well written and has the all important tips on the hot springs that will save you frustrating wanderings in the wilderness. There are even some interesting pieces on interpreting Canadian Topo maps.

The only criticisms of the guide were also levelled at the two previous ones in the series; the photographs could be vastly improved both in the quality, content, printing and usefulness. When the price of the book is taken into account there is little excuse for this; the guide never mentions the other sections of the river that may be paddled let alone the other rivers in the area.

One very positive point of the guide is that Betty has paddled all the rivers included so you can be sure of consistency with grades and with descriptions. However Betty feels unqualified to write about rivers or sections of river that she has not paddled and subsequently these are not mentioned at all. It should be noted that we are not talking about a few obscure miles of a Welsh stream, but in fact major rivers with many miles of good whitewater paddling. A particular example is the Upper Kicking Horse (Yoho) in the National Park. This is a superb run which varies from low autumn levels at grade IV to high levels when it was first paddled at grade V (but bearing in mind the paddlers this was probably six.) Twelve miles of classic paddling next to the road deserves at least a mention and I would expect to find it in what professes to be a guide book to the area. Similarly we are not told what lies downstream of the suggested take outs on most of the rivers. A hint is given that a waterfall can be found downstream of the takeout suggested for Findlay Creek but no other comments. Talk to Wolfgang Hiebach for more good stories about what else can be found on Findlay Creek.

Undoubtedly accosting other paddlers you come across will help fill the gaps in the text. This book does serve as an excellent introduction and inspiration to visit the area and as I sit at a Newbury College computer, I can only whole heartedly agree with the sentiment that Betty expresses at the beginning of her book, "Once you've been here you will never leave this place, it will never leave you".

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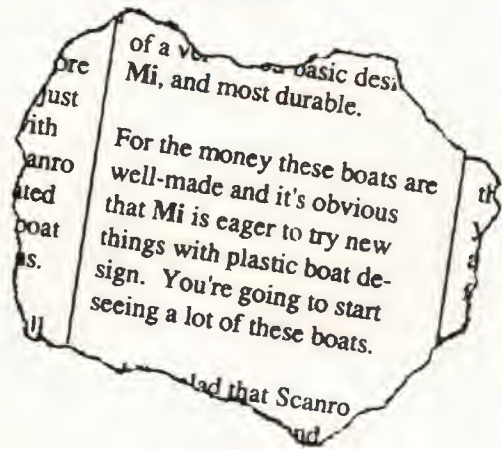
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THE GREAT RODEO SHOW

Kevin Whibley describes a visit to the second Thames Weir Rodeo

Hurley Weir, Sunday March 11.

As this was my first time as a spectator to a Weir Rodeo I was wondering where all the cowboy boots and ten gallon hats were. Then suddenly my illusions were shattered. I heard the screeching wheels of two dozen cars heading towards me with CANOES on the roof. I had been conned. It was going to be another cold wet day standing by a river watching the world, an odd canoe and the occasional swimmer going past.

The day commenced with a meeting at "Playboater". A tall thin gentleman with a beard started to explain the rules of the competition (later on I found out that this gentleman was called Shaun Baker). To the spectator the rules seemed simple enough but to the prospective paddler, daunting beyond belief.

The competitors were to perform tricks of varying degrees of difficulty - turning the boat on the wave, causing the boat to leave the water vertically (a pop-out, not as one local paper referred to it a drop out) and various other stunts. Any manoeuvre done backwards received double points. As did any manoeuvre done without paddles. Also the linking of manoeuvres done on one ride of the wave would give added points. I have calculated that top points could be received by throwing your paddles over the weir, doing a reverse loop without them, landing on the wave to surf it backwards whilst waiting for your paddles to shoot the weir and collect them at the bottom. As a paddler who is only comfortable in a plastic GP facing down stream I was glad to be the photographer on this occasion.

I wondered what drove these people to it. Then I found out. Summerleaze, a local gravel company, had sponsored the event to the tune of £1000 worth of prizes, which meant the first prize was the first ever Stunt Bat produced. These people seemed mad enough to do it for the love of it but small prizes do tend to fuel the competitive spirit in all of us.

And so the event commenced; it was a 3 round knock out for the mens' floatboat class. There were five people in each section and they all had a limited length of time in which to complete as many scoring tricks as they could. Round One saw Brian Stephenson knocked out, but all was not lost. For Brian, in his first ever competition of this type in his short time on the water, had managed to win a prize for best accidental manoeuvre. This consisted of him attempting to roll the canoe whilst he and the boat were both in mid air. Mind you that is nothing for Brian - I saw him try to roll after being mowed down by a dozen German tourists on a raft in the Alps. The raft was still on top of him.

The whole day proved to be one of the best spectator events I had ever seen. The standard of paddling just kept on improving as the day went on, the final was simply unbelievable - and the sun was shining.

The first prize went to Shaun Baker who without a doubt put in the best performance of the day. Second place went to Steve Woollett who was entering this sort of competition for the first time. Steve is now being sponsored by Palm due to his impressive achievements so far. Third was John Wilkins (mid Wales), fourth



was Tim Clay (Marlow) and fifth was Chris Hipgrave (Purley).

Prizes were also awarded to: Phil Sykes - Squirt Boating, Lesley Saragher - Ladies, Gavin Wyborn - most embarrassing swim, Paul Ryley - Best newcomer, Kieran Downey - Best youth, Anthony Perkins - Best sequence of moves and Ian Tofield - Most flamboyant entry.

Don't forget the Holme Pierrepont Rodeo is on 9-10 June, and the Twr y Felin Midsummer Madness Rodeo is on 21-22 July.

The infamous playhole on the River Mourne was the venue for the first ever Northern Irish Rodeo on April 1st. More events are planned for the autumn, and entries from "across the water" are very welcome. Contact CANI for details (Canoe Association of Northern Ireland.) Photograph by Stephen Brown.



SEA KAYAKS SPECIAL OFFER

We have the following sea Kayaks on offer at a special sale price of up to 30% discount from today's retail price. They are all first quality, in showroom condition unless otherwise stated. Any kayak will be held for a period of 48 hours until a deposit is received. The balance should be paid on collection, or if you wish the kayak to be sent, please send the full amount together with £15.00 for carriage and the kayak will be despatched immediately. Any additional extras can be fitted at current retail prices.

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4	D.Treader Yellow/White	Exp. No Pump, R.Skeg	662.11 463.48
7	D.Treader Red/Yellow	Exp.	669.30 468.00
8	D.Treader Blue/White	Exp.	669.30 468.00
9	Baidarka All White/Rudder	Exp.	778.83 545.00
10	Baidarka Red/Yellow.Rudder.	Exp.	778.83 545.00
11	Baidarka Blue/White	Exp. With Pump	669.30 SOLD 468.00
12	Baidarka All White	Exp. No Pump. No Skeg	599.15 449.00
18	Baidarka Red/White	Exp. No Pump. 42cm	599.15 449.00
19	Baidarka Red/White	Exp. No Pump. 42cm	599.15 449.00
51	Fjord Jasmine/White	Exp. No Pump. 42cm	660.10 495.00
62	Baidarka Red/White	Exp. No Pump. 42cm	599.15 SOLD 449.00
66	Baidarka All White	Exp. No Pump. 42cm	599.15 449.00
68	Baidarka All White	Basic	460.00 SOLD 368.00
70	Baidarka G.Yel/White	Exp. No Pump. 42cm	599.15 SOLD 449.00
86	Baidarka All White	Exp. No Pump R. Skeg.	662.11 495.00
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207	Baidarka Gol.Yel/G.Y.	Exp. No Pump	599.15 449.00
208	Orion Red/White	Exp. No Pump 38cm Seat	599.15 SOLD 479.32
209	Fjord Blue/White (Second - red marks on hull)	Exp. No Pump 42cm Seat	660.15 495.00
210	Orion White/White	Exp. No Pump 42cm Seat	599.15 SOLD 479.32
211	Fjord White/White	Exp. No Pump 38cm Seat	660.15 495.00
213	Icefloe White/White	Exp. No Pump 42cm Seat	599.15 479.32
214	Baidarka White/White	Exp. No Pump	599.15 SOLD 449.00
215	Icefloe White/White	Exp. No Pump 38cm Seat	599.15 479.32
216	Fjord Gold. Yel/White	Exp. No Pump 42cm Seat	660.15 495.00
218	Icefloe Jasmine/Jas.	Exp. No Pump 42cm Seat	599.15 479.32
220	Fjord Grey/White	Exp. No Pump	660.15 495.00
221	Icefloe White/White	Exp. No Pump 42cm Seat	599.15 479.32
222	Orion White/White	Exp. No Pump 42cm Seat Ret. Skeg	662.11 SOLD 529.69
223	Eskimo Jasmine/White	Exp. No Pump	556.60 445.28
224	Icefloe Red/White	Exp. No Pump 42cm Seat	599.15 479.32
225	Fjord Gold.Yel/G.Y.	Exp. No Pump	660.15 495.00
226	Icefloe Gold.Yel/White	Exp. No Pump	599.15 479.32
227	Icefloe Red/White	Exp. No Pump 38cm Seat	599.15 479.32
229	Baidarka White/White	Exp. No Pump Ret. Skeg	662.11 495.00

All the above boats are full expedition unless otherwise stated. They have the standard layout of Recessed Deck Fittings, Chart Elastics, Deck Lines, Spare Paddle Elastics, VCP Hatches and Bulkheads fore and aft. They are sold on the understanding that if in any way you are not satisfied your money will be refunded in full. Should you have any queries on any of the above kayaks please telephone.



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Regional Round Up

EASTERN

The invaluable revised Guide to the East with much increased coverage and updated information on access is £4 post paid from BCU supplies, local retailers and Mike Lewis (0245) 75437.

Two copies of the Regional Handbook for 1990/91, a mine of information on contacts and people, are going to each affiliated club in the region. Extra copies 75p post paid from Mike Lewis.

Cambridgeshire County representative reports that the County association is growing steadily. Chat to May Block (0223) 311715.

Help would be welcomed at the International Polo Competitions at Luton on 16 June. Contact Chris Parkes (0727) 48071.

When you read this there will have been meetings of clubs at Thetford 25 April and Cheshunt 2 May to debate where money should be spent in the region and how it should be funded. This expansion of democracy may take clubs by surprise. Their voice is being heard and their views being taken on board. Have you heard what was decided?

EAST MIDLANDS

The Regional Committee and members would like to congratulate Richard Fox MBE and Myriam Jerusalem on their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

Some of the competitive disciplines have completed their selection events for the 1990 season, the region has fared very well, in fact too well to list all the names - our congratulations, go to all those selected, for National Honours, and we wish them every success. Details in Regional Newsletter.

Forthcoming Courses - Events:

SI & Instructor Courses - training and assessment 15/16/17 June

Lincolnshire - details from Robin Wright (0522) 524877

River Tour Chesterfield Canal 24 June (Sunday) - details Boggitt Arden (0522) 680045

Regatta 8 July - Lincolnshire - Slalom Sprint - Mini Marathon details from Maurice Pritchard (0522) 533997

Marathon Races 17 June - Burton - organiser Mr Lawrenson

24 June - Soar - organiser Mr K Tonks

Sprint Regatta - Holme Pierrepont 9/10 June

Tour - 10 June - Derwent - organiser Don Windsor
Slalom - 9/10 June - Newark Weir Div 3 - organiser I C Milligan

LONDON & SOUTH EAST

The region's first touring event of the year took place on the Basingstoke Canal on Sunday 25 March. Despite the weather it was a successful day, with 23 paddlers participating in a choice of 3 distances. Another tour on the canal is to be held on 12 August.

Applications for the white water training weekend at Holme Pierrepont on 11-12 August are now coming in fast. For details send an sae to Chris Childs, 8a Holland Street, Brighton BN2 2WB.

Polo is thriving in the region. There are now 13 teams playing in the National League. This gives London & South East the 2nd largest number of

national league teams of any region in the country. For details of the Regional Polo Tournament contact Curly Baker, 43 Sackville Gardens, Ilford, Essex IG1 3LJ.

The dates for the next regional committee meetings are 11 July, 12 September. All at Jim Rossiter's house and starting at 8.00pm.

NORTHERN

Come and help with the mass river clean-up on 21 June, Midsummer's Day, on the River Wear. The daytime run will cover the three mile Durham Loop from Skincliffe to the ice rink car park, and the evening run will be the 4 miles on down to Finchdale Priory. Details from Mary Armstrong (091) 384 6118 or Eddie Palmer (0434) 270318.

The Coquet Canoe Club 'Round the Island' race is on 17 June. Details from D Burke, 7 River Bank, Warkworth, Morpeth NE65 0UZ. 7/8 July is the Kielder Watersports Weekend with a canoe marathon on the Sunday. Details from the Kielder Watersports Officer. Details are being sent to clubs about canoeing events at the Gateshead National Garden Festival or see local press.

No canoeing PLEASE in September and October in the whole Tyne system.

Congratulations to Andy Tracey on gaining a C1 place in the British Youth Team. Many thanks to all who took part in the Regional Championships.

NORTH WEST

Members are reminded that the region has 10 Poly Pippins and trailer, which are available for hire. It is proposed to hold the Regional Inter-Club Slalom event at Marple on 14/15 July. The region has a new club, Crewe and Nantwich Canoe Club. We wish them every success. Following the committee's advertisement in Regional Round-up we are pleased to welcome Jill Marchment as our new treasurer. Committee meetings will be held at Trafford Water Sports Centre on 31 July and 25 September at 7pm. Clubs are invited to send a representative. Anglesey Sea Coaching weekend is now 20-22 July.

Our Regional Access Officer, Pat Moran, would like clubs, individuals, youth groups, centre groups to report back to him on your runs down rivers. Report forms are available from Pat Moran, 1 Mawdsley Avenue, Woolston, Warrington WA1 4DJ.

Salford Quays is a major project in Ordsall at the Centre of Greater Manchester, which combines new business, residential and leisure developments around the former Manchester Docks. The docks have been separated from the Manchester Ship Canal by a series of bunds and the enclosed waters now provide a clean safe and sheltered environment for watersports. Access is by licence from Salford City Council.

SOUTHERN

There are still 4 Southern Region Thames tours to go. Sunday 1 July is Wallingford to Mapledurham, 2 September is Mapledurham to Henley and so on to Runnymede. Contact Ted Moulding (0908) 676343.

Our first Polo League match was held at Reading on 24 March. Southern courtesy was shown to the guests from Bristol by allowing them to win! Result: 1 Bristol C&S, 2 Reading Dogs, 3 Basingstoke Canal CC, 4 Warren CC, 5 Blackwater Valley CC. This was followed in April by a 'friendly' at Alton involving 4 men's and 2 women's teams. Polo is catching on. Contact Andy Rawson, work (0344) 711510 or home (0734) 473456.

Canoe Polo (again), marathon, sprint, slalom

and a combined event are all part of the Rushmoor Olympics on 14/15 July. Contact Kit Price (025) 126 2568.

More details are in the Southern Region Directory, sent to BCU clubs with our April Newsletter. Copies (price 50p) available from Ian Davey (0252) 621381.

SOUTH WEST

Two events in June are highlighted. During the week-end 16/17, a Plastic Boat Fun Day in conjunction with the Exe circuit race at Exeter. Includes a slalom, whitewater race and on the Sunday a special marathon. Details from Dennis Walls, 71 Butts Road, Exeter. The next week-end 23/24 June, is the third Regional Week-end at Holme Pierrepont. Don't forget there is a party discount. Information from Jim Cornwell (address in Yearbook).

Any club willing to host a training week-end for competition paddlers in either racing or slalom during the off season should let either Richard Ward or Danny Daniels know as soon as possible.

The Committee still needs a volunteer to help with publicity, news letters and the Access guides. Come on someone and give the Chairman and Secretary a chance to paddle sometimes.

WEST MIDLANDS

Due to the increased family and business commitments Brian Porter has found it necessary to stand down as Chairman. The region thanks him for his outstanding work for the BCU both regionally and nationally. Mike Nichols (021) 360 2136 has been elected as new Chairman and Tim Houghton (0902) 634567 as Vice Chairman.

Canoe Cavalcade (23-30 June) will this year be held in Walsall on British Waterways New Canoe Trail. Instructors are needed to help with evening and weekend sessions. Offers of help to RCO Roger Drummond (0743) 65022.

8 July Regional Slalom at Ironbridge, contact S Bennett (09073) 33708.

22 July Regional Slalom at Stratford, contact P Howard (0789) 298187.

Stourbridge half marathon, a sponsored paddle on the canals around Stourbridge, Sunday 16 September. For details contact John Wood, 52 High Street, Lye, West Midlands.

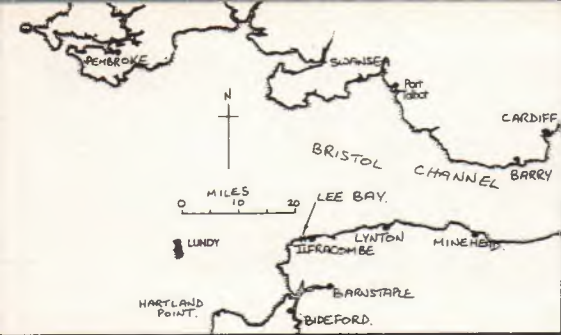
YORKS & HUMBERSIDE

A canoeing information telephone line has been set up with a recorded message updated weekly from May to October giving information on regional events, access and news. The number is (0748) 850415. Any club or event organiser wishing to pass information through this service should contact Don Player (0532) 667397.

A record 39 teams entered the Regional Polo Championship with 21 teams in the open event, which entailed 3 eliminating rounds. Humbersiders, for the second year running emerged as champions, with Leeds Panthers - only formed a year ago - as runners up. Hull Dolphins upset the favourites White Rose in the women's competition and are the new champions, whilst the under 18 competition was comprehensively won by Kingston with Pennine, last year's underdogs coming second.

The Kielder Dam Burst takes place on 7/8 July and includes a canoe marathon, racing for youngsters and as many runs down the dam released river as you can in the evening, plus camping and a barbecue. Further details from Julie Bowers (0434) 220643.





A TRIP TO LUNDY

by Nigel Hingston

It looked good, after numerous telephone calls all the signs were there to go for it. A canoe trip to Lundy, possibly a chance to climb and then return. Sounded straight forward, but this little excursion would be crammed into 24 hours!

The plan was quite simple.....

The alarm sounded at 4.45am, a brief bite and a prompt departure. Lee Bay loomed up out of the darkness. This was it! Final packing, listen to the early morning shipping forecast and off at 6.00.

In the early morning cold and darkness our only gauge of speed against the black coastal outline was the Bull Point Light. Slowly we passed under its flashing, sweeping beams. Onto Morte Point, the breaking of dawn coinciding with high water.

A final compass/time check and off to a flat horizon, our course set. The next 5 hours were limited to our own glassfibre world. Apart from a change of navigator every 30 minutes, a snack break once an hour, the crossing was uneventful, save for the odd container ship on the horizon, the sighting of Lundy as the early morning mist was burnt off, and in true Nelson spirit 'my talking to the great white telephone'. As no toilet pan was available the spray deck made a good substitute.

Our canoes were all the same, Kirton Kayak Meridians. Conditions were excellent to test their in-built skegs with the following sea on our port quarter. They held a steady course and required a minimum of correcting strokes.

Our course brought us to the North end of the Island and followed the Eastern coastline to the Landing Beach. Human influence and in some cases wasted attempts could clearly be seen as we paddled along. The church silhouetted against the skyline, abandoned houses/shelters, their roofs long gone, dis-used granite quarries worked for a brief 5 year span, overgrown spoil heaps in abundance. The bow section of a ship, its hulk smashed to pieces, starkly beautiful.

Technology penetrates everywhere and anywhere. Whilst sorting our kit a chap approached us, asked the usual questions, where from? by what? how long? etc. His final question, "would you like to contact someone and let them know you've arrived?" Three pairs of eyes stared in amazement as he produced a portable cellnet telephone, dialled and hey presto! "Hello Dai this is Lundy calling, we've arrived, all OK". The wonders of modern science, courtesy of the BBC who were filming on the Island.

Tent erected, our sights were set on The Devils Slide, a classic amongst climbs, 400ft of granite slab starting at a relatively easy grade and finishing off with an 'interesting bit', as Andy put it. We succeeded in ascending the lower section and were pleased with our minor achievement.

We had just sufficient time to do a lighting tour of the Island. Our travels had taken us from the lush green farmed southern end to a rugged, heather covered boggy landscape. The further North we went, so the terrain became more bleak, reminiscent to us of a miniature Dartmoor. By 8.30pm we were bedded down for the 'night'.

Our sleep was interrupted by electronic watches; it was 1.00am. By 2.30 we were on our way.

To most people their idea of a night paddle consists of canoeing into blackness by the faint glow of a torch. For our crossing nothing could have been further from the truth. Cloud cover was nil, visibility reached to infinity, only limited by the horizon and the galaxies spread out far above. With our night vision established, it was a relatively simple operation of setting course, selecting a star and following, interrupting ever 15 minutes in order to choose a new star position. The only light came from who ever

was navigating, using a torch to illuminate his compass.

Our dark outlines cut through the water like something out of the Cockle Shell Heros, effluorescence glowed from our paddles like a series of electrical discharges.

Lee Bay at last, 7.30am. The smiles on our faces said it all. Three cups of tea from a resident of one of the cottages who had watched our arrival topped off the finish.

See Lundy in 24 hours had been our aim, it took 25, we were not complaining, just happy and satisfied to have completed a demanding expedition.

Epilogue

The passage to Lundy by canoe is a serious, committing trip. Ours was no exception. Whilst the weather remained favourable, time (or lack of it) was our greatest problem. All the while there was a tight schedule one had to adhere to, 'Time and tide wait for no man', if ever there was a saying of relevance this was it! Certainly our limited stay on Lundy (12 hours, 5 of which were spent asleep) gave only a taster. In hindsight an extra day would of given us all a longer rest as well as the chance to see the Island in much greater depth.

The kayaks performed admirably, their biggest asset being the retractable skegs, which when set made course steerage a relatively easy matter.

And of the group? Several factors helped galvanise us into a close knit band. We:

- ◆ Had all paddled together extensively, previously,
- ◆ All share broadly the same outlook
- ◆ Would trust one another's canoeing skills and judgement in a difficult situation.

Overall, a thoroughly enjoyable expedition, the like of which will be hard to repeat again. As an amateur canoeist, for 1989 this was my "Everest", which I achieved.

Our many thanks and appreciation go to the following, for without their help and support this expedition would have been difficult, if not impossible to complete:

The Landmark Trust
Dai and Judy Bunyan
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Lundy Island

Lundy Island lies some 22 miles west of Ilfracombe in the Bristol Channel. It covers an area of approximately 2 square miles (3 miles long by half a mile wide), on the map it looks small, on foot its big!

Its West coast differs vastly from its Eastern side. The former has been eroded and weathered by countless storms, creating stunning cliff and rock formations, whilst the latter contains much vegetation on gentler slopes with numerous outcrops.

The island has much to offer; a profusion of flora and fauna, many varieties of wild life, remains of a Stone Age settlement, a Medieval Castle, dis-used Victorian Quarries, 3 lighthouses and even the remains of a German Bomber.

Regular sailings during the summer months on the Island's own ferry; the M S Oldenburg, permits access to Lundy. The ferry departs (and arrives) from either Bideford or Ilfracombe depending upon the state of tide. The crossing takes approximately 2 hours. Access to the Island is gained via the landing beach, which lies in the shadow of the South Lighthouse.

The Island is maintained and run by The Landmark Trust. Further details of accommodation, sailing times and tariffs may be obtained from their head office; The Lundy Company, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3SW. Tel (0628) 825925.

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COCKPIT LENGTH:	80 cm.
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DEPTH OF COCKPIT AT FRONT:	23 cm.
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Dear Focus

CANOE FOCUS "INDIFFERENT"

Yet another indifferent issue of Canoe Focus. Does the BCU have nothing of interest to say. It is clear to anyone with half a brain that the overriding problem with canoeing in this country is that of Access. Until the Union addresses the problem in a sensible manner - not by pondering to a minority of landowners and fishermen (after all not many anglers can actually claim to be affected) - then the Union will never gain the full respect of its members. Current policy is reflected in the magazine - utterly spineless and misdirected.

Andrew Thompson, London

CANOEISTS IN CONFLICT

The summer has barely started and already we are hearing reports of conflict and arguments between canoeists. As usual most of the disputes are of a plastic/slalom boat kind. A lot of canoes are squeezing onto not much water, and this calls for goodwill from everyone. Most collisions are accidents, and a quick sorry followed by paddling on is often the best response. If groups of paddlers are in conflict then talk to each other, and agree how you are going to share the water. Instructors and coaches have a big responsibility here.

BCU officers have enough battles to fight against anglers etc. We can't afford to waste time on battles of canoeist versus canoeist.

Simon Dawson, Nottingham.

ITS NOT WHAT YOU SAY ITS THE WAY THAT YOU SAY IT

Does it really matter if a novice just gets on and has a go! Not enough effort is being made to encourage canoeists to take up slalom.

These were some of the comments in the last 'Canoe Focus'.

On Sunday 15 April the Stratford Weir Slalom, a member of our club, a **first time novice**, attempted the course, and on her way down the weir her paddle got stuck in the wall, she somehow managed to execute gate 6 and paddle-less broke out on gate 7, her paddle was knocked down the weir by the next competitor, and handed back to here by the safety boat person, although she held back to allow the next competitor to continue, the safety boat person then told her to continue.

After completing the course, a member of the jury came to her and asked her what had happened, the competitor said she wasn't sure how her paddle had been released, and that she had been uncertain what to do, but various people had told her to continue so she had done so.

In a very abrupt manner, the jury member, said that any outside assistance was not allowed and that she should have got off the water when the incident happened. She may be correct in her interpretation of the rules, but said in a less abrupt manner, a young girl would not have got off the water in tears.

Mrs DL Ellard,
Ruby Canoe Club Member

UNSUNG HEROES

On Sunday 25 February 1990 on the river Wye, Mark Hickman LCO was involved in the rescue of two female members of Cardiff University Canoe Club. The girls were entangled in fallen branches across the river and would certainly have drowned if it wasn't for Mr Hickman and his fellow paddlers. Using ropes secured and belayed from the bank, he entered the water at great personal risk and cut free the girls. I feel that for their efforts they should be at least receive a mention in your magazine. If not a rescue award.

A Paddler

THE CONWY

I read the article on Plas y Brenin in the February issue of Canoe Focus with some interest. The access agreement on the River Conwy is mentioned in such a way that there would seem to be a 'free for all policy'. Access to the river is in fact restricted, and can only be gained by contacting Phil Blain, the Local Access Officer, at the Towers. Any canoeist not so doing is, effectively, breaching the agreement and, therefore, putting the future use of the river at risk.

The National Trust is working closely with the WCA in refining this agreement in order to maintain the critical balance between conservation (our primary responsibility) and public access, and much has been achieved by Phil Blain, Pete Weston and the WCA generally. It will, however, only work if the ground rules are respected by all concerned.

Brendan McCarthy,
The National Trust, Llandudno

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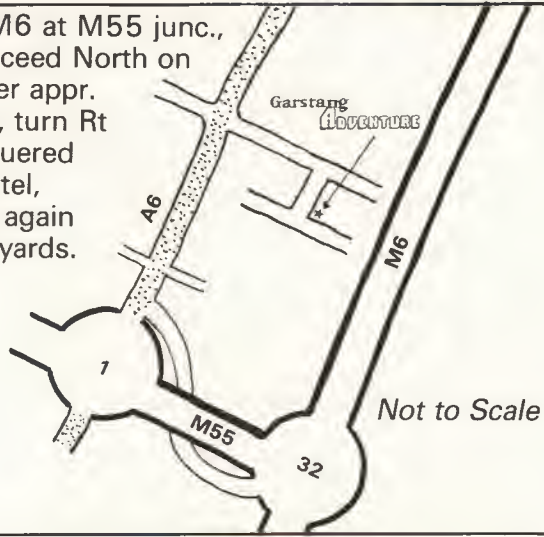
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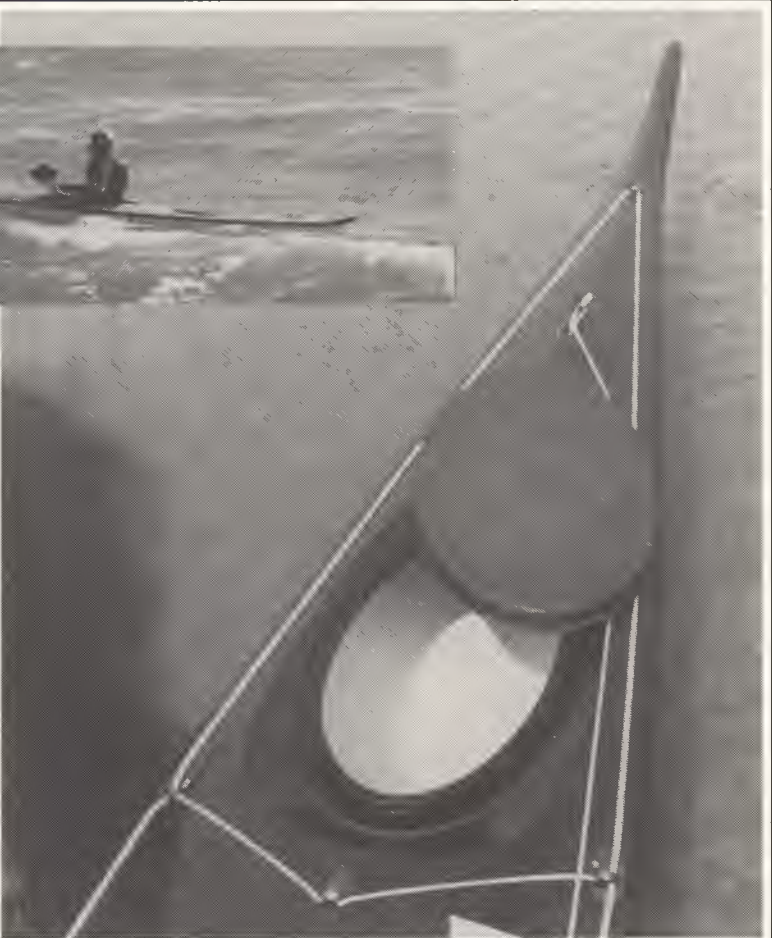
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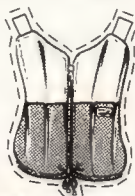
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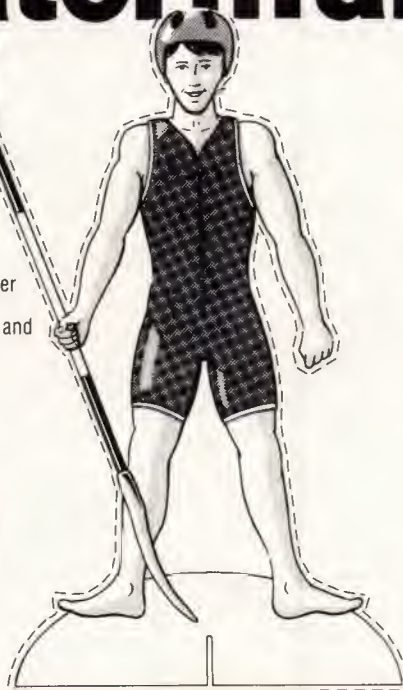
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Short waisted for comfort and ease of movement.
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Custom made to your exact requirements. Prices on application.

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VIDEO HIRE

Various VHS tapes are available at £2.00 per day. We have a large selection of canoe, surf, windsurf, snow, and water skiing films at present.

CANOE HIRE

Our Marina premises are situated on the banks of the Thames, with a lake along side. The following can be hired single, double seat kayaks canadian canoe.

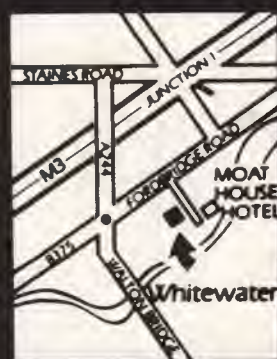
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A COMPREHENSIVE
RANGE OF ACCESSORIES
FOR ALL CANOESPORT

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	Non-Members Prices	Members Prices
Canoe Exhibition T shirts. 34-36", 38-40".	3.50	3.00
BCU03 1990 Diary Inserts. For use with diary wallet.	.60	.55
BKS02 'This is Canoeing' by Roy & Jane Farrance.	7.20	6.70
BKS03 'Canoeing' by John Brailsford & Baker.	4.50	3.50
BKS25 'Up the Creek' by John Harrison.	4.70	4.20
BKS35 'Godwins Saga' by Kenneth Macksey.	10.40	9.40
BKS40 Canoeing - Picture Library Series.	4.85	4.25
BKS13 'Barty' by Janet Collins.	5.00	4.50

MEMBERS ONLY - LOGO DESIGN

	Non-Members Prices	Members Prices
BCU01 Card Organiser. Blue with silver logo design, holds membership card and up to five other credit/business cards.	1.30	1.00
BCU02 Diary Wallet. Blue with silver logo, incorporates Diary/Year Planner, large pocket compartment for personal notes and two credit/business cards.	1.80	1.50
BCU04 Key Ring. Leather, blue with silver logo design, holds several keys.	1.05	.85
BCU05 Members' Sew On Badge. Oval shaped cloth members' badge, blue logo and edging on white background, colourfast.	N/A	1.00
BCU06 Blazer Badge. Square cloth badge for blazers, embroidered logo in silver, black background.	N/A	1.50
BCU07 Members' Tie. Navy blue with two diagonal stripes and logo depicted in white, machine washable.	N/A	3.90
BCU08 Tie Pin/Lapel Badge. Stick pin suitable for ties or lapels, blue logo on silver coloured metal disc.	N/A	1.50
BCU09 Canoe Lock. Tough plastic coated cabling, length 11 feet, to be used with a padlock for securing canoe and paddle(s) on roof rack or to a fixed point ie. tree. Approved to the standard required to validate BCU Membership insurance. Padlock not supplied.	6.90	5.90
BCU10 Smurf Canoeist.	2.95	2.45
BCU11 Cadet Badge. Round cloth badge for cadets, pictures smurf canoeist in colour on a white background, colourfast.	N/A	.50
BCU12 'I ♥ Canoeists!' Button Badge.	.30	.20
BCU13 'I do it . . . with the British Canoe Union' Button Badge.	.30	.20
BCU14 Keepsafe. Brightly coloured water-tight cylinder, screw-top, can be conveniently worn around the neck. Colours: Dayglo orange, Dayglo pink, yellow, red, royal blue.	1.80	1.50
BCU16 Hip Flask. Smart 4oz flask, blue leather outer with BCU heraldic emblem in gold.	12.50	10.50
BCU17 Darts Case. In blue leather with BCU logo.	2.95	2.25

STATIONERY

STA03 Greetings Card. "Shooting the Rapids" colourful print of the Mattawa River, blank for special messages.	.85	.75
STA06 Licence/ID Sticker Holder. This clear plastic, self-adhesive envelope enables the transfer of your sticker between your boats. One required for each boat.	N/A	.35



	Non-Members Prices	Members Prices
STA07 Exhibition Postcard. Colourful scene depicting the Canoe Exhibition at Crystal Palace.	.15	10.
STA08 Pendant Pen. Ballpoint pen with a handy rope for wearing round your neck with BCU logo top.	1.60	1.40
STA09 Pencil Rubber. BCU logo in blue.	.45	.35
STA11 'What Breakout?' Poster. Full colour, 590 mm x 420 mm (portrait).	2.45	1.95

GUIDES AND MAPS

GAM01 Guide to the Waterways of the British Isles.	4.50	3.50
GAM07 Canoe Touring in East Anglia.	3.75	3.25
GAM10 Broadlands Map.	1.30	1.25
GAM11 River Thames Map. Lechlade to Richmond.	2.80	2.35
GAM12 River Severn Map.	1.30	1.05
GAM13 Canoeists' Guide to the River Wye.	1.55	1.20
GAM14 River Wye Map.	1.30	1.05
GAM15 Austrian & Bavarian River Guide.	7.20	6.20
GAM16 Alpine White Water Guide.	4.60	3.60
GAM17 French River Notes.	.50	.30
GAM18 Canoeists' Map of French Rivers.	8.85	7.85
GAM20 River Allier Guide. French text.	5.00	4.10
GAM21 River Eyre and Leyre Guide. French text.	4.25	3.50
GAM23 River Cele Guide. French text.	5.55	4.80
GAM24 River Charente Guide. French text.	.30	.20
GAM25 River Yonne Guide. French text.	.30	.20
GAM27 Where to Launch Your boat.	5.05	4.25
GAM28 A Canoe Guide to Northern Ireland.	2.95	2.25
GAM29 A Scottish White Water Guide.	3.50	2.50
GAM30 River Thames Guide - Ordnance Survey.	7.95	6.95
GAM31 Holme Pierrepont Users' Guide.	2.20	2.00
GAM32 Guide to Rivers of the West Midlands.	5.40	4.40
GAM33 Snowdonia, WW Sea and Surf.	6.90	5.90
GAM34 British Waterways Board Map.	3.75	2.75
GAM35 Rivers of Cumbria.	5.40	5.25
GAM37 Guide to Scottish Rivers.	4.00	3.50
GAM38 Canoeists' Guide to the East of England.	4.50	4.00

STICKERS

	Non-Members Prices	Members Prices
STK01 'I love Canoeing' Sticker. Strip Design 215mm x 45mm, for windows, red heart, blue letters.	.60	.50
STK02 'God Went Canoeing' Sticker. Wording reads '... and on the seventh day God went Canoeing' strip design 185mm x 70mm, self-adhesive reverse, three colour canoeist.	.60	.50
STK03 'Go Canoe a Kayak' Sticker. Strip design 185mm x 70mm, for applying to windows, three colour depicting a canoeist.	.60	.50
STK05 'I'd Rather Be Canoeing' Sticker. Strip design 310mm x 45mm for windows, red and white.	.60	.50
STK06 'Oceans are Free' Sticker. Strip design, 185mm x 70mm, self-adhesive finish on reverse, sea canoeist silhouette, three colours.	.60	.50
STK08 'I do it . . . with the BCU' Sticker. Circular design, 100mm diameter, black and yellow, for windows.	.60	.50
STK10 Graphic Surfer Sticker. Strip design 185mm x 70mm, self-adhesive finish on reverse. Features graphic silhouette of a paddler surfer, four colours.	.60	.50

GET INTO GEAR

CLO01 Competition Cag. Lightweight with Scotsguard proofing and PU coated, velcro strap cuffs and collar fastener, elasticated waist and sleeve ends, striking red and royal blue with contrasting stripe, BCU Members' badge sewn on. Sizes: S, M, L.	19.70	18.70
CLO02 Recreation Cag. Lightweight waterproof top with drawstring hood, velcro strap cuffs and neck fastener, elasticated waist and sleeve ends, red and royal blue with contrasting stripe, BCU Members' badge sewn on. Sizes: S, M, L.	19.70	18.70
CLO03 Overtrousers. Lightweight waterproof trousers, elasticated waist, zipped pocket, ample leg width and length, royal blue to match cags. Sizes: S, M, L.	12.10	11.10
CLO06 Thermal Paddlemitts. These mitts, in red to match our cags, have a fibrepile lining ensuring maximum warmth and comfort, even when wet.	12.60	11.60
CLO08 Paddler Motif Sweater. V-necked pullover ideal for smart or casual wear, embroidered paddler motif, fully machine washable. Sizes: S, M, L. Colours: Sky blue, oatmeal, grey, navy blue, black.	13.70	12.70
CLO10 Green Slime's Personal Throwbag. Developed by Pete Knowles the bag contains 15m of 8mm polypropylene rope and comes with explicit instruction on its safe use in every situation.	20.50	19.50
CLO21 Sweatshirt. Round necked, fleece-lined, machine washable with paddler emblem on left breast in light blue, navy, grey or burgundy. Sizes: S, M, L.	10.20	9.20
CLO22 International "I'm a Paddler" T-Shirt. English cotton shirt, white with round neck. Logo and "I'm a Paddler" printed in four languages, depicted in blue. Sizes: 30-32, 34-36, 38-40.	5.10	4.10
CLO23 International "I'm a Paddler" Vest. Cotton vest. British made, white. "I'm a Paddler" in four languages with BCU logo, depicted in royal blue colour. Sizes: 30-32, 34-36, 38-40.	4.80	3.80

GET INTO GEAR Cont'd

	Non-Members Prices	Members Prices
CLO26 Collared T-Shirt. 'Fred Perry' style in airtex cotton, BCU Union Jack embroidered motif. Large: red, pink, white, navy blue. Medium: yellow, pink, white, navy blue. Small: yellow, pink, white, light blue.	10.25	9.25
CLO27 Widget Wallet. Zipped cash pocket, clear-pockets for credit cards and five separate compartments for visiting cards, stamps etc. Various bright colour combinations. Non-rotting nylon.	3.90	3.25
CLO28 "I'm a Paddler" Baseball Cap. White/royal blue, "I'm a Paddler" in four languages, adjustable strap.	4.40	3.40
WARM 'N DRY GEAR		
Made from wool and Meraklon. Outstanding thermal insulating power. Supremely washable: quick drying: tough and hard wearing. Worn by Olympic sportsmen; International yachtsmen and top mountaineers. Colour: Dark Blue.		
CLO29 Thermal Longsleeve Crew Top. Navy. S, M, L.	13.55	12.55
CLO30 Thermal Longsleeve Zip Top. Navy. S, M, L.	17.10	16.10
CLO31 Thermal Longpants. Navy. S, M, L.	12.25	11.25
CLO32 Thermal Headover. Navy, Navy/Red, Red, One size.	5.55	4.95
CLO33 Thermal Ski Tube Socks. Navy, Red. 60cm.	4.50	3.50

WATERPROOF SACS

CLO35 Wallet, 280mm x 170mm, adjustable cord.	5.10	4.10
CLO38 Gregson First Aid Pack. Well designed water-resistant pack.	22.95	21.95

COACHING STUDY PACKS

An invaluable introduction to the art and science of coaching in six handy pocket-sized books, liberally illustrated by cartoons and diagrams.

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STP04 Improving Techniques. Dr. Adrian Lees and John Shedden.	3.00	2.50
STP05 Mind Over Matter. Dr. Lew Hardy and John Fazey.	3.00	2.50
STP06 Planning & Practice. Rod Thorpe.	3.00	2.50
STP07 Complete Set of Six Books.	16.20	13.50

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Clear, lively style books - essential reading and reference for all who need an up-to-date guide to coaching at its best.

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STP12 Safety First for coaches.	6.50	5.50
STP13 Physiology and Performance.	6.50	5.50
STP14 Set of Three NCF Manuals.	16.50	15.20
STP15 The Inner Game of Kayaking by Robert Cunnington a psychological approach to coaching technique.	3.50	3.00
STP16 Crib Cards.	-	4.95

BOOKS

BKS04 'Canoe Games' by Dave Ruse.	8.25	7.25
BKS07 'Canoeing' - The American National Red Cross.	8.90	7.90

BOOKS Cont'd

	Non-Members Prices	Members Prices
BKS08 'Canoeing' - The Fladbury Way' by David Train.	2.65	2.45
BKS09 'Coastwise Navigation' by Gordon Watkins.	6.45	5.95
BKS10 'Exercises in Coastwise Navigation' by G. W. White.	4.65	4.15
BKS14 'US White Water Handbook' by John T. Urban.	6.95	5.95
BKS15 'Canoeing Down Everest' by Mike Jones.	4.25	3.85
BKS22 'To Win the Worlds' by Bill Endicott.	11.25	10.25
BKS24 'Sea Canoeing' by D. Hutchinson (paperback).	8.95	8.25
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Early issues of Canoeing in Britain pre 1971. Copies of CoDe nos 14, 27, 28. ASKC newsletters nos 1-6, 13 and 31. Peter Midwood, Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig, Betws y Coed, Gwynedd LL24 OET.

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Application Department
PGL Young Adventure Ltd
820 Station Street
Ross-on-Wye HR9 7AH
Tel: 0989 764211

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Voluntary Instructors wanted for SW London ACF Camp (Army Cadet Force) to be held at Penally, South Wales, from August 19 - 31. Board and lodging provided, contact Major M E Tibble, Duke of York's HQ, Kings Rd, Chelsea, London SW3 4RY.

POLLUTED WATER AND RECREATION

Geoff Good Reports on the National Seminar staged by the Central Council of Physical Recreation

It is estimated that the rat population has doubled in the past ten years, yet a survey of environmental health officers has shown that 75% of local authorities are unable to increase spending on rodent control, and 30% have cut back.

Water authorities' budgets for sewage treatment and sewer maintenance were cut last year.

If we want cleaner water, both for drinking and recreation, we need to lobby for it. This was the message put across by Mrs Ann Taylor, Opposition spokesperson on water and related issues.

Water quality for recreation is now on the political agenda, having been discussed during the committee stage of the water privatisation bill, but is not a top priority.

Politicians generally have not been pressured by their constituents. Specific questions need to be asked.

The BCU and other governing bodies of water sport need to lobby the National Rivers Authority, and ensure that they are consulted as related legislation is introduced.

Weil's Disease

Dr Shelagh Waitkin, past Director of the Leptospirosis Reference Unit, outlined the difficulties of dealing with Weil's Disease.

The leptospirae bacteria involved can survive for up to 100 days in fresh water, but a matter of hours only in salt water. Together with the massive dilution, this makes it most unlikely for the illness to be contracted from salt water.

There is little likelihood of a vaccine being developed. Early diagnosis and treatment with Amoxycillin, which knocks out the bacteria, remains the only positive way of dealing with the illness.

The ELISA test, which is effective in identifying Weil's Disease during the first 3-5 days, has proved not to be widely available in Britain, but is used in virtually every other country, to aid swift diagnosis.

Interestingly, it was stated that a high concentration of sewage in the water significantly detracts from the likelihood of contracting Weil's disease. Prevention, through the avoidance of capsizing in areas with an obviously high rat population, covering cuts, and showering where possible after paddling, remain the best preventive measures available.

Other pollutants

Various other pollutants can make water less than ideal for recreation said Dr Peter Thomas, the Great Britain Rowing Team Doctor. Inorganic salts and insoluble organic matters, together with vegetable matter and sewage would most probably cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and oils and detergents could also cause rashes.

One West Midlands river was found to contain 200 million gallons of sewage in its daily flow rate of 500 million gallons.

Even swimming pools are not necessarily safe! A number of unpleasant possibilities were related, which could occur if the correct chlorine balance was not accurately maintained, and the water turned over every 6-8 hours.

Bristol Docks

Following a fun regatta in 1983 it was discovered that 27% of participants who had swum, contracted gastro-enteritis within 24 hours of immersion. A comparative study with the general public and other members of the family of those involved, showed an incidence of only 1-2%.

In 1984 death from Weil's Disease occurred to a person who had fallen into the dock. However, later monitoring of canoeists, rowers and wind surfers who all used the docks regularly, showed only 1 person with antibodies to Weil's Disease, with no further cases reported, and the number producing other antibodies was no different to the norm.

Dr Robin Phillip, Director of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health and Ecology, who presented the findings, stated that the best indicator of pollution levels likely to affect health, appeared to be the aesthetic one - that is, the presence of unpleasant flotsam, and appearance. There was no consistent correlation with resultant illness where pollution monitoring was based on ecoli counts.

The National Rivers Authority

The NRA is now responsible for controlling pollution, but has a lot of other responsibilities on its plate.

Currently the means of identification of pollutants is not sufficiently accurate, and there is no real dialogue between bacteriologists and medics. Sewage treatment targets are currently geared towards ensuring water of sufficient purity for fish, not for humans!

The Secretary of State for the Environment is bringing in objectives for river classifications for 1992

The Way Ahead

Arising from the Conference there are issues which the BCU centrally needs to address, and in conjunction with other governing bodies of sport. This is being pursued through the CCPR.

You, the member, can play a significant part, however, in writing to your own MP, expressing your concern at the generally unsatisfactory state of our rivers and lakes, and at the increase in the rat population.

It is, after all, your health, and that of your children . . . and their children . . . which is at stake if nature's highways are not cleaned up. 'The provision of a healthy environment for the pursuit of healthy activities' is our just demand.

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